

JOURNAL
&
LETTERS

MARIA BARTOW COLE

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The Thomas Cole National Historic Site preserves and interprets the home and studios of Thomas Cole, founder of the Hudson River School of painting. Its publications and educational programs engage broad audiences in learning about the influence of Thomas Cole on America's cultural landscape.

Courtesy of the Albany Institute of History & Art Library, and the New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections.

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JOURNAL

&

LETTERS

OF

MARIA BARTOW COLE, 1831 TO 1851

THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Catskill, New York

EDITOR'S NOTE

This volume contains Maria Bartow Cole's journal and all of her letters that are both known to us and transcribed at the date of this publication. Maria often wrote in an informal style, using abbreviations, omitting punctuation marks, and crossing out words. She inserted hyphens as “=” for words that are continued on the following line, which are included here, though original line breaks are not. Complete high resolution digital images of select original letters are available from the website of the New York State Library at www.nysl.nysed.gov. A lightly edited version of the text is available for sale at thomascole.org, or in our gift shop.

For more information on the life of Maria Bartow Cole (1813–1884), see Maureen Hennessy, *Life at Cedar Grove: Research Report for the Thomas Cole National Historic Site* (unpublished manuscript, January 2011), available at thomascole.org. The following historic documents may contain outdated and offensive terminology. Please read with care.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This publication would not have been possible without the attention and care of many researchers, scholars, and museum professionals. Particular thanks are owed to Kristen Marchetti (2023 Cole Fellow) for transcribing Maria Bartow Cole's journal and letters, and to Margaret DiStefano and Heather Palmer for proofreading the text. Sincere gratitude is extended to Sylvia Hasenkopf of North River Historic Research for her meticulous transcriptions of Maria's journal and letters, from which many of the transcriptions here have been adapted. Maureen Hennessy's invaluable research on Maria Bartow Cole, including a transcription of one of Maria's letters, has also greatly informed this publication.

Our staff are deeply grateful for the expertise of the consulting scholar Alan Wallach, who generously offered his advice and feedback on the text. Access to Maria Bartow Cole's letters and journal was made possible by the Albany Institute of History & Art Library and the New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections. Special gratitude is due to W. Douglas McCombs, Chief Curator at the Albany Institute of History & Art, for sharing photographs of Maria Bartow Cole's journal.

INTRODUCTION

“Meeting bells are ringing and a softer twilight without; fastening shutters, lighting [sic] Lamps, and preparing to spend a quiet evening within doors.”

–Maria Bartow Cole, 1841

A head of household, homemaker, mother, wife, and seamstress, Maria Bartow Cole (1813-1884) is a formative figure to the history of Cedar Grove, the property known today as the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

Maria was born in 1813 to Maria Thomson and Stephen Bartow in present-day Ontario, Canada. Although her parents were from Catskill, they immigrated to Canada in the early nineteenth century so that her father could escape debtors' prison. Maria's father died three years after her birth, and the family returned to New York to live on a farm in Broome. For the next sixteen years, Maria lived periodically with her mother in Broome and her mother's family about thirty miles southeast in Catskill, where she received her education.

After her mother's death in 1832, Maria and three of her sisters—Emily, Harriet, and Frances—moved permanently to Cedar Grove in Catskill to live with their uncle, John A. Thomson. The four sisters shared a bedroom on the house's second floor. During the summer of 1832, a young artist named Thomas Cole rented the family's nearby cottage. A few years later, Maria and Thomas became engaged, and they married on November 22, 1836, in the family's Catskill home. Thomas then moved into the house to live with Maria and the rest of the Thomson-Bartow family and household laborers.

Maria and Thomas had five children over the course of their marriage: Theodore, Mary, Emily, Elizabeth, and Thomas, Jr. While Thomas was often traveling to advance his artistic career, much of Maria's time was spent raising the children at home. Maria and Thomas were able to maintain their companionship, however, by frequently exchanging letters. Maria wrote to Thomas with stories of their growing children, advice on negotiating painting commissions, and news of friends and family back home.

When Maria was pregnant with their fifth child in 1848, Thomas passed away suddenly of pleurisy. Not only was Thomas's death a tragedy for the family, but it also ended the primary source of income for Maria and their children. For the remainder of her life, Maria found creative ways to manage household finances while continuing to support her children's endeavors, including her daughter Emily's artistic career. Maria also honored Thomas' legacy by preserving the New Studio as he had left it, renting the studio to other artists and welcoming visitors to learn from and enjoy her late husband's artwork. In this sense, Maria was the Cole Site's first “curator.”

There is a large archive of Maria's surviving journal and letters. Maria Bartow Cole's journal, in the collection of the Albany Institute of History & Art, is a thin blue booklet containing her reflections from 1835 to 1851. Long and short entries provide glimpses of Maria's everyday life as a woman living in nineteenth-century Catskill, from social calls in the village to chilly days spent “quite alone.” She began the journal at age twenty-two on the eve of her marriage and concluded it at age thirty-eight, filling the remaining pages with dried flowers and tales of hiking expeditions in the mountains.

Another side of Maria's story emerges in her letters. They reveal her deep pride for children and her steadfast concern for her husband's wellbeing. In a letter dated February 10, 1842, she wrote to Thomas while he was in Italy: “If I could Steal a Stroll with you now while the little ones are

asleep...Never mind you shall tell me all when you come home, and that will do as well.” Maria’s regret over her husband’s absences was always tempered by her stalwart support of his artistic aspirations.

Reading the time-weathered pages of Maria’s journal and letters is an intimate experience. Her words touch us in the present day as we wander the historic property she stewarded and inhabited for most of her life. Her words tell the story of a woman making her way in Catskill day by day, nearly two hundred years ago.

—Kristen Marchetti, 2023 Cole Fellow

JOURNAL

1835 – 1851

[Written sideways on bottom left corner]

Structures on Female Education

[Written on front of loose scrap of paper enclosed in diary; handwriting does not appear to be Maria's]

June ²⁴ 1837 Maria B. Cole
June 22 1846 M. A. Prevost
June 9 1852 M.A. P—.
Oct 19 1852 M.A. P—.
Nov 15 no year Maria Bartow
Dec 7 1838 M.A. P—.
Dec 18 1853 Sarah + Thos. Cole (T.C)
Jany 21 1815 Joseph Prentice
April 21 1798 Thos. Thomson
May 23 1815 Maria Bartow
Oct 2 1807 J.H. Thomson
March 27 1812 Sally A Bartow
Dec 20 1808 Maria Bartow

\$7.01

[Written on back of loose scrap of paper enclosed in diary; handwriting does not appear to be Maria's]

Niagara Falls Sept 16 1799
S. Bartow

[Circular line drawn below "S. Bartow," grouping name with above date]

Catskill May 17, 1815
Thos. T. Thomson

[Circular line drawn below "Thos. T. Thomson," grouping name with above date]

Hushe Hush March 1853
M.A. Prevost

Catskill March the 13th 1835

Mercury at zero. rose to 18° during the day. — —

[text missing] the crust of the snow [text missing] walking insted [remainder of page missing]

Monday March the 15⁶"

Mercury, at 18° in the morning, a prospect of spring was reaty reviving. — Went through with my morning occupations **[remainder of page missing]**

Wednesday Oct. 12th 1836

Arose rather earlier than usual this morning and to my very great surprise saw that the ground was covered with snow the wind blowing a gale north snow and rain, Thermometre at only two degrees above freezing, it probaly has been lower — every thing has had the appearance of a very disagreeable March storm all day, — Tis realy quite mellencholly to se the green leaves falling all around us. — and the apples peeping out from under the snow which lodges on the branches.— can scarcely keep comfortable this evening by the fire.— quite wish for the Spoor stove. —

March the 29, 1837

A very delightfull clear but cold morning. the first Steam Boat for this seson reached the Point from N.Y. about 7 OClock A.M. Quilted the greatest part of the day & read several pages of Gillys Greece. — , —

Co

April the 27 1837 Catskill

It has been ^{^ a} delightful day in the sun though cold in the house so we have had fires all day, this P.M. Cousin T.H. & myself took Mrs Haster home in the little Waggon, road with her as far as jefferson gate never missed the trees in the Vally more. The mountains looked beautifully, returned to the Village left Mrs. H at her door, Called at Mrs Atwaters, walked up to the store where we met the Waggon, then rode as far as Mr Griffins, lost my glove, returned to tea – quite chilled, been sitting by a good fire ever sinse feel rather spiritlless and dull this evening, sincerely hope that these hard times will pass, with less evis to our Country than is anticipated, Wish very much that our absent ones were at home,. —

[Written at bottom of page]

Memorable circumstances

M

February 25th, 1840 Catskill

Never have I ~~illegible~~ been more deter=ined to keep a little note of every days occurrences & to try if possible to improve in writing, than I was at the begin=ning of this Winter, but the Winter is now the past & so is my determination, the fact is I have enjoyed our little as=sembly around my stand ^{^ so much} while T. read aloud to us, that I ~~could not bare~~ ^{^ was} unwilling to do any thing to interupt. — This evening I am alone for the first time this winter, T.H. & F having gone to the Village to hear a debate upon the affects of Ficticious writings

I believe that is a standing question for all little debating societies, I never heard of one yet, that that question was not discussed. — The mild weather ^{^ for} the last week has given us back one bare ^{^ &} brown country again. I never recollect seeing snow and ice disappear so rapidly before. — a week ago loaded sleighs were upon the river. — and now it is entirely free from ice, A Steam Boat passed down to day. I believe for the first. —

I have had much to feel grateful for this winter, in having us all favoured with such good health, & surrounded by so many comforts, It is with a thankful heart that I acknowledge it. —

Catskill Oct. 1, 1840

Although the day has been very gloomy and threaten'd rain, we have not been altogether without visitors

Mr Kidney called with the Reverend Mr Noble;

Catskill Dec. 9 1840

At 8 O'clock this morning landed with my friends at Kingston from New York. — No Boats could get father for the ice. — We were fortunate enough to there meet with a Catskill Stage, which after taking our breakfast from a very kind Land Lady.) convey'd us safely home. — The Country about Kingston appears to be an extensive plain, extending too ^{^ base of} the mountains. — the ride to Catskill ~~was very~~ ^{I think must be very} beautiful ~~illegible~~ in Summe it was very beautiful now covered with snow. — The Mountains assumed a variety of forms. as we passed along I was delighted to find all well at home, and my dear little ones both looked well and happy ———

[Following page missing]

Catskill April the 11, 13 1841

Meeting Bells are ringing and a softer twilight without, fastning shutters lighting Lamps and preparing to spend a quiet evening within doors, — Mary already asleep and Theddy not very far from it, Scarcely a vestage of the six inches snow is left that fell this morning but in its stead as much or more mud. — Winter Winter when will it take its leave and give us lovely spring. —

The day has been a long one for the Children whose tempers have not been as even as I could have wished A. Pigeon Hawk was shot which they both claimed as their own particular ~~right~~ property

Mary as the weakest was at last obliged to yeald possession, but all thee little efforts were united to explain to each on what it was. ———

Catskill Feb, 26, 1842

I am resolved to make one memorandum at least before winter takes his final leave. — Did ever the last of winter come so soon before, If only I had read or wrote the quarter that I

intended too, I could then be more content, but so it is month after ^{^ month} & year ^{^ after year} passes & I neither grow better or wiser, —

To day I have sat very close at my worsted work determined if possible to finish it, in which I did succeed, — and now comes the disagreeable part of it, to me, The presentation;

After all my labour it is an insignificant thing. — if it was more simple or less, I could manage it better, but this half way business, neither one thing nor the other, is the most disagreeable. I was feeling that I had a great deal to put down, but Unc S. has be=gan to read some passages from Stevens; — which puts a final stop to my writing. — for the present. —

Last evening I witnessed some experiments in Animal Magnetism, was greatly disappointed for ~~was beginning~~ reports were working strong convictions on my mind. — but my observations nearly put all to flight. — i was more disgusted, than awd or amased. —

March 1st 1842, comes in rather Lamblike. — If the old adage holds good ~~we must~~ ^{are to} expect colder weather, I can scarcely realise that the winter, is realy now the past. — Today I made a call at the Griffins with Unc. Sandy & theddy, Egbert was our driver, & the roads bad enough to keep our horses upon a walk the whole way. — Miss F. was very friendly and agreeable, and the little Children were very ~~agreeable~~ interesting and I have formed ^{the} a resolution to adopt a new and more faithful plan with my own children, &. that I may persevere & succeed, ——— —

In riding past Mr Sanfords, I had to lament the loss of trees that has been cut from the road side. they have shaded us so many times from the morning sun, when we have taken a little stroll from the breakfast table, without our hats, that they quite ~~realy~~ appeared like friends. — I was realy grieved to see the destruction. — not a single pine tree is standing with in a mile of us. — on the road side; I almost regretted that I could feel to admire a tree, —

