

study Mathematics very much.  
Certainly I have learned

that I consider it unnecessary.

There are very few positions  
in life where the knowledge of the  
higher Math. is useful to a  
woman, and the very few  
of mental abilities, I truly be-  
lieve a woman.

The main  
influence of the high culti-  
vation of Math. is to prevent

narrowness of view. I'm proud  
of this one from the indubitable

fact that a certain extent, but

but I'm proud from absolute in-  
dubitability - helpless ideas may

become a good Mathematician.

I'm proud from the fact that you may be surprised

at it. I'm proud from the fact that you may be surprised

at it. I'm proud from the fact that you may be surprised

I come again to en-  
joy my weekly visit. It is almost the only  
thing connected with my present mode of  
life that has anything of special enjoyment in  
it, and I enjoy it. For some time I ever  
before supposed it to be impossible for me to  
enjoy anything of the kind. I never used to  
expect to enjoy even married life so well  
as I now do ~~my~~ engagement. I think they  
love that our engagement is one of the very  
best schools we could have. I think this  
long period of self denial and self restraint  
will do more to give strength and solid-  
ity to our characters than almost any-  
thing else could. This solidity is what is  
especially needed. I need to learn to en-  
dure delay, to wait the appointed hour  
for action, to wait until my power

Dear John

are fully developed before I engage  
in the final, earnest conflict of life.

It requires not a little self denial  
for two persons, bearing to each other  
relations like ours to put off the state  
of their union four, five or six years.

It requires more power to quell  
the strong swelling passions of the hu-  
man breast than to govern a nation.

I have often thought of your remark  
that it was well for us that ~~you~~ I must  
be far distant from you for a long time.

Were it otherwise I doubt not that  
this year would see me a husband, un-  
prepared for life and you a wife, in-  
evitably doomed to unhappiness.

As it is I feel that I have only to  
cultivate, to acquire, force, steadi-  
ness of character, to make me a  
successful man. This training is  
much more necessary for me than  
for you, but I have no fear that  
Emma will make a worse wife  
or mother for this long delay.

I feel that God has wisely ordered it thus  
for our own benefit. It is hard, very  
hard to be separated from you so

long and I know that you feel the  
separation even more than I, but  
it is my firm belief that when we  
shall kneel in prayer beside our tri-  
nal bed, we will thank God with truly  
grateful hearts that the hour of our hap-  
piness has been so long deferred.

It is strange, or seems so to me  
that we should be so united in heart  
as we now are. It is more Emma than  
I ever expected. Even the morning after  
our betrothal, when I folded you in my arms  
and you looked up with that loving, trusting,  
yet half-frightened look which said so  
plainly "Yours ever, love & shield me," not  
even then did I dream how dear you  
like a part of my own being you would  
become to me. I have sometimes thought  
that it was quite a new faculty, that of  
regarding any one as I do you, un-  
known to me until within a few months  
and I will say Emma that I never ex-  
pected to receive a love so strong, pure and  
nest- and that which you have given me.  
You have sometimes wondered at-

The loftiness of any conceptions of female character. Though you have never told me this, I know you have felt it. I know that my standard of female excellence is high, but Emma, you have taught me it, in many respects. I know there have been other striking influences at work in the formation of that ideal but yourself ~~is~~ is responsible for a greater part of it. — I will not say that it has been drawn from you — as you now are in all respects, but by unfolding to me the pages of your heart — and allowing me its treasures you have displayed the nobility of which you are capable.

I really think Emma that you have reason to be very proud of the love I give you, — not because of its intrinsic value — but because it is founded in a thorough & complete knowledge of your heart. As the complete worship of Missidora charmed the eyes of Samson and increased his love, so has the gradual unveiling of your true character — your real self — strengthened & confirmed my love. For you survives it thinks can say that of any other husband's love.

You ask me if I have not some reason for ~~not~~ wishing you not to

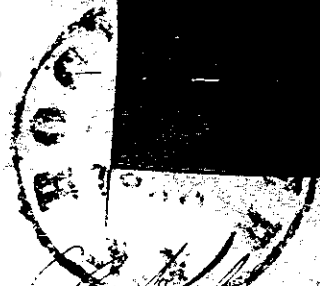
I should it be necessary for you to cultivate a more knowledge of Greek & Latin would be of advantage, but of mathematics I would hear little if any use, I do not think it would be desirable for you to spend your time in the study of these, much less in that of Math. I do not therefore know the higher would be of any benefit to you as a wife, in matters of that subject, why I do not wish you to study Math. I will give you and enforce them by examples. I cannot say that I wish you had been nearer Mrs. Taylor to whom in this part of your heart I have given the same had he asked you, you could not say that I should have been at all inclined to have had you as a wife. I was he very much interested but he was never cultivated. What refinement of sentiment or answer, which would justify him in respecting the company of a lady of your talents and culture. A woman may be young, but if she be at the same time uneducated, how can she have any right to



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I shall scarcely write to any one but  
you during the remainder of the year  
and you must write good long letters  
to keep me from being lonesome. You thought  
you would hardly think there ~~was~~ any  
danger of my dying of anxiety if you should  
see me now. I really don't think you ever  
saw me when I looked as well. I am  
comparatively fleshy and have none of  
that haggard look which you are accus-  
tomed to see. I think they keep me well  
but on Rochester for I weigh 148 lbs!!  
More than I have weighed since the winter  
of 1845-46. I shall get fatter however  
by the beginning of the summer vacation  
for I must work incessantly till then.  
As to that poetry about the saccyle I don't  
know where to, if it is at all, and don't feel  
like writing any more at present. If I am in  
a poetic mood sometime, I will. I received  
a letter from father the other day a very  
good one too. I see a your fellow has not  
heard from sa Belle Dixie in five weeks, but  
he endures it nobly. I think he must have  
been intended for a martyr. If you should  
be silent so long I'll I'll — think you were  
sick. I have not heard from Louisa Curtis  
in a long time and don't know but she  
has forgotten me entirely. If so she has the

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