

Miss Custman

30 Via Appiana 1^a

Rome Dec 20 1837

Dear friend,

I cannot find by my memorandum
of correspondence, that I have replied to
your sweet & welcome letter of the 5th of October
which was brought to me by the hand of Mrs
Kali. (I am, you are entrusted to me by some body,
else.) I should have been answered a long
time ago. but "woman's purposes & the old Nick's
disposn" - had had been prevented - but in the
end through neglect or thoughtlessness.
I never speak of you as of time & in kindly and
affectionately - as you would care to have them
I must do. Since I came to Rome I have
been molto occupata. con differenti cose! I have
not been able to give time to correspondence
which I could have wished. I am who know
something of my life in Rome will find excuse
for my omission. I believe that though you do
not hear from me you are not absent from
me. & that when you do not find me occupied
in writing to you. I am not there for necessa-
rily idle. - I was very glad to hear from you
again. & to know something of your movements
if you have followed out the plan suggested in
your letter you must be in England, now, if
as they may be changed I must send this

Paris to be forwarded to you. — Your account of the
log of my little lady's excursion was curious & I
little worth all your care concerning it. I hope I am
and you record it in mine & was thinking of you.
You will be pained to hear that poor dear little Miss
— the stone has laid after a very brief illness. Commenc-
ing in sore throat & resulting in diphtheria. Mrs. Stone
is completely broken in spirit, by this sad & very sudden
circumstance. They are breaking up all their plans for
the winter going up their ^{usual season} ~~appearances~~ for which Mrs.
Stone with her usual liberality & generosity, had laid
himself out very elaborately & going. I believe to Miss
for a portion of the winter, & the south of England
for the rest, from Mrs. Stone. my heart finds for her
no one but the Program has seen Mrs. C. except Mrs.
Blair & her husband who have been staying with them
& she cannot see any one. She has thrown quite
a gloom over the small circle of Americans in Rome
for the winter. I trust they can, soon body pay
respect to the kind hospitality which Mrs. Stone
has always shown to Americans in Rome. by keeping
my very quiet. & not partying or going in parties
I have very few (by comparison) of your country
people — or any country people in Rome this time
the Gallician computes the difference of stages
in Rome this season. when compared with other
seasons as one in two. this is I believe quite just
true. Towards Tivoli & Capo d'Alcorno. & Eastern the
Carnival. the visitors will always culminate.
but generally, there are fewer than there were
1848. Every thing seems as quiet as a mill stream
in quiet. now & then utter a word which must
surpass the power that be. but otherwise. Rome has
never seemed so quiet as it is at this moment.

Artists are generally in the pass. This "poco forestieri" has
I am glad to tell you that my two artists are much
pleas'd & contented to be left in peace. Walter has just
sketch'd the Zenobia - which is finer than when painted
he has now begun in making a sketch for a monu-
ment for the burial place of Mr Cowley's "Lover" in
the ^{English} ~~English~~ work is the infant Astyngay lying dead
upon his father's (Boston) shield - a lovely idea of the
poet & my sister carried out by the artist. She has
not been at all well this winter - having had her old
Rheumism, both again in the occubants one in the ear
has prostrated her for a week, upon her bed & this
morning will suppose has pulled her down entirely
to one of her active temperaments. Confusion enters
a very serious matter. Indeed with all her seeming
strength - the little woman - is now a patient. She has had
her constitution very much injured in former years, in being
in Rome in the summer. I really think the same
time when ^{her father's} ~~her father's~~ ^{stomach} ~~stomach~~ ^{was} ~~was ^{indeed} ~~indeed~~ ^{then} ~~then~~ ^{to} ~~to ^{put} ~~put
up her horse Exercise (as an extravagance). She laid
the side of much after delicacy of health. She promises
me that she will go home to America next summer
to see her friends & get the son & app. which I think
she wants. - Miss Stebbins has modelled a bust
of me which is considered par excellence a masterpiece
affair. I can only say - if I really look to any human
being like that. I must be very very good to mind
dead, or I shall lose the expression - which seems to
be to be inflexible than I. I would not buy foodstuffs
She is now occupied on her "Lotus Bate" for Mr Jerome
which promises to be most most good. She works
steadily as her health will admit. In making me
a ^{manuscript} ~~manuscript~~ ^{propos} ~~propos~~. Don't you think it would be just
to get us new Boston. To get her some public piece of
work to do which would be her friend & help her~~~~~~

To New York - an earnest friend & devoted woman worker
- as distinguished from the more public woman work
which our Country has produced. I do, really seem
to see dear friend, that our friend sets a better exam-
ple to our own sex than if she mixed her suffi-
cations & aspirations, which result after all in little
benefit to the individual or the Community.
There is little going on in the Studio. No pin is modelled
- what he calls the "pneuma" of the Asperities - would it
not read better in his life & character "Asperities"? Poppy
in the even tenor of her way - is going at her finishing
of the Washington Monument. Mrs. Stockton has been
very dangerously ill - but is now better - was jolly and
happy as ever - full of fun & nonsense!

I ought to tell you that we came into Italy by the way
of the Rhine - which disappointed us terribly. It is not
even to compare to the Hudson. Then a ^{short} ~~short~~ ^{stay} ~~stay~~ ^{at} ~~at~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{Hotel} ~~Hotel~~ ^{de} ~~de ^{Paris} ~~Paris~~ ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{to} ~~to ^{be} ~~be~~ ^{made} ~~made ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{it} ~~it ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{next} ~~next ^{summer} ~~summer. It is our present intention to cross
by the "Persia" in June. No other vessel is so safe as she
from moment. & I suffer so much generally from
sea sickness - that I am fain to confess I prefer the
Persia to any other vessel afloat. I should like to
cross the Atlantic with Geo. Patteny & I might then
finish up that Country - which - who knows - might
result in your having me for a daughter in law: Do
try to manage this, or we shall be so jolly together.
How very serious matters are looking at home.
It is enough to make one sad & anxious! occasionally
I see an Evangelical - which I need not say is a pleasure.
I have never seen Mr. Taylor's letter from home
about Emma & Tobias, though I saw in the file through
at Rabod's. Pray send my kind love to Mr. Taylor &
the dear children - a God's hope has passed through
the winter without suffering from its inclemency.
All mine with much kinder love. Sister Emma
& with kindest love to the babies - Ever believe me
your affectionate
Friend + Charlotte Fishman~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~