March 7 - Monday

One word for my long lost Pin, if no more. — It was found on Saturday, in quite an opposite direction from the one in which I supposed I had lost it. — ‘Tis another proof, how easily we deceive ourselves. — I never could have supposed that I could possibly have lost it out of the Grove. or the door yard, where as I must have droped it when crossing the fence near the Sand pit. ———

Trifling as it is it has taught me a lesson, If I had been told I could not have believed, that the loss of any thing ~~that I had~~ ^{in my possession} could have made me as unhappy as that did for a time, — but so it was, & is. — my mind is altogether for this world although I would fain deny it to my self — certain it is that every thing working for our good, may the lesson never be lost upon me. ———

My Time to day has been taken up with little odd jobs I seam to take time for every thing but reading, which is more importent than any thing else. I must try to do better tomorrow. ———

Tuesday March 8, 1842

Commenced reading Bottas History of the United States, had a strong desire to go in the Village, but scarcely courage enough to encounter the mud, — The weather has been mild and delightful like the finest april day, how crook ed I write. — I must leave this to cut out Pach Work, which I like to do better. —

Monday July 4, 1842

I seldom enjoy a day more than I have this, The weather has been all ^{turnately} Sun Shine and showers, we have been quite alone. — that is without company, Unc S the Children Em, F. & myself, have all felt so well & so happy to day. — We were awake before 5 this morning by

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[Date unknown, likely July or August 1842]

trees. — . We returned home by the way of the Spring & found the Miss Halleys on the Piazza, I have nearly finished Scots life, & I feel as though I am parting with an old friend I have been so long reading it, & I have been so much entertained by it that I shall feel quite at a loss. —————
—————

Catskill August 9, 1842

It has been raning all day the wind easterly and the sun has not once shone out, it appears very like the equinoxinal storm I hope it is, & that we may have warmer weather, for to day I have realy felt uncomfortable away from the fire. — I do not like to think that the Summer is entirely passed it is so early to commence having fires, I have done very little to day which is too much the case every day. ———

It has been a long day for the Children as they had to be kept within doors, Teddy is broke out quite thick to night with the Chicken Pox, which makes him very uneasy, I hope & think that he will not have it as severe as Mary had it as this is the second day since it appeared this evening I have been reading Pilgrims Progress, I have read it before, but inattentivevely, & even now. although I enjoy it and perceive its beauties, I find my mind wan-ering, which I attribute entirely to the inattention with which I first read it. — . I have not felt very bright to day August 9

September 21, 1842

A severe frost is threatning to night but I hope we may escape, We have been very buisely engaged taking up & bringing in house plants, many are still out that I should like to save but the want of pots and a place to keep them through the winter renders it impossable to save them, Sarah arrived this morning in the Catskill Boat we were all glad to see her, — The leaves are beginning to change, but I have not began to make my collection. — I realy hope that I shall succeede, in getting them. —

My pen and light are so poor that I shall have to leave this cold room for the present and join the circle around the fire in the room. ———

X Saturday evening October 29, 1842

Since my last date in this book I think there has been but one stormy day & that was a rainy one very much needed, my last fortnight has been spent in the City & I am quite glad to return home again, I have Scarcely known whether to stay in the house or out to day, so halting between ^{the} two I have left almost every thing undone one thing i did do & that was to put a rose **[illegible]** on a pot to grow and sowed some pink seed around the edge to grow, this charming weather if it could last another month, but than I suppose we should wish for another It is too cold to sit longer here without fire. —

Tuesday Nov. 1, 1842

The morning was cold and chilly and foggy, about 12 the Sun Shone out and the afternoon has been as mild ^ & indian Summer like, I have scarcely done any thing to day. for I have ^{been} almost the whole day wating for a man to help me set some shrubry. - I at last succeeded in getting a part done. took up the Dalias & put them in the Cellar. — they have enormous roots and I hope we may succeed in keeping them through the winter. ——— ——— ———
— — ———

Catskill Nov. 2, 1842

Another charming day of indian Summer I felt a great-desire to work in the flowers to day, but could find nothing that I could do to advantage with out the assistance of a man. I hope that I shall feel as much in the Spirit of cultivating the yard in the Spring as I do now. — I feel that I have a great deal of Sewing to do but can scarcely set my self about it. — I have made a sort of commencement to day by cutting out two pair of pantloons for Theddy. —

I realy wish that I had some one to correspond with this winter, that I should not feel it a task to write to. — — —

Nov 22

I have done so little

January 22, 1843 Sunday

Two boats came up the river morning, & went down this evening, an unusual occurance for this season of the year.— went to Church in the morning, and again in the evening, it was very muddy though we got along pretty well. ——— .

January 31, 1843

The Boats have continued to run reg-ularly to Albany although we have had a night or two extremely cold, there has been a drisling rain all day, to night the wind blows a ~~hurricane~~ ^{gale}

from the South west, The South Shutter blew too broke a pane of glass & cracked several others, I have spent the principal part of the day in the Painting room reading Kenelworth, I have got deeply interested in it as I never before read it, We all have had an invitatioⁿ to spend this evening at Julias, with Mr & Mrs Phillips the mud and the rain, however says stay at home, —

March 2. 1843

Another Spring has commenced, but winter weather is determined not to be sent away in a hurry. — I hope how=ever he is bidding his last adieus, they are keen and bitter enough, not surpassed by any ~~thing~~ this winter. — I partly ingaged to spend this evening in the, Village, but prudence said nay.' — C. — & Abbie Cooke called for us to take a ride with them, The Children and my=self only were reddy to accept such an agreeable offer & we enjoyed it not with standing the cold. —————

Catskill March 23, 1843

Although we call march a Spring month, it is turning out more winterish than the the real winter ones themselves, — The wind is blowing tempestuously, and the murcury will sink to zero before morning, many unfortunat beings I fear are suffering this night, & while I think of such I can not be too thankful that I have so many comforts & blessings, luxury, I may say for I have more I require, & that I may feel truly thankful for what I receive, —

I have to day finished the tale of ~~the~~ Our Neighbors which we ~~are much pleased with~~ have been occupied in reading for the last two or three days, I have read during the day while T worked & in the evening T has read & I worked. — I am getting very sleepy. - & as I have some leaves to arrange I will end this &

April 1^l 1843

A most winter like evening, the north west wind is blowing fiercely, & the Snow and Sleet that fell this morning, fastens the snow that was upon the ground firmer than ever, — & the river too, it appears now as though it might remain closed until June. — How unlike this season, to that of 1839. I reccollect of taking a delightful walk up the creek, the first day of april of that year. — , with only a Small Shawl on. — & I am not sure but that I might have done the same thing every year since. — this is certain^{ly} an extreordinary season. — So say the old & experien^{ced}. I have not been very well to day, ~~This afternoon~~ after dinner I went to the Studio & read Alisons History, while T. worked at this snow scene. — He has gone to spend this evening with Mr Phillips — Harriet sits oposite me reading & my Stove pipe is growing to a red~~d~~ heat, the Sout must to on fire within — the pipe is now cooling without any further damage, than filling the room with the strongest of all, & most disagreeable of all, sout perfume pe=culiar a believe to these stoves. —————

April 6, 1843

The weather still continues cold, but the Snow is graduly melting away. — the roads are intolerable deep mud in Some places, and in others drifts even with the fences. — The Hawleys & H Clark spent the P.M & drank tea with us this afternoon, I had just seated my self in the Studio with a volume of Scot ~~to~~^{in my} hand to read to T. who was painting the Sky of his Com=pagnie Scene, when they came. — T. has gone to hear a Lecture from the Rev. Mr Willas delivered before the Lyceum, and I am siting here quite alone. ———

April 8,

The first Boat from New York arrived about 7 O Clock, after cuting its way through the ice, for pre=viously not even the chanel was opened. — the passen=gers for several miles walked on the ice. by the side of the Boat. —

April 12, 1843

I have parted with Theddy this afternoon for the first time, he has gone to the City with his Father & Aunt H. — When it was first proposed I thought I could never con=sent to his going with out me, — but the time must and will come if we live, when he will be taken from me, so I yealded, tis quite sad, and lonely to be without them, but if they are enjoying themselves, & will re=turn in good health I will be content —————

There is a good deal of ice in the river, but I trust they will get safely through it. — — ——

Oct 24,

I see that my last date in this book was made soon after parting from Theddy, and now he is in the City again, for a few weeks, & I have nearly made up my mind to go there my self next week to have my teeth attended to, for they realy need it, but I must acknowledge that my principle inducement is to bring Thed home. — O how desolate the Country looks to day, the fields are white yet with the snow—that fell night before last. — Unc S. - Em., & F returned from Green Ville this afternoon, brought Mr Smith with them so that we are not as lonely as we were last night Deary I wonder where he is to night, in Boston perhaps, as he intended, I hope that he has taken no cold to day. — this morning I tryed to restore ~~a little order~~ the books & papers to a little order in the Studio, - a task that has not been mine ~~since~~ for several months past. — I am getting very sleepy. I do not intend to wait for thieves to night. ———

Catskill October 27, 1843

A gloomy wintry day. the fields are white with snow, & ~~rain & sleet~~ more like mid winter than any part of autum, — I have had quite a room full to day, even Unc Sandy ~~has given~~ consented to come up Stairs and sit with us. - My stove makes this room the only comfortable ~~room~~^{one} in the house. —

My little Emily is two months old to day. — She is begining to laugh & talk her baby talk quite a good deal. - I think she commences sooner than the other children did. — She is a pretty good

baby on the whole that is she does not cry a great deal, but I fear she is not going to give me the long evenings that Mary did for her naps are generly short ones. — — I hope to see Theddy & his Father next week, but the latter I must not think of seeing either. I con scarcely expect it. — not quite a week has passed since he left home — but I should think that several had. — — ———

Catskill Nov 10th 1843

I this morning arrived with ^{^ my little} Theodore and Emily from New York, where I have spent the last week. — there were not many passengers on board the Washington, & upon the whal the passage was a very comfortable one, Mrs Romyene & some other acquaintances were on board. - it was only half past four OClock when the Boat reached the dock, I soon dress=ed my self, roled up the Children & put them in the Stage that was there ^{ih} wating for passengers. — & we were soon at our own homes again, where we found all well, little Mary in her Night clothes was at the door with her Aunt H. to open it for us. — the daylight was increasing & the snow was falling. Fast. — but the Spoor Stove kept a comfortable house for us. — I have been hoping though some what against reason, that my absent one would return to night, but to=morrow I hope not to be disappointed, — —————

Catskill Nov 22, 1843

The seventh anniversary of our mariage has come round and we are

Nov 27, 1843

My little Emily is three months old to day, she has improved a good deal within the last month, takes more notice of things & is quite a serious littler talker her eyes I think are growing a little darker, tis quite Theddys delight to hold her on his lap. — She is taking a fine long nap this evening, tis now half past ten T. is going to take the up Boat for Albany, to night. he too is now sleeping

Nov 29th 1843

T has gone this evening to N.Y. to spend the winter t'was very sad for me to part with him, never more so not even when he went to Europe, — and the an-ticipasion of his returning in mid winter for a short time is not in the least pleasureable to me now, the all winter so completely fills my mind, — I con think of nothing else. — I hope & believe that it is all for the best. — & If I only ~~carry~~ ^{execute} half my resolves I shall have

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[Date unknown, likely between November 1843 and August 1844]

our noses again, our last cold days were very severe I numbered 8 mornings in succession that the thermometer was at zero, or below, 14 degrees below I believe has been the lowest. – no prospect of the Rivers opening early. — —

Catskill August 27th 1844

My little Emily is just one year old today, + with good health and temper She is quite the pet of the family, I never knew a more healthy child, for which I feel deeply thankful. – for the last fortnight however her teeth have been troubling her. She has four, she does not walk yet. although she says several words, – . Such as Papa, Chicky, Citty, +c, – & she creeps wherever she is allowed to go. – her eyes have changed from quite a light blue to something quite dark, more grey. — To us all she is very engaging — when she was 8 months old she could distinguish pictures, & now they will fix her attention sooner than anything else. – She is this moment sleeping in her cradle. – . Teddy is also asleep in, his crib & Mary is in Unc San bed, their Papa is on his tour to Penobscot, I am wishing him to return, I always feel so lonely without him,
— — —————

Catskill March 1 Saturday eve, 1845

There has been nothing of the Lion in the weather to day. – indeed it has been one of the most delightful days, we have had for months. – but every day this week has been fine, On Tuesday the 25, T. left us for New York in the first Boat, so early to have the River clear of ice. – Thursday the 27 — Mr Church Harriet Teddy & my self walked to the Streaky the meadow was covered with water making quite an extensive lake. — it was ½ past Six O'clock when we reached home again very tired, —

September 21st 1845

Quite lonely this evening, T. left this morning in the day boat for Hyde Park, Harriet with Mary & Mr M^s. C.- in the Washington this evening for N. York. – tis quite a trial to part with ^{^ either} the Children for even a week. — — The Caty Dids are quite defining this evening, the weather promises fair & fine which will the more make me regret T.s absence. –

Teddy commenced going to school morning and afternoon, for the first time to day, The deepest anxiety for the future is steeling over me, in regard to the Children. — —

[Impressions of pressed flowers]

[Four blank pages]

[Following two entries appear upside down, relative to previous entries]

16 July 1851 . encamped on High Peek with a party of 14 — Mr. Noble, Mess Prevost, Falconer, Richards & Theodore Cole — Mr. [illegible] the driver & Mr Haynes one of our guides. Misses Seaman, Ellen Seaman Maria Cooke Augusta Hayes, Cornelia Hall, Sarah Harriet & myself. —

June 1851

About 10 Mrs Sleighter called was in a very agreeable mood, related a singular anecdote of a Rev Mr Williams the Dauphin of France son of Louis 16 — insted of dying in prison as History informs us — it is said, that he was actually sent to this Country, & was for several years amongst the Indians and & I believe married a half breed — & is now in the ministry. — has quite a pollished & courtly manner & looks very like Louis 16 — Prince de John Vill when in this country paid him a visit, very remarcable if correctt —

The June Honey Succle is one mass of flowers from the top to Bottom. — we had never any thing so pretty before & in our admiration this evening we scarcely thought any one else had. —

[Drawings of vertical and horizontal lines]

[Drawings of lines cover following page, along with a series of numbers written sideways on right side of page as if adding an equation]

[Written sideways on top right corner of page]

November 21, 1842

LETTERS

1831 – 1847

[Maria Bartow to Harriet Bartow]

To Miss Harriet Bartow/Broome

Catskill June the 27th 1831

I can easily imagine, My Dear Dick and I sincerely sympathise with you in the solitary hours you must spend but never mind Sister D. it wont be long. You must read all you can and that will be some entertainment for you; I have been going to write ever since they came down, but some thing as usual has happened to prevent. They arrived here just before tea time and a shower rather unexpectedly too, for we thought the mud would prevent them. Mother has been very well indeed. Mrs Doty came here the next day, and staid until last night. Mrs. Cook Henriet and Harriot called here on Friday just as they were going to take tea in the pantry. They insisted on their coming in and partaking with them. So when I came from school there I found them; they looked as pretty and sweet as usual. They enquired and spoke of you several times, soon after they left June Tappan called here for a few minutes. [illegible] how I should like for Lot and I to take a trip out and see you. She is I believe going to write you one of her good long letters as soon as she can collect something I heard her say she would have to go in the street to collect some scandale before she wrote [illegible] have been thinking of you this after noon for we have had a most tremendous shower, by appearance I thought you had a heavier one there, which I thought would make you feel somewhat blue. You must know Lot and I went down to Sunday school this morning, where we learnt that Mr. Salmon was going to preach this morning. He accordingly did and after Church the T;s invited us to go home and take dinner with them, we at first both declined but being dressed in black and it being so very warm I told her she had better stay and I came home, just as we were going to dine the shower came up which prevented every one of us from going to Church if there was any, and I think it very probable there was after the heaviest of it was over. So there Charlotte is yet and is like to be until the mud is in a measure dried. I think it not unprobable she has gone to your J_____ 's meeting to night. The moon takes a peep out of the Clouds once and a while, how lovely it shone some part of last evening. I looked at it, and made my usual exclamation: I wonder if any one is looking at that moon and thinking of me, yes I said Dick is and thinking of some of us. Thursday being St. John it was celebrated here and an address delivered by the Prentiss and a most excellent it was too. Lot f. and myself mingled in the crowd with B.F. and Miss. Palmer and then if ever we did regret the absence of a beaux, there were a great many Masons, our side of the Church and all of the slips being taking by them. After the address, we called at the Cooks, Mrs. Mac. Kindries, the store, and Mrs. Greens. After which we returned home with a pretty good appetite, I can assure you, for it was then 4 O'Clock and we had not tasted a mouthful since breakfast. We just hapned to miss everyones dinner. But to prevent any mistaking idea on you I will tell you, it was not our intention to dine any where but home. The Steam boat that conveyed the free Mason's down came to the first dock in the Creek, which is by Judge Cooks, it was decorated with greens, on board there was a dinner prepared for the ladies, Mrs Griggs mad one of the party, therefore we

did not see her. They have all gone to bed [illegible] Julia which is in Uncles room but she is now coming. Enough of such writing so Good Night.

Pleasant dreams to you Maria

Ps M.D.V.L. was her when [illegible] had a fine time notwithstanding the rain

You must not expect Mother this week

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]

Mr Tho^s. Cole
1 Laight Street
New York

Catskill April the 12th 1837

My Dear Thomas.

I received your letter of monday this morning. — — I need not tell you how happy I was to see it, and to hear that you were well and safe. — I hardly expected to hear as much. for you are generally so unfortunate in your Steam Boat passages. — and with Pictures too, — You must take courage now, perhaps your Steam Boat luck is about changing. — I looked for the Boat after you left a great many times: but could see nothing of it. — in the mean time Unc Ss came along and I took passage. — The fare was very moderate however,

I am very glad to hear that Mr Inman is so well pleased with his Picture. I hope the small one will pleas equily well; the others I am sure will not fail to please. — — I am both sorry and glad that the exibition will not open untill the 20th. glad that you will have time to finish your Picture, but very sorry that you ^{^ will be} gone so long, I wish you could have known it before you left here. — — We have had two most delightfull days. — — The Birds sing more sweetly than ever. — I wished very much to tell you when I wrote that I had found a wild flow^{er} but I am not able to, notwithstanding, I made a diligent sear^{^h} for one yesterday. — — I wished for you to walk with us, though that I suppose you have quite enough of ^{^ walking to do} in the City. — . — — On monday we were invited to the Cooks. We went quite early and spent a sociable afternoon. — I wished very much for you there, & in=deed I could scarcely help expecting you, (there was no other company) Unc Sandy took the precaution to have a lamp sent to us. — but it proved quite unnecessary as the moon shone most lovely. — We all made out to avoid the mud.

—
We found Mr Dikeman here when we came home. — he stay'd untill yesterday afternoon. when he left in the little Catskill Boat for the City.

We all went down with him, and Unc Sandy to see the Boat but we were rather late, & there was such a crowd, we did not go on board.

It got in one morning at 6 OClock. — I think you had better come up in it, if you are comming in a night Boat. — — I have had the Stove moved, but cannot have the room cleaned untill next week, I dont know that I am in a hurry to have it done, for I shall be so im=patient to see you as soon as it is ready, — You say nothing of the time you think of comming. — I hope it will not be very long. — it appears an age already since you left us. —

I hope the long faces in Wall St. will not affect yours any: — Do not work yourself thin which I expect you will do. — How are you likely to succeed with Mr Morses commission? — — So write to me as often as you can & tell me how you are, and what you are doing. — I have not opened G. s Greece, since you left. — I have been very much occupyed sew^{ing} I am afraid I shall be too late for the Mail, however, I think had better not write you a longer letter this time as you will have so much to attend to at present, I am very happy to hear that you found ~~you~~ our friends well. remember me affectionately to them all and believe me ever

Yours, Maria

Harriet hopes you will have something new to tell her about Phrenology. — they all send their love to you. —

[Maria Bartow Cole to Emily, Frances, and Harriet Bartow]

The foot of Scroon Lake, June the 24th, 1837

My Dear Sisters,

As we have arrived at our journeys end. or at head quarters, I will commence writing my promised letter although I have been absent only three days. — I was very sorry not to see Mary Anne Land. for you must have been so disappointed to return home without her, I thought of you all the afternoon. — Our passage to Albany was not very pleas=ant for it rained most of the time, it fortunately stoped a little be=fore landing. — We found Mr & Mrs Durand impatiently awaiting our arrivle. — As the Cars for Saratoga were not to leave until the next morning — we contented our Selves with the hope of fairer weather for traviling. — In the evening we attended one of Catlins Lectures which was directly oposite the Mansion House. It was extremely inter-esting: Catlin is an Artist, that has been among the diferent Indian Tribes, between the Misippy and the Rocky Mountains for seven years. — for the purpose of getting information respecting [^]their manners & customs &c, &c, . — He showed a great many portraits of different Tribes, with an account of each, & their different drsses. — Some of them were realy splendid, but I must leave the the rest to tell you when I return, I was both amased and delighted.

Thursday morning promised fairer weather as we had hoped. — We met Mr Woodruff in the Street, promised to call on our return. At ten OClock took our seats in the Cars for Schenectaday, where we changed Cars. for Saratoga arrived there at half past two. — It appeared delightful to me there while we staid, the grounds are laid out handsomely & the Houses & every thing around appeared so- perfectly neat. — we had only time to walk to the Spring & take a glass of Congress water before dinner. — It would not take long however to see every thing [^]that ^{is} remarcable there, Art has done a great deal for the place. — There was very little company there. — We left there soon after dinner in an open Barouche for Lake George. — The roads were not very fine, a good deal cut up by the late rains & the distance 27 miles, So we did not reash Caldwalls untill 9 OClock, & pretty well tired as you may suppose, after traviling 60 miles in eleven hours —

I saw very little of Schenectaday as we [^]were there only long enough^h to change Cars. — Th rout from Albany there is very uninteresting, indeed, I was thankful that there was a Rail Road to pass over it on. & from S. to Saratoga was but little better, I saw some beautiful flowers growing on the bank. and in the swamps we passed by, I longed to possess some of the^m but of course could not. — From Saratoga to Lake G. it was much more interesting. — Glens Falls is [^]a much more remarcable place than I expected to see, ~~there is~~ at present an emense body of water there, which dashes over the rocks in the gran dest maner I ever saw. — It was twilight when we passed Bloody point. & Col Williams Rock: I don't know when I have had such a fit of romance siece me. — I felt all the Horrors of the Scene, as if it might actually have then been passing — I will Scarcely say that I have seen Lake G. - for I have by no meanes had a favourable view of it. We left [^]~~illegible~~ at 1 OClock in the morning after we arrived there, & the Atmosphere was such as to see nothing there to advantage. — The road to Scroon was full of interest, the Country I cannot describe, it is filled with little mountains, with now & then a fine peak of a lofty distant one. — The land is a good deal cleared in parts ~~considering the houses that are built~~ but very little cultivati^{on} but Scroon is delightfull notwithstanding the hazy at=mosphere. — So far it has certainly been most unfortunate for us. — Our quarters are as comfortable as we could wish for

in any place; and altogether more commodious than I anticipated Our Land Lord has been a School Master most of his life I believe, & a real Ichabod Crane he is too. — Our Land Lady a real industrious woman. — the head maniger I imagine. — a good deal such a woman as Mr Thorp only altogether neater. —

It is three days since I commenced writing this, however I will go on with my discription. — the house fronts the West. — the prospect is limited on all sides, being apparently Sorounded by very high hills almost mountains. — the woods remind me a good deal of Broom, though there is a much greater variety of trees. — I never saw so many different ones together in my life — The Lake lies about half a mile back from the house. — from a little hill very near the house we can have a very fine view of it. — I have been on it twice, the first time I went up it three miles. — but the Atmosphere has been so hazy ever sinse we came we have scarsely been able to see the distance at all. — from all that we can learn, the high mountain that T. scetshed when here before must be the one of 5000 that is now spoken of, it is 8 or 10 miles from here. — & difficuld of axcess. — if [text missing] Should clear up soon which we are all earnestly hoping it [text missing] do. — most likely T. & Mr. D. will explore it. — as soon as the weather will permit we are going to sail through the Lake which is 9 miles in extent. — Our Gentlemen are improving their time as well as they can. They have scetched some very pretty near views. but have been almost devoured by musketoos gnats & sand flies. — you would think Mr D. had the measles. — Mrs D. has not been very well but is getting much better. — We have rambled a good deal but not to any great distance. — we find pleanty of Strawberrys, by the way our fair is real country, I cannot begin to describe the variety we are treated too. — I think I never ate fresh fish before, the Lake Trout is so much finer than any thing I ever saw of the fish kind. — I cannot tell when we Shall leave here, we Shall probaly not be home untill the 5 or 6th. — It is doubtfull whether Mr. & Mr D will stop at C. — they think now that they had better not. — We attended no church on Sunday, as the nearest is 7 miles. — it is as wild and quiet here as you can imagine. — We have had an invitation take tea out tomorrow afternoon much to the annoyance of our Gentlemen but we shall accept it. I must leave the rest to tell you when I return. I shall then have much more to tell I hope then I have now. Give my love to all which will include yourselves of course. I believe to be your affectionate Sister Maria

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]
Mr. Thomas Cole
51 Canal Street
New York
Politeness of
Mr Wm. R. Dikeman

Catskill December the 2^d 1837

My Dear Thomas

I was very happy to receive your letter last evening, particularly so, as it told me of your safe and comfortable pass=sage down the River. — As there is nothing on board the Frank for us, I suppose you have postponed sending untill the next trip, or is it for wont of funds? — I hope not: — The weather remains so mild, I think and hope that you will find no difficulty in returning by water, — & after staying as long there as you wish to, — You need not be afraid to men=tion, any thing you wish to do there (as you said you was) to me because you thought I did not appear to want you to stay,

I would not have you leave there a day before you was ready or wished too. — I hope by this time that Mr. Van- R. has seen the Pictures. — I was at first quite delighted with the subject of your last commission. — and longed to ask you how you would represent them? & what you think of the subject? — It will give an oppor=tunity for another Soft Sun=Set. — You must en=joy your self as much as possible while you are in the City, & lay up a store of good health for the remainder of the winter. — Unc S-. has not been at all well to day. he appears to have a severe influenza cold comming. — I have been fiting a cold ever since you left. — I am in hopes that I am ^ now comming up conquerr, Mr Dikeman came here last evening. & I have this evening been playing a game of Chess, with him, It is now very late and am getting rather sleepy & very tired. — So with love to all & to you a good nights rest & agreeable dreams, I must say Good Night

Truly Yours.
Maria

Monday,

I have understood through Mr Crosswall that Mr Van R. was on board of the Boat friday night, returning to Al=bany, & very much disappointed at not seeing you in New York. — where he said he had been to meet you by ap=pointment. — What mistake has been made? — If it should be one of the Servents, do be particular in giving them in=struction..what to say when you are inquired for. —

Unc Sandy wishes me to refer you to Pettibone & Long No. 4 Liberty St. — for Superior Drawing Knives of S.C. Bemis manufacture. —

Tuesday P.M.

I have just received yours of the 3^d and as Mr D.- is to leave in the Frank I have only time to acknowledg its receipt. — I should have sent this to you before, but Mr D has staid longer than I expected him to. — I am very glad you think of returning next week. — but do not if you think you ought to stay longer. — I am very happy to hear that the Pictures please so well. — you do not tell me where they are? — The commissions you have received is also agreeable news. — I will endeavour to write again. I am quite ashamed to this scribbling. — but I have no time to writ more or bet=ter at present. — They all join me in love to you, Give my love to Sarah —

Yours Affectionately
Maria.

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

Cedar Grove April the 20th 1838 —

My Dear Dederico

I have just received yours of the 18th & am truly sorry to have disappointed you so many times. — Since I received your first letter, I have been waiting for something, I scarcely know what, I flattered myself that you would be home this week. — & perhaps you would not have time to get a letter if I wrote one. — I have always thought I wanted to see you as much as I possibly could when you were away. — but now I think I want to see you a little more than I ever did before. — Theddy has been as well as usual Since you left and so have I. — I have just taken a look at him in the Cradle for you. — I wish you could see how sweetly he is sleeping. — he will be gratified no doubt with his present. at all events his mama will be for him. — —

I am very sorry indeed to hear that Mary continues so ill, — I am sorry too that they have to move. — I am sure it will be very bad for her. — Give my love to them all. — I am sorry to hear that Sarah is afflicted with the tooth ache I would endeavour to proscribe something, if she had not the Dr. at her elbow. — I hope you are free from the like misery: — If you complain of the unpleasant weather in the City, I dont know what you would have done at home for it has been real winter here. — Harriet expects me to go down with you the first of May. — you must tell her that I shall most probably not be able too. — indeed I dont know when I can go. — I ought not to think of taking theddy from home until he is old enough to leave for a few hours. — so even if they were ready to see me, I dont know that I could go, — I wrote a few lines to H. yesterday, in which I mentioned, (if you were there when She received it) that I should like you to bring me some common calico for a morning dress. — if it would not be convenient for you to get it, never mind, or H. will get it, she will know what I want. — I shall not be particular, I should ^{^ like} it rather dark though, & cheap. — — —

I am gratified to hear that Arcadia pleases so much I thought The Catskill would be a favourite. — has not Hagerty seen it? — So your thoughts are still East ward bound. — I want to hear what more you have to say about it. — Tell H. that she must be ready to come home with you when you go down again if not before. — I long to see you and have you see Twaddy, he appears to have a slight cold in his head which I am in hopes will wear off in a day or two. — .
With the hope of seeing you on Monday or Tuesday

I remain Yours very affectionately

Maria

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]
Mr Thomas Cole
1 Laight Street
New York

Catskill June 10'' 1839

My Dear Thomas

I received your letter this morning & ha=sen to beg you not to let me in any way prevent you from going abroad. — If you feel it at all neces=sary, or that it will be advantageous I want you by all means to go. — I have thought of it so long that I have quite made up my mind to [illegible]. _ be ^ perfectly, resined to it. — but I dont believe that I ever can again. — — so if you ever think of going with out me do go now. — I have no doubt my=self but that it will be advantageous. — & if you make Studies for Mr W.s Pictures. — while gone. — you will not loose so much time. — —

I spent this morning at the Cooks. — they tryed to prevail upon me to spend the day, but I felt anxious to write you a line, I thought of doing so all day yesterday, — fearing you might hes=itate on our account. — Theddys eyes are a good deal inflamed yet I think it is owing to his teeth, — Mr. Shepard came here on Satur-day, & says that Cousin M. & Mr Oakly will be up the first of this week. — Emily is no better. — if you Should give up going I Think that Sarah had better defer her visit a little longer. — it will be pleasanter for her, for we have not yet finnished house cleaning & the Girls have so much to do. — — It is time to send this to the mail, So with love to all and a great deal for you self. I remain

Your as ever.

M. Cole —

I shall scarcely expect you in the Frank for if you go I think that you will have to spend a longer time there. _____

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]
Mr. Thomas Cole
1 Laight Street
New York

Saturday April 24, 1841

My Dear Thomas

I would much rather sit down and have a good Cry or do any thing rather than write to you, what I am compelled too. — dont you wonder what I am going to say next. — Mr Van. Loan has put Julias Legacy in Mr Powers hands to collect, Unc. S. thinks that if he is pushed to extremities, that he will be obliged to make large sacrifices. — & he says that he would much rather make it in favour of you than him, — in short he wants you to come up as soon as you can. — he has a proposition to make to you which he assures me will be [illegible] to your advantage . I feel very unwilling to send for you under any circumstances, but particularly under the present, — Still from Unc. Ss assurances I should not feel justified in not doing so. —

There is no time to be lost, for as Van Loan is wating here he will push matters on as fast as posible — Unc. Sandy says if you could only come up for a day. — as soon as possible; he is now suffering under a severe influenza. — which these troublesom matters only make worse. —

The Children are well. I was unable to come down in Thursdays Boat, it is perhaps well that I did not. — I hope that we Shall have warmer weather by the Time you get here to day gives promise of it. — it is Time I sent this to the Po. Office, Give my love to all — with the hope that I shall very soon see you I am

Yours Affectionately
Maria

[Maria Bartow Cole and Maria Cooke to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]
M^r. Thomas Cole
To the care of
Welles & Co^m
Paris

Catskill Dec. 23^d 1841

My Dear Thomas.

We are now in the midst of preparation for Christmass & our friends are invited to dine at 3 O'clock. — As ~~you cannot share~~ ^{our united wishes cannot bring you to partake of} our comforts you shall at least ^{^ have some} share of my attention, The River is closed, Thermometer has ^{been} within two or three degrees of zero. tolerable Sleighing. & now it is raining, all these changes have occurred within the last week. for a week to night there was not a particle of ice in the River. — & the day was mild enough for Unc. S. to remain out all day. (with an umbrella over his head for it rained) Superintending the finishing some trenches for his Vines, — I hope the soft airs & equal temperature (that I hope you are now enjoying) will not entirely spoil you for our ever changing climate, It is with a thankful heart that I can tell you of the good health that we all enjoy. — The Children are perfectly healthy, & I trust we may all be spared for a happy meeting. — Mary has been running about to day with a slip of Paper in her hand, begging for a Pencil to write to Papa. — She w[**text missing**] one morning when it was yet quite dark, talking about Papa. ^{wanting to go to} ^{him} She asked me if Papa had come home. I asked her why she thought so, she said “I did see Papa” I then said where, she answered, “in the ~~room~~ ^{room} sitting in the rocking chair”, She had evidently ~~had~~ had a very vivid dream about you. — She persisted in saying that she has seen you. — I would be almost willing to forgo the pleasure of seeing you my self. — for a season. — if you could have one glance at the Children, I know it would make you happy to see how well they are looking, You may imagine Teddy marching about with his cap & Green coat on, in a pair of Boots, (which defys all weather except zero) that Unc. S. purchased for him a few weeks ago, I never saw him so perfectly delighted as he was when he saw Egbert take them out of the Sleigh, he directly said “you must write to my Papa, about my Boots” After reconsidering the matter how=ever he came to me with one in his hand — , ~~and~~ & said that I must not write for that he was going to, himself, I might however write about the one that laid on the floor, — but the one he held in his hand he was goin^g to write to his Papa about. — I have had great difficulty in making him take them off, when he is in the house, — for he says “My Papa wares his Boots in the House” So he cannot understand why he should do differently —

The Girls have gone to help them wind greens for the Church this afternoon The last Boat landed several distinguished Clergymen at the Point on Sunday morning Professor Potter preached two sermons for us, I supposing him to be Dr Potter, so ~~that~~ I could think of nothing but you & the little Picture during the whole Church^h time. — Dr Nott. delivered a lecture in the Duch Church the next evening be=fore the Lyceum, — which gave general satisfaction, I went with the Cookes, & then returned + spent the Night with them I have seen very little of them since my return, from the City, they have been so much occupied with thirr fair, but thank fortune it is all over now. — they Spared no pains & I believe there was really a great deal of taste

displayed, we none of us ^{were} there, the walking was too bad, I have promised to spend a week with them to read Stevens Work. — December 27. — I take this first opportunity to tell you of my most acceptable Christmass present, your letter Dearry. — After Church on Christmass I found my self on the way to the Po. Office, I scarcely knew for what I was going, for Egbert goes regularly every day. — I was not there thinking of getting a letter from you although I have been hoping for one for weeks but I had determined not to watch the Po. Office too closely lest I should be come too impatient, & I know there are so many delays in traveling. — You too should remember that, & not be too anxious, I am quite greaved that you should not have fount my letter on your arrival, & the more so as I fear that there are not many on the way for you. I wrote from New York, which long before this you must have received, Henry promised to write the week or two after but I believe he did not, I have only writtin once since my return, & that is some where on the way, now, — I think it would have been better if you had not changed your adress, the Boston Stemers are running Still. — I hope that you will not be uneasy about home for we are all doing very well, & now that you are there I want you to feel as much [text missing] ease as possable, & take time for all you wish to do. for Deary I dont think I shall let you go again. — I am sorry that you are not painting the Voyge of Life if you feel disposed for it. — I hope you will not delay doing any thing you wish to because you do not hear from us, I trust they are comfortable in N.Y. I have not heard from them latily but I think they must have written to you.

I have felt anxious to hear of your arrivle at Rome, & now sincerely hope that you may be successful in Painting How did you spend Christmass I believe there is a Protestant Church at Rome? your health was drank at the Table & numerous were the enquiries made about you. — It was quite a joyful day, for receiving letters, Mrs Richards who dined with us had just received her first letter from Mr. R. at New Orleans, & the Hawleys received a letter Charles, & Maria C. received yours, She sent it up for me to read but as it was near our dinner hour I could not catch a mo=ments chance. — as it was Saturday night they began to leave at sun down. — & I did not like to keep it without her premission, only Catharine Elisabeth & Atwatter dined with us the rest were detained by the illness of Wordsworth Cooke, he is better now, The Major (who still is obliged to use his cruches) & all his family were here, Theodore & Mary Anne P. (she desired to be affectionatily remembered to you). — Mr Dorlon, & Miss Haight, The dinner was quite an agreeable one, If you had been we should have wanted for nothing besides, — The Prevosts left here this morning. — Yesterday while wating for the Sleigh at the Church, (Mary Anne & my self) we had quite a chat with Mr Philips, I greave to say that he has been afflicted by the loss of his Infant about three weeks since, Both himself & Mrs P. are very much composed, — He has never been here since you left but we are going to send for them soon. — ^{when} I gave hym your regards & ~~told~~ said that you were in Rome he said that he wished he was there himself, the wish came from his heart I know. — he inquired if you said any thing about comming home. — when I said I feared the time was in the dim distance, he laughed & said that I must not hurry you, for you would come in good time & that you was better off where you were, — The Church looks beautifully with its simple decorations for Christmass, - two Chandeliers of greens are suspended from The arches, festoons from the Gallerys & on the Pulpit & alter.—

The Church is in some trouble again with its creditors, there is to be a vestry mee=ting, this week. — Maria will write to you before long I suppose, I will leave all political news for her. — I see by the American that Greenoughs Statue has been placed in a very disadvantageous light. — & that they have disregarded his instructions greatly to its disadvantage. — You see

Deary that you are not a-lone in trials and vexasions, - O how much I should like to look in upon you in your studio, I am glad that you are settled for a while in one place for I can now think of you as being some where. — I think that little Mary will remember you quite as long as Theddy will, a few days ago Emily was using some Spirits of turpentine in the Basement. — which made quite a strong smell, as soon as Mary went in she said Papa Painting ume^{room}, I was perfectly astonished for she has not been there more than once or twice since you left, & that was soon after you left. — I think Theddy rather improves in his lessons. — Germaine Mary as the Children call her, is with us this winter. & adds a good deal to Theddys enjoyment, The Girls are gone this evening to Julias to make Candy. — Em. & Unc S, are sitting by their stove & I by mine, It is seldom that I keep fire here, for our fami^{ly} appears so few in number, that we all congregate to gather. Harriet is much pleased that you purpose bringing her flower seeds, she has had a splendid carnation in bloom, now She has only Violets, She says that she does not take half the pleasure with her Plants that she did last winter, It is only because you are not here Deary to admire them, You will be here next winter, wont you? Unc. S. ~~has been~~ is so much engaged about his Grape & Curant, plantation that he is out every day when the weather will permit. — he reads very little this winter, which is altogether better for his health, The Northern Light comes, ev[**text missing**] month, but the Knickerbocker was soped when you went away. — It is of no consequence for it was poor enough. — but I think you contributed enough^h for another year. — The subscription is up for the New World. & as Barnaby was drawing to a conclusion I did not care to renew it. — The Papers say that Dickens is to visit America next month. — So you will probaly not see him when you return to England, Write me about the People you see & be=come acquainted with, I feel very sorry that you should have any difficulty with about your^{Mr. Carys} Picture By the By just as I was commencing to write this evening, a note was handed in adrsed To you, It was an invitation for you to deliver a lecture before Some Litterary Society of Hudson, next month so you see Deary you a[**text missing**] becomming distinguished, The write said that he was a friend of Judge Huchensons, & so I should think him from the tenor of his note. — . — I forgot to tell you how admirably the Children behaved on Christ=^{mass} day. — Theddy had his seat at the side table with some half dossen others. - after dinner there was a Charade, acted in which little Mary was brought in, She at=tracted a great deal of attention and she did look very sweet, her little hair curled all over her head & She was dressed in crimson & black mirino which was very becomming to her, with white pantalellss. — The day was very plesant & they all appeared to enjoy them Selves, very much. — My Sheat is filled & I have said nothing, I think that I most want to say. — I am very impatient to see your letter to M.C. — I will write to Sarah, with this & Tell her what you say. — The Girls each one send their love to you, write as often as you can, your letters give me a great deal of pleasure I have to read them all over evry littl while for Harriet. — A[**text missing**]tionately yours as ever
 Maria —

I Think I should like you to get me a Camio for Elisabeth, & bring something for Hariet, She is so devoted to the children, I have had a half dozzen most wreched steel pens, to write with, you must rectify all mistakes, for I cannot read it over. Good bye. — Un. S. wishes to know if you recollect of paying [^] for the last years American,. Unc S. thinks you did but he has no receipt of it, they the printers have lost their legdger book, is this not a funny question to ask you, in Rome, A very happy New Year to you Deary. —

[On back fold of letter, presumably in Maria Cooke's handwriting:]

My dear Mr Cole . I cannot tell you in [text missing] small a space how very much your Christmas present delighted me, but I could not entirely enjoy it until I had reached Ceder Grove where I was before one hour had elapsed + where our dear Maria looked only too happy as she pointed to a letter postmaked Rome. by what arts had you thus won the good offices of Santaclaus – I have just come up to make one of my calls that is to stay the day + night + finding a little corner write this one word to warn you that you must be prepared to suffer the dire consequences of your first offence. You have given me too much enjoyment not to make me desire its repetition + if by any act of mine this can be effected be a[illegible], be a[illegible] my letter shall be forthcoming. – I am above all delighted your health seems to be continually improving. do take good care of yourself ~ I must tell you one word of dear Maria although she may take a peep of this, but you really ought to know, How good a girl she is – she really does nobly - is in good health + spirits though she does talk a little brighter than usual when letters from over the sea are recieved - with kindest remembrance your sincerely attached friend. Maria Cooke -

Please do not sell this for an Autograph.

[Maria Bartow Cole and Maria Cooke to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]
Tho^s. Cole Esq^r
Care of Mess. Welles + C^o
Paris
France

Catskill February 10' 1842

My Dear Thomas

I was quite overjoyed to find a letter from you last evening awaiting my return from Green Ville where I have been for the last fortnig^{ht}

I have been looking & wishing for it for the last month, it has been a long time on its way nearly two months, No not so long either for I could have answered it a fortnight ago if I had been at home. — I feel realy sad that it has so hapned & that you should feel so anxious, & ~~be~~ So often disappointed in not receiving letters, I will try to have us write oftner so that it may not happen so again, I felt unwilling to go to Greene Ville for I was expecting evry day to hear from you, but I was urged to so much, & with the promise too of returning when ever I pleased, unfortunately the little snow that we had left us, — & I was obliged to return in a waggon, which I did as soon as the weather & roads would permit. — Now I must tell you how very happy I am to hear that you was well, but Dary I am afraid that your Spirits are not as good as I could wish them to be, I wish that I could impart to you some of mine for I am determined to look on the bright side of things as long as I can, & as long as the Children & you & all of us are blessed w[**text missing**] such good health I feel that it would be wrong for me to do other=wise, so if you do not make any thing or bring any thing home wi[**text missing**] you I shall feel quite as happy. — I do not expect it, believe me wh[**illegible**] I say that I have not once thought up what you would bring. — except that little trifle that I mentioned to you. — & I only thought of that while I was writing. — So do not think that I am expecting a great de[**text missing**] for I never had so few^{little} desires to possess, — I am pleased to hear that your are Painting the Voige of Life, — if you can do it with out injury to your Self, that was all that I was afraid of, — I think that you must be progressing very rapidly, to have painted the Picture you mentioned how much I should like to see it, — I would not advise you to Paint a Catskill it will make you think to much of home, I judg by mys[**text missing**] for I cannot bear any appeals, Do not think that I am trying to forget you. Oh no; you are like my better Spirit always floting near me. —

Thus far this winter we have had extremely mild weather rather different from that which you are enjoying, though, for every now and then a zero night Shakes hands with us, by way of bididi[**text missing**] us good bye, I suppose for he has in evry instance disappeared with the next Sun. — How much I should enjoy your early mor- -ning walk ^ , with you of our Dear little Theddy & Mary was not left behind. — For I think I could not leave them while they require so much of my care.

Is not the Church you mention, in which are Tossas remains, embellish with some of Dominecinais, frescoes? Amongst the new engravings are some two or three out lines prints by

Seina of S. Gerilamo, I have just been examining them with incresed interest. – Now I must tell you something about the little ones: They have been perfectly healthy this winter & are growing as fast as any little Rogues can. – Theddy says that I must tell Papa that Peter is mending his wagon, by the by I must introduce you to Peter, as he is one of our household. – he is a very civil Dane, was very destitute & could get no work, so Unc S.– took him in. – Not long since as Theddy was roling & tumbling on the Settee he said So earnestly & feelingly, “O I wish Papa would come home.” that Mary droped her play things & turning her thin sirrious little face to Theddy, said “you tell him Theddy to come & see you” — [text missing] he is a great talker & shows a good deal of imagination, I took her to Green Ville with me, I wish you could have seen them both when we returned. – I never saw Theddy display so much affection before he was perfectly delighted with her, – He got his picture Book to Show her, carryed her about, & after doing every think he could think of he said I will go down & get Sister a piece of Sugar”. — he was very much pleased when I told him that you had written that the little Dogs wore blue & red jackets, I had to read it over & over again for him, – his Boots are quite the favourites yet & he has had a new Sleigh which runs as well on bare ground as on snow —

The winter is passing very rapidly I can scarcely realize that it is February, The River is almost entirely free from ice, & the Boats are beginning to run. — Unc S. health is very good & he is in good spirits, The Girls are well too, Harriet has been making quite a vis= =it at Mrs Hubbells, – I had quite a pleasant visit at Green Vill although I felt very anxious about home. — I tasted of some Wine there made from a Grape they cultivate, which I promised to tell you about, I think it will make a very fine wine indeed. your health was drunk in it, Unc S. has a great quantity of Vine cuttings laid down. – So that when they bare we can have a variety of Wines. if we choose, — I mentioned the Timber you Spoke of Unc S. furnishing, – to Theodore, he said he would like very well to Ship some, as they have plenty of Bass Wood on their farm, If you think they would like to give him an order for it, if they are not already supplide pleas[text missing] mention it to me in your next. – or Send to him I suppose he would wont to know the price to be given —

When I last saw Mr Phillips he desired to be particularly remem=bered to you. he promised to come & see us very soon but we have seen nothing of him yet. he gives us most admirable sermons in these days, —

I had scarcely commenced this letter when Maria & Elisabeth Cooke drove up to the door, Maria has been quite an invalid for several weeks past. I believe I mentioned to you in my last letter, that their Cousin Wadworth was very ill, he did not Survive many weeks, Marias with him most of the time, & became so much exhausted from watching & anxiety that she has not been well since, We insisted upon their remaining with us, which they did, & M. is a great deal better; Catharine & Abby came up This afternoon & took tea with us, You were nor the least of our Subjects of converSasion I assure you. — Elisabeth & myself have been playing Chess this evening. – They are all in Bed now & I hope dreaming for it is about mid night, you must not scold me for being so late I am anxious that this letter should go in the next ma'le You deary, I suppose are now thinking of risi=ng; If I could Steal a Strole with you now while the little ones are asleep; — Never mind you shall tell me all when you come home & that will do as well. — Do you know Deary that your last letter came in the Packet that brought Dickens to America? – I regret that you will not see him; We have been very much am=used and entertained, by a notice of a Dinner that has been given for him in Boston, the Presidents introduction & Mr D. reply was published most excelent they both are too. — I must indulge in one little extract, “At every new act of kindness on your part, I say it to my self

— thats for Oliver — I should not wonder if that were ment for Smike I have no doubt that it is intended for Nell: & so I become a much happier certainly, but a more sober & retiring man, than ever I was before,” — W. Alstons tost was The Prophetic Raven, who spoke to posterily, when he said, “Never Say die” to Barnaby Rudge” I ought to have said tha[illegible] he Presidend in his speech spoke particularly of his works. — They are making great preperations to receive him in N.Y. — —

I had almost forgotten to tell you, that some time since I received a few lines form Mr Cary. Saying that he would [^] acknowledge your draft. he had forgotten Henrys adress, I sent the letter to Henry & Sarah writes me that he [^] Henry forwarded the draft to Philadelphia Sarah writes me that they are all pretty well, said that she was soon going to write to you. — I sincerely hope that the Dr may return with improved health. — I intend now to write to you soon again, Do not work too hard, & keep up good Spirits, — Stay as long as you Think it best, I do not wish you to feel hurried. This do nothing Government is in such a state I fear you will be disappointed when you return. — there is scarcely any thing to be heard but want of money & ^{too} hard times to get it, — I am glad to hear that Mr Durand has written to you. — Write to Mr V.B. if you have Time, & Deary cant you let me have a letter oftner? I dont com=plain. — but do write to me as often as you can The Girls all send their love H. says she wishes she could send you one of her sweet Violets — I have scarcely been any where but at the Cooks this winter. — We [^] H. & I spent an evening, by invitation with some others at Mr Van Vlecks many enquiries were made about you & your health [^] was drank in a glass of Champaigne, Friday I have many things to say to you, I scarcely know what; it is a most lovely day & we are all enjoying it, in particular H. — I am going to keep M. & E. Cook as long as I can, Thed sends his love & says Papa must bring him some books. — Yours as ever Maria —

[On back fold of letter, presumably in Maria Cooke’s handwriting:]

My very dear friend Mr Cole — You will think your kind letter is to be answered by “shreds + patches” I do not mean it to be so but cannot resist the pleasure of filling up these little spaces — I wish you could enjoy with us this bright sunshine. Spring seems to have come upon us with unmouted beauty, + as our little Caty says she will come back with the birds + flowers — We almost fancy their time has come + with them you too will return but Uncle Sandy says there is snow in the clouds, + this I know comes not from Sunny Italy — Do you know Maria + I have thought it would be a good plan to be magnetized + pay you a visit. what say you — Are you At home + will you receive calls — this same Magnetism is all in vogue just now — Yesterdy I tried an experiment on little Mary + she said while her little eyes sparkled & looked so roguish, “she was asleep” — I wish you could hear her adventure in her recent travels. she cannot forget what she tells us with all the delights in the World “She saw a Puppy O. + two [illegible]” — I will not tell you how sweet she is — but I wish you had her face for the “First of the Series” You have all our kindest wishes for your success. we often wonder + guess how far you have progressed + what are your employments at such + such times — If you have any Magnetisms in your vicinity — suppose you pay us a visit — Maria says as do [illegible] that Uncle Sandy is out, all ove[illegible] the grounds — M. is herself really looking uncanily well — I believe my paper will hold no more.

[Written vertically on top right edge of page]

your sincerely attached

[Written vertically on bottom right edge of page]
[text missing]end Maria –

[Maria Cooke, Catharine Cooke, and Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]

Thomas Cole E^{sq.}
Care of Welles & Col
Paris
Thomas Cole of New York

[Presumably in Maria Cooke's handwriting:]

Catskill March 18th/42 –

My very dear friend – Your letter of the 1st–17th requires an acknowledgment + I have just taken my pen to say how much, how very much it was enjoyed. How do you say what letter of that date – no other than that to Maria C. + does not that place me in debt – besides this same Mrs Cole having, a la Paddy, sent her answer before its receipt, I must do myself the pleasure to write even at the hazard of ensuring your disappointment.

Monday evening Elizabeth + myself spent upon this hill – after having remained with Uncle Sandy reading Clay's speech, until the hour when spirits roam. we betook ourselves to a certain apartment, still haunted by the ghost of an Artist who inhabited it in days of Yore – Cannot you picture to yourself the scene – Can you not see the room, the long windows, the wardrobes, the books, the studies, the old monk + the group nestling about the stove – casting fearful glances lest ~~perchance~~ ^{perchance} he should appear – neither need you wonder at their fear – his spell was in their hand – by its power they traversed sea + land. England France + sunny Italy all to them were known – Mountains were climbed, floods were stemmed. temples, ruins, works of art, glories of ancient + modern days were theirs, while – they read his spell, + clustered around that Stove –

Now as Mr Clay says, I give you fair warning. I shall pluck no flowers but leave the garlands to be woven by some other hand, but give you as home-ly an epistle as may be – so I would fain transport you to our midst, just as we congregate when the word is passed that the letter has arrived which is always looked for, enquired after + in fact keeps sundry of us good people on the “qui nine” some days before it actually comes – Your last was probably detained by the Caledonia's having pat back to England so that without quite feeling anxious, we were all most happy to learn its arrival + of your continued health + spirits.

We think Italy's air must be propitious to industry, n'importe — her Lazzaroni, for surely you are accomplishing wonders – Vancluse completed, the Voyage of Life half finished! I have some faint recollection of a Winter in New York + a passage in a letter like this, “I have two little standings upon my Easel” – but you are in the land redolent with all that is beautiful + inspiring – Why you talk of the Coliseum, the churches, the pictures + Statues, as every day matters – I do not wonder that your heart beats quick, + obeying its impulse your pencil keeps time. the very thought makes my fingers tingle + I could almost fancy it there, + too I might be an Artist – but do you know I have some doubts whether either of these trifling things will ever be brought about – so ^{do} please remember

You have a double debt to pay,

All to enjoy + all to bring away –

do you know I am bestowing all my pity upon you in advance, for we shall have no mercy. when once you are here & shall dust your "Talker" to the Coterie – + then too we have only half enjoyed in your absence, some magnificent engravings, at which we have stolen glances, but there came up so many who's + what's, that it quite detracted from our pleasure – When a 'I do not recollect,' or 'Let me see' will slyly transform ignorance it will do, but here she so stoutly maintained her ground that we laid them away, knowing that with your return would be restored our self complacency – Maria is quite a heroine. not that she does not sigh now + then + dream strangely, ~~dream~~ of not a strange face – when she read of your New Years vision, she looked up so earnestly + said I do believe that was the very night I saw him so plainly, that we could not but laugh at her a little – She + dear little Molly returned with us + staid all night, which was quite an era her little history + will probably be only second to her Greenville visit, which has afforded her conversation for the Winter – + it requires considerable motives for that I assure you. for she is the veriest little Chatterbox imaginable – As for Master Teddy he thinks more than he speaks + must [illegible] have a reason for all things – a Lady's reason, because, does not at all satisfy him. he is constantly occupied with Uncle Sandy transplanting trees, + shrubs, + Miss Mary too must very often take a drive in the cart – Maria + both the children are in fine health + only want dear Papa, to be in fine spirits –

Tuesday 22^d – I fear I am writing you a disjointed, incoherent sort of a letter but I have taken good care to send it alone + shall trust much to your appreciation of its post mark – U.S.A – I am writing it in a hustle + that too when suffering from debility + headache – my health has been very miserable all Winter, but I think I am daily gaining strength – You have doubtless heard through Maria how greatly afflicted Aut's family have been in the loss of dear Wadsworth. we too have deeply felt it. it was indeed a sad stroke to us all. but not less now than ever can we say, that loving kindness is over all God's works + he has ordered it on mercy. + this is our consolation – the hope that he had fitted our loved one for a happier home + knew when it was ~~is~~ best for us + him that he should be removed. if we but read the lesson aright, how blessed shall be our reunion – Aunt + Cousins have been feeble, but are now convalescent –

I can scarcely realize that one long Winter has really passed away – March came in with such Spring like weather that with Willis we might truly say, her slight fingers were filled with leaves + flowers, + we were foolish enough to hope that it was to last – there too come the reminiscences of an octegenarian of a Winter just forty years since, in which ^{the} southern climes paid us a visit + an Indian [illegible] that it was always so once in forty years – but alas for adages + hope we have as mery a snow storm this morning as ever loaded the trees with its arms icy foliage – – so we shall scarcely see strawberries this month or peaches the next – but I must not forget a bit of news – Maria has a duplicate for your Cameo – for hers was a few days since found by a little boy on the road side quite uninjured – the party from Greenville returned last week having made a visit of three weeks – but I have promised Cath a postscript + it is not quite fair to leave so little room – – Father Mother + all desire their kindest wishes + remembrances – as ever your sincerely attached friend Maria B. Cooke —

[Presumably in Catharine Cooke's handwriting:]

Arrival Extraordinaire!!! "City Gazette"

We stop the press to announce that "Thomas Cole Esq. Artiste pas ordinaire arrived in this City, Per Ship Blank, on the twenty second of June, and without allowing his friends and the Citizens

generally an opportunity to felicitate themselves on his arrival, and tender their Congratulations on his prosperous voyage, – hastened to Catskill, where were anxious hearts + Eyes almost dimmed by watching – And where we understand the Ladies of Cedar Grove, and [illegible words] Place, had in honour of his arrival, prepared a Sumptous Entertainment! Consisting of every luxury the season affords, The Bill of Fare comprised also several new made dishes – Charlotte Russe made of Potatoes! And the creams of Apple! – Invitations out as early as March, and forwarded per Steam Ship. Catharine.
“Secretary to the Home Society.”

Votre Amie

distantly rumoured that Mr Dickens has declined some invitations in high places – that he may be Present.

[In Maria Bartow Cole’s handwriting:]

Harriet + the girls send their love

Well Deary as Maria has just sent me her letter to add a P.O. I have only room to tell you that I have received yours of the 17 of January + how happy it made me. – as you began to talk of coming home. – according to my calculations you will not be able to leave quite so soon as you think you will. – but I hope you will have every kind of good luck — we shall all be quite ready to see you. remember you must not work too hard. – as I have said before, I would rather that you would take more time, than run the risk of injuring your self. – We are all well here, the little ones have had colds. & I have kept them in for a few days, – but I shall soon have to let them out, or go out my Self, – for the House is not half large enough for us all, so you may judge that they are not very sick, they have both worked themselves ^{to} sleep Thed. on the Crib & Mary on the bed. – The last pleasant day we had Mary worried all day for the [illegible words], So yesterday [illegible] S. made them each a hoe. — I have not heard from Sarah lately, I am expecting her up every trip of the Franks – Maria I suppose has written you all the news, So I shall defer writing for the present I wrote to you about a fortnight ago. – The Camio you mention must be a magnificent one, you could not have chosen a subject that would have pleased me more, I have found my Pin. — – The Children [text missing] redy for all kinds of stories. Dinner is redy Good bye Yours Maria

[In Maria Bartow Cole’s handwriting, written sideways beside Catharine’s portion:]

I wish you could see how [illegible] Theddy looks to day. – Your dream I think was a correct one, we perhaps [text missing] as you thought us + I [text missing] the same

[Maria Bartow Cole and Sarah Cole to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]
M^r Thomas Cole
(of New York)
To the care of
Welles & Co.
Paris
France

Catskill April 18, 1842

My Dear Thomas

I was buisily occupied This morning in aranging my room and talking earnestly to the Girls, of the affairs of the day, when the door was opened by Egbert with your letter in his hand. — then came the Exclamations of surprise joy and wonder=ment. ^ Then a similtaneous shout of the Great Western. which was followed by a calm. — I was realy delighted to hear from you this morning, there has been a drizieling rain all day, & about as [text missing] you can imagine, — Your letter was only about a month com=ming, a much shorter time than any that I have recieved since you left England. — I am sorry that you do not appear in quite as good Spirits, as in your last letter before this, you cannot possibly be more anxious to return than I am to have you, but I forget Deary that you will probaly have many little things to annoy & perplex you at home that you do not have away. — I have heard nothing of the Fine Arts this winter. — but the Political State of affairs is so deranged I think it impossible for them to flourⁱsh here at present. — I do not anticipate much Deary, so I shall not be disappointed if you only come home in good Spirits, I dont even desire to have the Voige of life to hang on our walls — by the way I understand with extreme regret that Mr W.s V. of Life has been sold for \$3000, I feel realy sad to think that they should have lost so much by them. — According to your calculation, you are now about leaving Rome, & this letter will not reach you there you will probaly receive Maria C. letter before you leave, however. — When last I heard from N.Y. the Dr was no better in health, they will report to you particularly, I have been expecting to see Sarah soon for the last fortnight. — I sent your last letter to her, & to morrow shall have an opportunity to send the one received to day, —

We all enjoyed the discription you gave of the Partys, it was by far the greatest entertainment we have had this winter. — for there has been nothing of the kind not even as much sociabbility as usual, — Ladys societies are taking the place of a [text missing] entertainments, — The Prevosts & Cooks wer here when yours of Feb. came, so there was a general remarking & com=menting, — Maria C. health is not quite established yet., — but when the pleasant weather comes that she will be better. — the rest are all as well as usuale — I read Theddys letter first to Mary as she was seated by the side of Germain Mary. She was quite in extacy and every word that she understood she repeated to Mary, after me. — Teddy was pleased but received it more si=lently, I could not tell the effect on Thed, for Harriet joined Mary & they made such a shouting it quite confounded Theddy When I asked him what I should write to you, he told me to say he was obliged to Papa for the story he told in the letter, — I shall be very glad

when he can be with you again, for Deary he wants your care. — Jonny W. is his only companion I endeavour to keep them apart as much as possible but I cannot entirely. — I think his manners will suffer more than his morrals, for I do not think Jonny a very bad disposition — Thed is as fond as ever of Pictures & Stories but he dont like to read his lesson, —

Mary is very fond of being read to, it matters little whether she understands or not. — I induced her to go to ^{^ sleep in the} bed, by telling her I would read to her, — I then got a book that I wanted to read aloud in, & she laid down quite contented, I hope she will con=tinue to be as fond of it. — The Children are very healthy now the season I think has been a trying one, although mild, colds have been very prevalent, & we have not altogether escaped — though I think we have been fortunate upon the whole The season now is three weeks certainly earlier than last season — Anemomies have been in bloom now for some time past. —

Harriets Flower bed has been cut in two so it is now no **[text missing]** longer a square bed, We are looking rather forlorn ^{^ in the door yard} here at present, but I think by another season there will be an im=ovement in many particulars, — ^{Trees are being cut down in every} **[text missing]** the country I hope it will not be very long time now before we see you, but Deary accomplish all you wish to, — The Major dined with us to day. he has quite recovered, Unc S- & Emily thinks if going to Green Vill to morrow. — I wish we could help ourselves to some of those beautiful flowers you speak of for our yard for we have plenty of room now for flowers, I am very glad to hear that you go so much in society, it is much better for you to, Now I have told you that we are all doing well + I trust will continue so until you return. I will leave the next pages for Sarah to write,. Mr Phillips has made us that long anticipat**[text missing]** but it did not go off quite as agreeably as I anticipated for they brought the whole family, consequently had to go home at dark, which made their visit only about two hours. — I think there is no danger of his leaving the Parish at present, he desires to be particularly remembe^{ed} to you. & a great deal more he said, which I cannot remember. — I have not Seen him since I received your last letter, I want to say a great deal more to you. but I think I have written you as usual a very poor letter, — The Girls all join me in much love to you, — We have taken the stove down & are preparing for summer, — & quite re**[text missing]** to see you, Deary. . take good care of your self & believe me

Yours as ever Maria.

[In Sarah Cole handwriting]:

New York April 20th

My Dear Thomas

I have just received a little packet from Maria containing a letter from herself (which is written quite cheerfully), + this to be sent to you (in which she has left me this space to fill up). + your letter to her, dated March 18th I think that your letters to **[illegible]** M^r Durand + myself came by the same packet as we got them on the same day. — I wrote to you a few days since speaking of the D^r's illness + as I am sure you will be anxious to hear how he is I will speak of him first he has been better for a few days past **[text missing]** cannot help hoping that he may yet get about again **[illegible, covered by paper scrap]** little but is very weak indeed, — As there

is no vessel sailing tomorrow, I will not [illegible, covered by paper scrap] this until Henry has learned the name of the book you mentioned 21st Dear Thomas the D^r is about the same to day. I wish I could say better, Oh that I could write you a cheerful letter one that would comfort you and do you good, Your very interesting letter of Feby 28 gave us all much pleasure + your description of the Catacombs of St Agnes was deeply interesting but why are they now disturbing the bones of those who “sleep in peace,? does it not seem like sacralege? – I had just written a letter to Theddy + sent it off when I received, your letter from Maria in which I see that you also have been in the same mind to write him a letter, he will feel quite big, receiving two letters in the same week I should like to see them all very much but cannot leave home now the D^r is so ill. I imagine that while I am writing this you are in Sicily I shall be glad to hear of your safe return as I have read that the Climate of Sicily is not very healthy, – I hope e’re this you have completed your pictures to your satisfaction + that you will also soon be able to dispose of them. Dear Brother we imagine that your last letter to Maria is not written in as cheerful a tone as your former ones never mind if things do not promise very brilliantly, + do not let the unhappy news that I send you depress your spirits too much, we know not what a day may bring forth how many times have ^ we seen the sun burst gloriously through the blackest cloud! enjoy yourself all you can, do not think too much about home as you may be tempted to come before it is your interest to do so, take the best care of yourself for you are more precious to us than all the princely diadem’s in the Universe – The name of the Book in M^r Rogers possession is Schinkel’s, – Your letters of introduction shall be sent off by the first opportunity, whether by a packet or the Great=Western – The Exhibition will open in a few days + there will not be one picture of yours there I hope that Maria will be down during the time it is open — Ann, D^r, Aunt, Emma and Henry all join me in love to you hoping that this may find you in the best of health + I hope that it will please God to restore you to us before very long in heath + safety – Miss Ayres desires to be kindly remembered to you,

from your Affectionate Sister

Sarah Cole

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

Catskill Oct 30th 1843. –

My Dear Thomas

Your letter was very acceptable to me last evening after spending a long day principally alone, the Girls being at Church, I missed you and Theddy so much. – The weather cleared up charmingly in the afternoon & it began to look like autumn again. – for since you left home we have had such cold and gloomy weather, rain, sleet & snow,

I received Mr Pratts letter two days before yours, I fear deary you feel more disappointed than you acknowledged your Self to be, – your letter was not a very cheerful one, and you nothing about your own health. – I feel disappointed only so far as it affects your spirits, so do not feel depressed. — –

I have not heard from Theddy, but trust that he is well. — Unc Sandy has consented for Emily to go to the City with me if the weather ~~will~~ permits I will go this week. I wish I was going to meet you there, but make your arangemenst as you best can, for I think I can only remain a few days There. — –

Little Periwinkle as you call her is well & grows fat & Mrs Plimly (who was here this afternoon) says pretty. — — Mary is well and lonely without Theddy. – The Cooks and Mrs [illegible] spent friday afternoon with us, they were disappointed in not finding you at home. – I have been working in the yard almost the whole day, having the Dalias taken up &c. – If it was not wishing time away I could wish it spring. – that I might attend to the flowers. — Unc S. has had the stove put up this evening, he found the fire place so uncomfortable this cold weather ~~that~~ he sat with us up stairs two days. — –

I realy hope that we may have more agreeable weather now and do you keep up good spirits, & enjoy your Self, no matter if you do not get commissions, something I have no doubt will offer. – so I Shall expect to see you looking well and happy. — I have nothing to write about, for we have neither heard nor done any Thing since you left. –

Now here comes Harriet with Some Supper, come sit down with us, – no I hope you are enjoying Something better –

Good Night, Yours as ever

Maria

Tuesday

We think of going to the City on friday if the weather is fine. – if you can direct a few lines to New York, I should like to know when & which way you think of returning do not come by the way of the City on my account, for something may prevent my going. –

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

Nov. 3^d 1843

My dear Thomas

I this morning received a letter from Sarah in which she says that Henry has received a letter from Mr. Marstin informing him that on board the Bark General Harrison there is a plant for you in charge of [^] Stewart ^{the Steward} who is to be paid 50 cts. – Sarah thinks the Ship is in Boston as the letter was stamp^{ped} from that place, & she desired me to let you know. – The Plant is a Sicilian daisy, – If it is there I think you will find it very troublesom to transport at this Season. — Sarah writes that Theddy is very well and enjoying himself very much. How glad I shall be to ~~get~~ ^{^ see} you both ^{^ at} home again once more. –

In the letter I wrote you on monday, (which I hope you have received before this) I told you of my intention to go to the City to day, but I last night had a Slight atac of the ague & as it is a very cold and windy day, I fear it would be very imprudent for me to venture to go. – I am better to day how=ever... I received yours of the 31 this morning. I was glad to hear from you, but wish you could have told me which way you think of returning home, so that I could know what to do with Theddy. – I would have you return the most convenient way to your Self. – Unc S has just sent off aples &c. this morning to the City. —

New York Saturday

When I left off writing yesterday I had decided not to go to the City, but here I am notwithstanding, & so far without any unjury to my Self or the little one, It was a delightful morning & I found them all well. – Then too, I have not time to say another word as Sarah is going to take this to the Po, Office, . . Take your own time, do not hurry on my account Em came down with me, & as I said before return which ever way you think best.

Yours as ever

Maria

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]

Mr. Thomas Cole

No. 1 Laight St –

New York —

Mr. J. Van Vleck,

Catskill Jan 6th 1844

My dear Thomas

I was delighted to get your letter ~~this~~^{last} evening telling of your safe arrival in the City. for I was feeling very anxious about you, the day after you left proving such a stormy one. I thought of course you must be in the midst of it. —

For the last three days the weather has been improving & there is ^{^ now} snow enough for tolerable sleighing. —

The Exhibition I hope is profiting by these fine days. = No notice has appeared ^{^ as} yet in the American of your Pictures Harvys Exhibition has been noticed, and Wests Picture. — I feel sorry that there should be any unfriendly feeling from so respectable a source. — would it not be well for you to see some ^{^ other} member of the Family, for I think the one you did see, was no better than the one you have always coresponded with, You however can best judge in this matter. — —

Our friends express themselves pleased with the ^{^ New Years} evening they passed with us. Mrs Van Vleck & Louisa Prentiss called here this P.M. — the latter is intending to make us a visit of several days next week, We have at last heard from Greene Ville. — Their apology for not being with us on Christmas, was, the bad state of the roads. & unfavourable weather. . — —

I have discovered that the strange appearance of Theddys eyes, was owing to his pressing them with his hands, — he said that he did it to see pretty pictures, & coloured pieces of cloth, & little red branches. — he said that he pressed them almost every morning when he was lying in bed. — he will not do it again. — his eyes are now as straight as ever, — he is enjoying this snow excedingly with his little sleigh. — & ^{^ so is} Mary ~~illegible~~ I am sorry to say that the Vaccination has failed again. — Teddy thought that you would be very much surprised to hear that it was snowing here when it was raining in the City he was going to write to you about it. — but his bed time came before he got about it. — — —

...The Major was here yesterday & Whitbeck was settled with. — to the satisfaction of both parties I believe at least there was no difficulty, Un S. will resume the Farm in the Spring. & W. will leave. — I hope that Un S. will find a ^{^ man} to suit him. — before Spring. — —

Monday morning

As Mr Van V. has just sent me word that he will leave in a few hours for N.Y. & has politely offered to take any comands for me I will close this letter, Unc Sandy had quite a sick day yes=terday but is much better to day, the rest are all very well. — — Give my love to all, & Believe me yours affectionately

Maria

[Maria Cole to Thomas Cole, January 6 and 8, 1844. New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections, Thomas Cole Papers 1821-1863, SC10635, Cole Family Letters, Box 4, Folder 3]

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]
Mr. Thomas Cole
No. 1 Laight Street
New York

Catskill Feb. 12 Monday, 1844

My dear Thomas

I have been hoping from day to day to be able to write you that Theddy had entirely recovered. — but he remains about the same. — The medacine that he has taken has not reached the disease at all. — You must not feel alarmed about him. The Dr. Says his case is a very obstinate one, he has had a number of the same this winter, & has found no diffi=culty in relieving Them in the course of 10 or 12 days. — Still he says that in adults he has known it to continue longer — & he has never known of its proving fatal. —

As I told you before it is quite a new disease for Children and I dont believe that it is properly understood, I should like you to make some enquiries of Physitions in the City, if you have not ^{done so} already, of Dr Johnson I think, I believe that he pays more particular attention to Childrens deseases, — Now I dont know that this is at all necessary, but do as you think best about it. — The Dr has just been here, and says that ~~he is~~ his desease is precicely that of an adults, & that they are always long & tedious affairs, — So that when I write again I do hope to tell you of Something better. — Theddy rides out whenever there is an opportunity, he is now out with Unc. Sandy. —

There is beautiful Sleighing now, but zero weather. ———

The Prevosts left us on Saturday, Cousin Mary invited me to ride out to the Griffins with her, so I took the two children & they enjoyed it well. — The Ps desired to be particularly remembered to you. — Hariet has returned from Coxackie, + is now with Mary boiling candy, So you see we are getting back to original principals, —

We enjoyed reading the Christmas Carrol excedingly, I think it excelent. — I suppose you are about closing your Exhibition, I am sorry that it has turned out so, write me all about it. —

I have just sent Mr Phillips a knickerbocker, some their furniture is to be sent to-morrow to them, — Mr Malaby preached yesterday in the P.M. — I believe they think of closing the Church for a time, (unless some one offers to preach) until the affairs of the Church are settled, — but I have not heard particularly what they are going to do. — — —

Mr Pinkney Said that I must tell you that the falls were much finer this winter than last, he had heard so. — the Cooks have Since been up with a party & they say they are not quite as fine, fewer Icicles & more opake, though the base of the column is larger. — ——

As Mr Van Loan thinks of staying several days yet I thought I would not wate to write by him, for I know that you will be expecting to hear. — I shall endeavour to write oftner, than I have done. — I do hope that Theddy will Soon be better, he has grown quite week and thin, I Think its as much the affect of the medacine as the desease, — — little Emily is a good baby but she

wants constant tending, the girls join me in love to you and all I always feel as though I had some messages to send but when I begin to write I have so many interruptions that its as much as ever I can get a word to you. —

Dont work too hard but go into society as much as you can. — & now I Think of it, why need you propose either of your subjects for Pictures, Tell them that you have Subjects, & what you will paint them for, & be sure you have it in the bargin that you may exhibit them if you wish to — I did not un=derstand what you said about that Dictionar there are 16 No in the whole. . — —
Now I must bid you good bye for I have to attend to the Children. —

ever yours with affection

Maria

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]
Mr. Thomas Cole

[Written on back fold:]

I Sent you a Messenger with an extract etc from Mr Phillips Sermon dont loose the paper, bring it it home with you. ———

Catskill February 19, 1844

My dear Thomas

I received your of the 15 on Saturday, also the Albion, I am glad to hear that the advice you got for Theddy agrees so well with the treat=ment he has had, and I am still more pleased to say that I think he is getting over it. — he is a good deal stronger, & appears better every way. — mary & little Emily are well, I am well & we are all pretty well. — tis such a charming day, the ~~weather~~^{water} is runing from the roof & the Children are putting every thing ^^{out} they can get, to catch it ~~in~~, it is realy a delightful sound, so long since we have seen any Thing of the kind, — I hope you are enjoying it in the City, — You may depend upon it the weather will be fine as soon as your Exhibition closes. —

I am very sorry to hear that you are all so unwell in the City. — Tell Sarah I shall be glad to get her letter when she finds time to write it, in the mean time I will take the will for the deed. — for I dont know when I shall ever ^^{find time} to answer it if she did write. — We have heard nothing yet from the Phillipes, Charlott I think must have written before this, — I believe the congregation are about making an offer to Mr. Malaby, to preach here half the time for the present. — — I am not desirous my Self to have him but suppose it will be better than to have the Church closed. — I would much rather have Mr. Sayres. — —

It realy Seams impossible for me to write, I have so many interuptions, Mrs Prentiss came her last week & is going to stay I dont know how long. — an old friend ^^{of hers} is spending the afternoon here, — & Mr & Abbie Cooke have come up to spend the night. — Unc Sandy would like you to get him a bag of Coffee as Soon as the river opens, & a pound or two of good tea, — Thed has commenced a letter but will not have time to finish it. —

I send a cap or two to Assn Give my love to all I hope to hear that you are all better. — Mrs P. and Mr C. desire to be particularly remem bered to you, Yours as ever

Maria

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

Catskill April 3^d 1844

My dear Thomas

It gives me no little pleasure I assure you to tell you how much better Theddy is... he had quite a high fever after you left, but it passed off before morning & he has had no return of it. — I think it prudent to keep him pretty close yet, he now shows the effect of a severe cold, he says, I must tell you that “himself & sister have been moving to day”. — that is they have exchanged corners of the room, he is very much engaged in sewing, making patchwork, & Mary too says she is making a quilt for Aunt Emily & a muff for Catharine. — little Emily too is better of her cold. — I have done a pretty good mornings work, a marvel for me; — Em, is taking a nap on the settee Harriet is putting up a quilt, & Franky is visiting Mary in her new corner. — & Unc Sandy is down stairs taking his nap. — thus you see deary how we are all occupied, — Now if I know that you was passing your time agreeably, & was well, I should feel quite happy. — I hope you had a comfortable passage down the River & found all there well. — The Dr was here yesterday + I was glad to hear that you were fortunate enough to get a ride to the Point. —

The Snow has not entirely disappeared yet, but such roads as it is leaving, I cant pretend to say how deep the mud is, — but it all looks agreeable, now that the River is open, — What a charming day was yesterday, I hope you all enjoyed it in the City. — & that you have found a house to suit you all. — tell Sarah I feel realy sorry that they have that disagreeable job of moving to do. — & tell Anne She must take care of herself & not exert herself too much. — Give my love to each one, & I shall hope soon to hear from you, — It will be six weeks or more before we shall require the stair carpet so if your ~~are~~ time ~~very much~~ ^{^ is fully} occupied you might leave it until you go down again, — but do that which will be most con=venient to yourself. — remember 13 yards. — — — —

Theddy says I must say “pray remember the hoar hound candy.” — & Mary says pray remember the tea,”

The girls send their love to you and all —

Affectionately yours as ever

Maria

[Maria Bartow Cole and Thomas Cole to Harriet Bartow]

[Addressed to:]

Miss Harriet Bartow
care John A Thomson Esq
Catskill
N.Y.

[Date unknown, likely April 25, 1844]

115 Bank St. Thursday —

Dear Sister

I suppose you are out of all humour with me for not writing to let you know when we think of coming home, the truth is, I have scarcely had an idea on the subject myself. — for it seems as though this settlement with Henry would never come to a conclusion, We hope to leave here on Saturday but don't expect us confidently, for we may not be able. — I think Mr Mac C. — will go at any rate. — he is here to day helping T. look over accounts. — I feel so anxious to hear from home, I hope you are all well & Emme I can Scarcely trust myself to think about her do write & let me know if she is quite well, Mary is not well, but Thed is quite well, the Exhibition is fine, & we have had some delightful weath^{er}

You recollect the range that Unc S. — had taken down last fall, to have a new one put up, — they like the old one much better than the new, he says he would give \$10 to have it back, Now he offers the old one to Unc Sandy, if he wants it — he has spoken to T. about it several times, the best way will be for Unc S. — or you to write to Unc Spencer about it, I don't know ~~the~~ ~~terms~~ what he offers it for. — My pen is so bad I can Scarcely write a word & I have to take this to the P.O. do answer This by return of mail, so if I should not come on Saturday I may know how you are Kiss little Em, & love to all

In great haste Your Sister

Maria

The letters ought to be sent down on Friday night. — Mary says I must tell you that she took pills this morning. She sends her love to Emme & all the rest tell Emme she will bring her some candy. — I long for us all to get back again, though I have enjoyed myself — If T can not finish his business this week I ~~should~~ likely he will keep Mr Mc C. — down with him, we have seen nothing of Mr Church yet. — — I have only once at the Spencers — Shall call again. — — I think there is little chance of our getting home This week. —

[In Thomas Cole's handwriting]:

M^r M^c Conkey wished you to send down imme--diately any letters which may have arrived for him. You may also send any of my letters —

Direct them to 115 Bank — If any letters arrive on Saturday do not send them down.

[Maria Bartow Cole to Thomas Cole]

[Addressed to:]
Mr. Thomas Cole
Tremont House
Boston

Catskill Sept. 4th 1844

My dear Thomas

As my letter to you was directed to the care of Mr Pratt, I have [^] thought it ~~been~~ doubtful whether you would receive it, & I should have written again, had I supposed the probability of your receiving it before you left Boston. for your letter from there, gave me the hope of seeing you last week. — My time this week has been taken up principally in looking for the Boats & sending to the Po. Office. — & I was beginning to feel very uneasy about you, when this morning I got your letter, & I dont know that it has improved my spirits much, I fear you have had rather a dismal time, & although you say that your throat is better, still I do not feel quite easy about it.

I scarcely Know how I can wait for next week to come, — but I shall feel more patient when I have written this letter, I know,

The Children are quite well now, & I feel much better than when you left home. — & I trust that you will return with improved health & Spirits. —

Part of our family went yesterday to Green Vill, where we all, together with the Cooks, had an invitation [^] from the Prevosts to take a Harvest Home dinner with them to day. — they will probaly be gone several days as I believe a picknick to the North Peak is anticipated, Your absence I know will be regretted, Unc. Sandy left the little waggon & a Horse to take you out in case you arrived here this morning which I pretty confidently expected. — — but I shall hope that the Dessert Isle has not proved altogether barren to you. — and as for my self I am far happyer here writing to you, than I should have been to have you gone without you, —

At our quiet breakfast this morning ~~Several~~ ^{the} dreams ~~were~~ of last night were related in which you were conspicuous Theddy saw you arrive in a four horse Stage; with another Stage following with your baggage, Mr Church, (who by the way arrived last thursday) saw you returnning with an im=~~m~~ence quantity of Band Boxes. — I too saw you, but you looked tired and care worn & said nothing to me. — —

Now make haste home, or let me hear how all this will agree with the reality. — —

The Albany is still on the Easel, and no letters, for you, with the exception of one from Palermo. — — Would it not be well for you to return by the way of Albany? — —

Mr Noble is expected to return this week. — They are trying to get up another Fair, the last one they say, that they shall attempt, they are in hopes that the avails will entirely clear off the Organ debt. — — Theddy says I must tell you that a new Bell has been bought to ring for your dinner. — which has a better sound than the old one. & that David shot a bird, not a blue Jay, but a wood pecker. — Mary too had a message for you, but not a very clear one & I have forgotten it. — little Emily is improving but not much in walking. —

You must not feel anxious about us, for we are doing very well, I wish that you was here now to enjoy our quiet house but I do not wish to hurry you from Scenes improving [text missing] pleasureable, so with the hope that you will take good [text missing] of your Self & let me soon hear a good account of you [text missing] emaine Yours affectionately

Maria

[Maria Bartow Cole to Harriet Bartow]

115 Bank Street, March 14th 1845

Dear Het,

I am almost distracted to hear from my Babies, do write to me else you will see me posting home.— I intended to have given you a strict charge to write this week.— and do write me truly, for I want to know precisely how they are, & have been.— —

The rain is pouring down here today in torrents— I hear that you have had a good deal of snow at Catskill, It snowed all the night ~~w~~that we left.— ~~But~~ we found very little in the City [^]however — but plenty of mud insted.— The fog was so dense that soon after passing Pokeepsie the Boat laid too, untill near morning.— so that we did not reach the City until 11 OClock.—

I had a miserable night of it.— a cold hard bed & very little sleep.— Thed got a long very well, & he seams perfectly happy to think that he is in the City.— The first opportunity [^]after we arrived that he got, he sent, out a penny for candy, (for he said he was real candy hungry)— & another for a couple of pipes to blow bubbles, ~~—~~while he stays here,— then David is to have them if they survive so long.— — Sarah left this morning in the 9 OClock train.— — I have not been in the Street since I came down.—

I should have gone last evening to see Mrs. Noble if Sarah had not been going to leave this morning & now tis raining to day I feel quite disappointed.— I have finished Theds jacket & it has been a real Job.— —& now if only I knew how you were getting along I should feel quite contented.— do write to me every few days.— & if you have not written before you get this, I want you to answer it by the first mail if its only a dozen lines.— & if the Children have been unwell atall dont fail to tell me for I shall be a great deal more contented to know just how it is than to think that you are keeping back part.— Emme looked so pale when I left her I know that she was not quite well then, & Mary too was so hoarse.— —

I am writing up in the new painting room, & T. ~~has just~~ is painting the Skye of his sea piece—

How does Church get along?— I suppose you have had some company.— before this.— has Cousin Mary visited you yet. Give my love to her tell her I am sorry to loose her visit—, How does long Lake flourish? Sarah has given me her Pettisporam & another plant.— —

I intend to go out & make Some calls as soon as it clears off.— — Don't let the Baby eat too much snow, & do be careful what she does eat.— — —

Kiss them both for me & tell Mary she must be a good little girl.— I will write again, Soon Give my love to all & believe me Your affectionate

Sister Maria.— ———

Tell Julia that the Geslains have moved their music store, so we dropped the letter in the P.O.— Theddy Says tell Sister Mary that he has seen a very handsome little Tub, he thinks of buying for her.—

but perhaps he may See something else that he likes better.—

tell her that her Papa sends her & the Baby a Kiss & love to all the rest.— If you have an opp[**text missing**]^{ity} you had better say to the Cooks & Hawleys that T. [**text missing**] rather they would not say much or any thing about the Sketches that he has been making this winter

[Maria Bartow Cole to Francis Bartow]

[Addressed to:]

Miss Frances E. Bartow
care of D^r Butler
Retreat
Hartford
Conn^t

Catskill Jan. 13th 1847

My dear Sister

It grieves us much to hear that you have been suffering from illness, We were happy however that you were so far recovered as to be able to write us, I trust that you have gone on improving + are by this time quite restored, —

Try dear Franky, not to be home sick, for you recollect how unwell you were before you left us, and it is impossible for you to have the care and advice here that you have there, — I hope however, that the time will not be very long before you are so far recovered as to be able to return home, and that we shall all be happy together again. —

If you are able to write you must not fail to do so, as soon as you receive this, — write if it is only a few lines, for we shall feel so anxious to hear how you are. — With this letter you will receive, your dress, and the silk for an apron. Harriet would have made it for you, but she thought, that if you were well enough, you would like to make it yourself. — The pink Cravat you will like to wear with your green dress, + the other, as you like We cannot find stockings in the Village fit to send you, Emily has just finished a pair which she will send, + is sorry that she has not another — — If more is necessary you must have them purchased for you. —

Little Em, is picking up things all about the House to send to Aunt Franky, Theddy + Mary send their love, + want very much to send something beside —

Mrs Doty is now spending a little time with us She is very well, but has grown quite deaf, She says I must give her love to you & tell you that she is almost 84 years old. — It is pleasant to have her here, for we miss Unc Sandy so much. — —

The Maj-s family are quite well, Harriet (the only one at home) has been spending some time in Albany If the Maj. knew that I was writing, I dare say he would have some message to send you. — T. sends his love to you & says he is glad to hear that you have a good app^etite

You must remember us all, to those friends who are so kind to you. — tell them we feel grateful for the attention they pay you. — —

We have had some very sweet Carnations the only flowers that we have had this winter, we have put two or three in a little box for you, though they may freeze before you get them. — Emily has put up some Knitting work for you, you used to like to knit, so she thought you might like a little now. —

You must let us know if you want any thing – & now Dear Franky with the hope that you will receive this package & that we shall soon hear from you I will say good bye & with much love from us all

I remain your affectionate

Sister Maria

I have concluded to send this letter by mail so that you may know that there is a package on the way for you, We shall send it to Hudson tomorrow to be sent by the Rail Road, directed to the care of Mr. Cornish — I have put the little Book I was want[**text missing**] to send you, in the package —



THOMAS COLE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE