

*The
Hart Nichols Collection
1730-1930*

Louisa Adelia Nichols



1818-1892

Vignettes of her life

Louisa Adelia Nichols life's work was preserved in the Hart Nichols Collection 1730-1930. It includes personal letters, art work, textiles, recipes, short stories, poems and ephemera. Louisa was the fifth child of Gideon and Elizabeth Nichols of Hempstead, New York. She never married or had any children. The women in the Hart and Nichols families were responsible for saving and preserving these items.

The Robert D. L. Gardiner Foundation generously provided a grant to Hofstra University to process and archive this collection.



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Pencil drawing of a rose, c1880.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Nichols family



Gideon Nichols
(1782-1825)

Gideon Nichols lived on his farm in Hempstead with his wife and six children. In 1825, he and his eldest son Walter and daughter Mary Amelia died of typhus fever.

In 1839, the widow Elizabeth (Smyth) Nichols and daughter Louisa Adelia Nichols moved from Hempstead to LaGrange in Dutchess County. They lived with Elizabeth (Nichols) Hart and her husband Benjamin Hall Hart on their farm named *Heartsease*.



Elizabeth (Smyth) Nichols
(1780-1858)

Walter Nichols (1804-1825)

Mary Amelia Nichols (1807-1825)

Gideon Smyth Nichols (1810-1894)

Elizabeth Nichols (1812-1897)

Louisa Adelia Nichols (1818-1892)

Rev. Edwin Augustus Nichols (1821-1888)



Gideon Smyth Nichols (1810-1894)



Rev. Edwin Augustus Nichols (1821-1888)



Louisa Adelia Nichols (1818-1892)

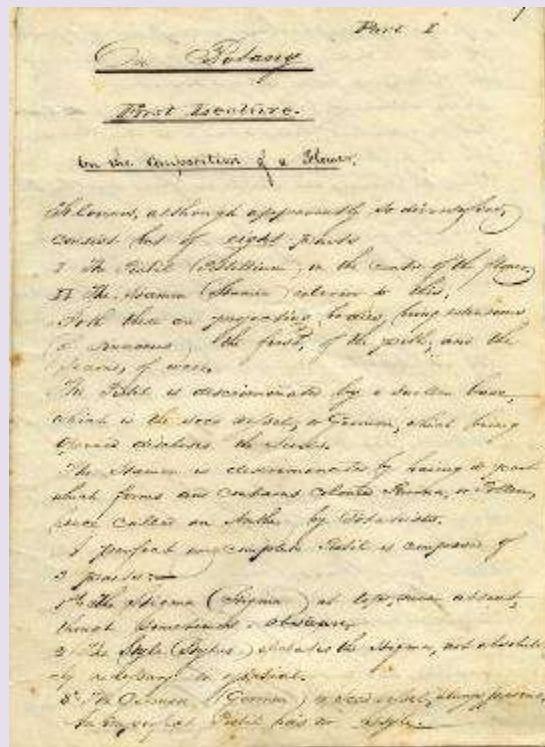


Elizabeth Nichols (1812-1897)

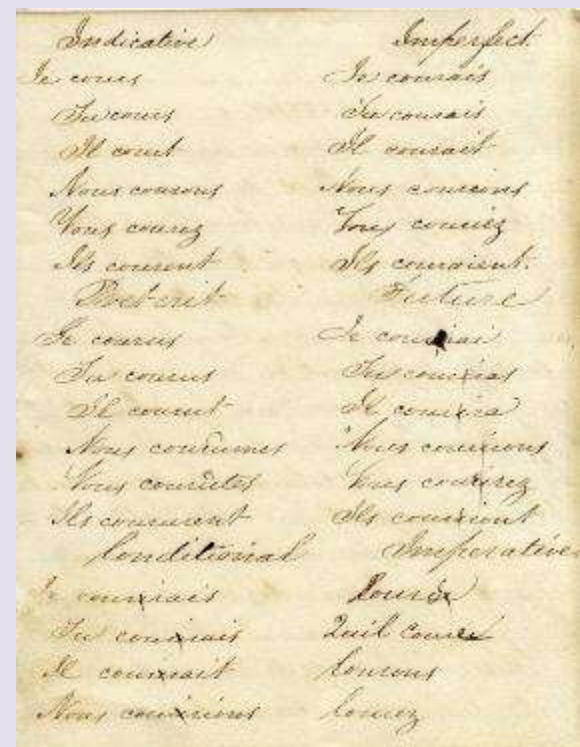
Louisa Adelia Nichols

Louisa was born in Hempstead, New York on March 21, 1818. She was the second youngest child to Gideon and Elizabeth Nichols and she had five siblings. Like her mother, Louisa became deaf at an early age; she bore it with grace and dignity.

During her school years, she boarded at a private institution in Flushing, New York. Her studies included French, Religion, Art, and Botany.



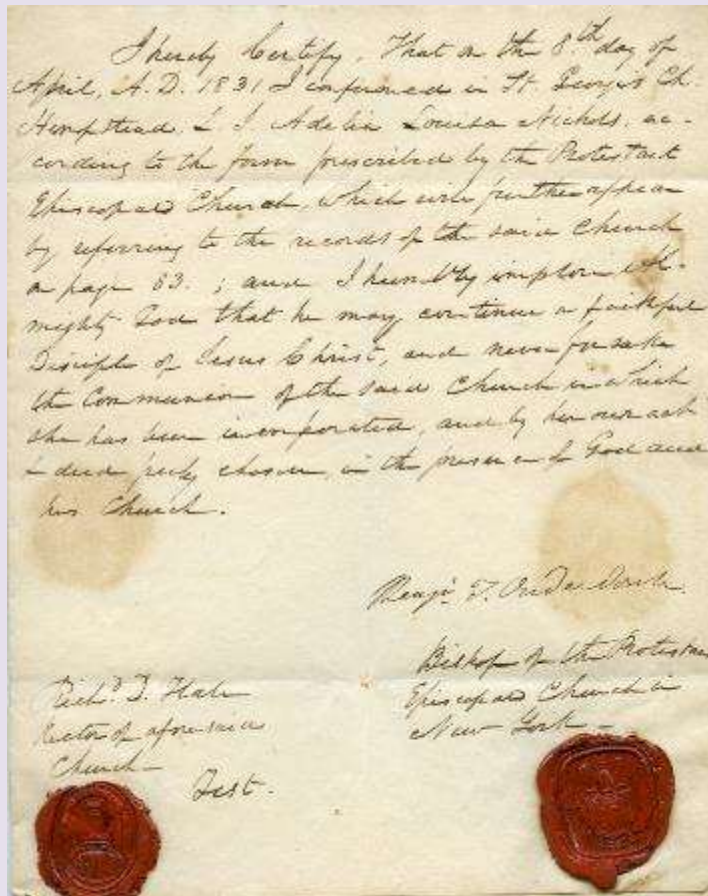
Example of botany lesson, c1830
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.



Example of French lesson, c1830
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Church

The church had a prominent role in Louisa's life as with the rest of the Nichols family. They worshipped at St. George's Church in Hempstead, NY.



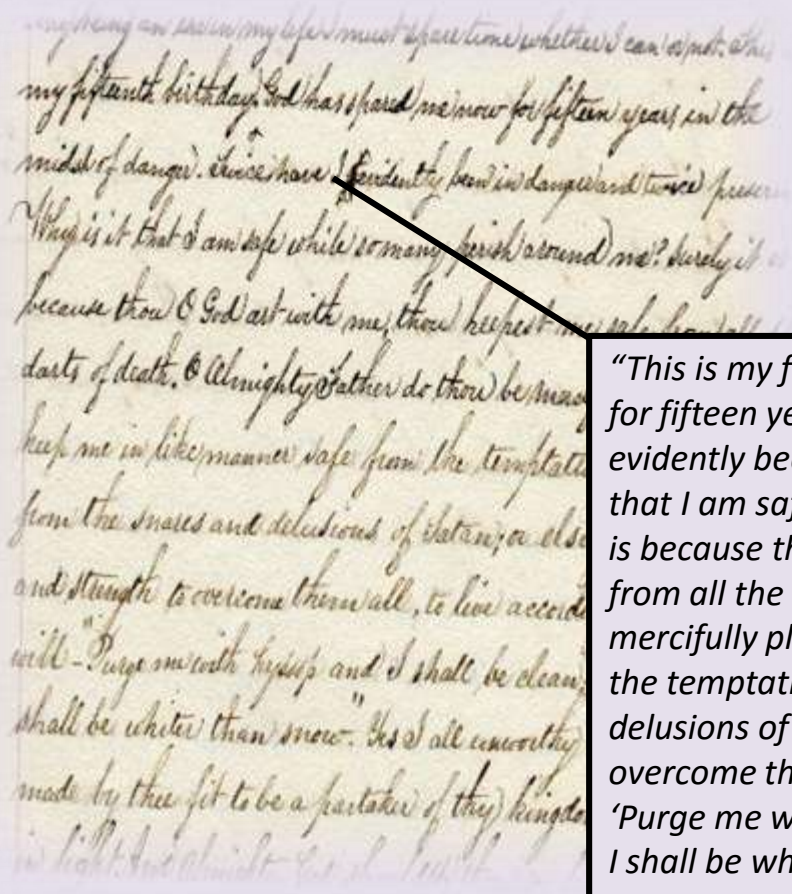
On April 8, 1831 Louisa was confirmed at St. George's Church by the Bishop Onderdonk.

She was a devote member of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Confirmation certificate dated 8th day of April, 1831.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Spiritual Contemplations

Louisa kept a journal where she regularly wrote about life, death, and spiritual meditations. Even at the young age of fifteen she worried about her immortal soul and averting the temptations of sin.



...my fifteenth birthday. God has spared me now for fifteen years in the midst of danger. Twice have I evidently been in danger and twice preserved. Why is it that I am safe while so many perish around me? Surely it is because thou O God art with me, thou keepest me safe from all the darts of death. O Almighty Father do thou be mercifully pleased to keep me in like manner safe from the temptations of the world from the snares and delusions of Satan; or else give me grace and strength to overcome them all, to live accordingly to thy holy will - 'Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.' Yes I all unworthy made by thee fit to be a partaker of thy kingdom in light and Christ. Let me be fit.

"This is my fifteenth birthday. God has spared me now for fifteen years in the midst of danger. Twice have I evidently been in danger and twice preserved. Why is it that I am safe while so many perish around me? Surely it is because thou O God art with me thou keepest me safe from all the darts of death. O Almighty Father do thou be mercifully pleased to keep me in like manner safe from the temptations of the world from the snares and delusions of Satan; or else give me grace and strength to overcome them all, to live accordingly to thy holy will - 'Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.' "

Author: Louisa Adelia Nichols

Journal entry, March 1833.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Spiritual Contemplations

Death

"This evening the store at the corner of Cliff and Fulton streets fell. It was six stories high and filled with goods. Several persons were killed. Oh how dreadful to be thus in one instant to be called from health in the vigor of life and in the midst of this worlds pursuits to sudden death to stand before our maker and Judge. Must not this be a warning to us all to prepare for death a proof of the uncertainty of life, and the instability of all worldly prospects. Who knows but those unfortunate persons, who were buried beneath the ruins were indulging high hopes of future greatness, alas how soon are all their prospects destroyed, how vain were their expectations in the twinkling of an eye they are changed from the bustle of life to the dreadful death of being crushed beneath a load of stones and perhaps they were not prepared. Oh my soul learned from this to "boast not thyself of tomorrow".

Author: Louisa Adelia Nichols

Journal entry, May 4, 1832.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Spiritual Contemplations

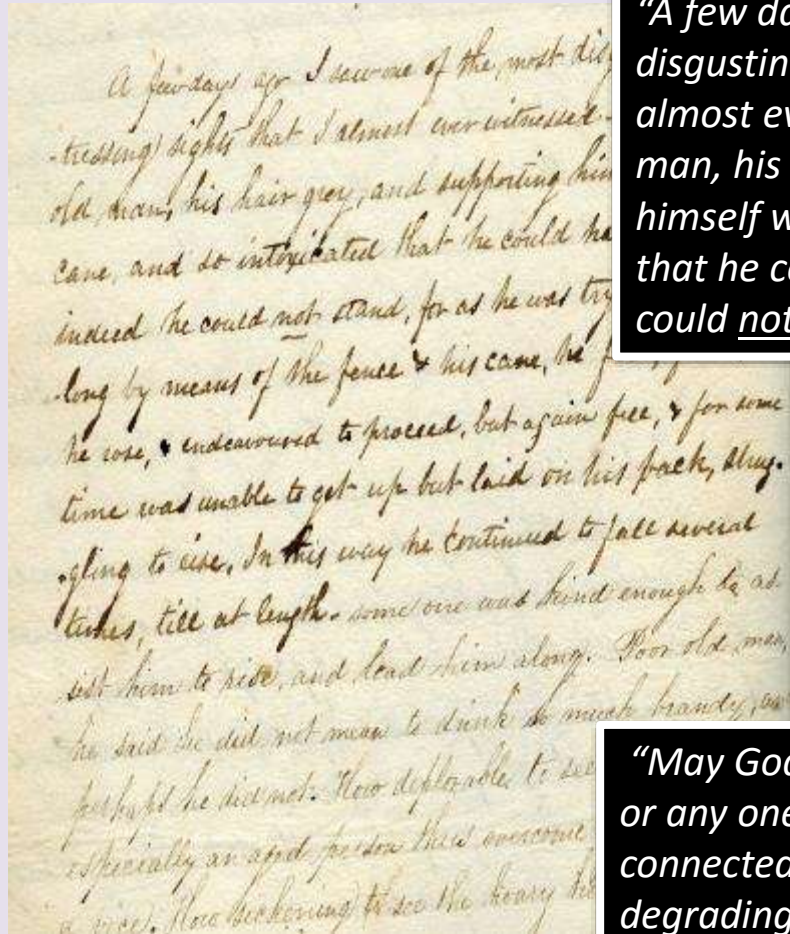
Immortal Soul

Sunday Aug 10th Eternity! Oh to live forever - that is an awful thought.
to live on & on, and still be living - and still to think that we
must live & live, and live - & never, never cease to exist - Oh yes
it is indeed an awful thought - Even to live in heaven seems a
~~terrible~~ ^{awful} idea. I can't bring myself to look joyfully on such a
state of everlasting existence - Oh to live when that world has passed
away when all the circumstances which adorned life on earth
pleasant & painful shall be gone - and yet to think that we will
still live & live on. But then our friends & the saints & angels will
also endure together with us & we shall not feel the misery of seeing
our dear friends after another living in us. I trust no more - Oh
be we are assured we shall all be happy, and perfectly happy -
That will

Sunday Aug 10th Eternity! Oh to live forever - that is an awful thought.
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~~terrible~~ ^{awful} idea. I can't bring myself to look joyfully on such a

Spiritual Contemplations

Drunkenness

A snippet of a handwritten manuscript in cursive script, likely from a journal. The text describes a distressing sight of an old man who is intoxicated and unable to stand. The handwriting is in dark ink on aged, slightly yellowed paper. The text is partially obscured by a black box containing a quote.

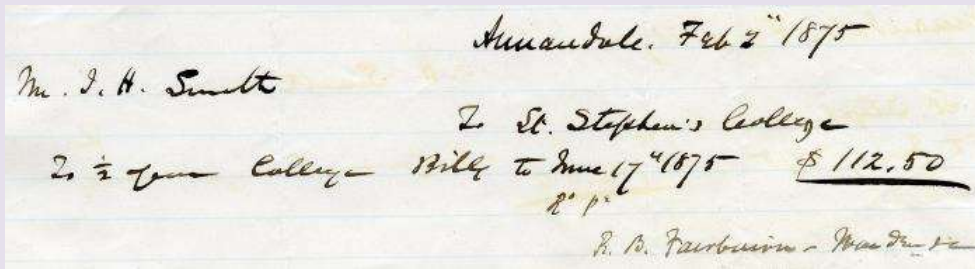
A few days ago I saw one of the most disgusting and distressing sights that I almost ever witnessed. It was an old man, his hair grey, and supporting himself with a cane, and so intoxicated that he could hardly stand – indeed he could not stand. For as he was trying to pass by means of the fence & his cane, he fell. He rose, & endeavoured to proceed, but again fell, & for some time was unable to get up but laid on his back, struggling to rise. In this way he continued to fall several times, till at length some one was kind enough to assist him to rise, and lead him along. Poor old man, he said he did not mean to drink so much brandy, but he felt he did not. How deplorable to see especially an aged person thus overcome by a vice. How shocking to see the heavy

“A few days ago I saw one of the most disgusting and distressing sights that I almost ever witnessed. It was an old man, his hair grey, and supporting himself with a cane, and so intoxicated that he could hardly stand – indeed he could not stand.”

“May God suffer none of this family or any one with whom I may be connected, to be guilty of this degrading sin.”

Philanthropy

Louisa's devotion to the church and her family was evident in her many philanthropic activities. Her nephew James H. Smith had his education at St. Stephen's College in Annandale, New York paid for by his aunt Louisa.



Tuition receipt.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.



THE LIBRARY.

Photograph from Reminiscences of St. Stephen's College.
Retrieved from archive.org

Philanthropy

In a letter dated April 5, 1872, James H. Smith wrote his aunt telling her about his college life.

Hughsonville April 5

Kind Friend

I had not returned to college when mother received your letter but arrived the same evening and will take it upon myself to reply to it. I arrived at Ammanville at half past four reached about nine o'clock. I had to wait nearly an hour for the train to start. I am very much pleased with Ammanville the surroundings are delightful. I have considerable leisure time. the study hours are from ten in the morning until two in the afternoon, and from seven until ten in the evening. We have service in the chapel at nine in the morning and six in the evening. The students walk down in procession to the chapel. they look very peculiar with their caps and gowns

surroundings are delightful. I have considerable leisure time. the study hours are from ten in the morning until two in the afternoon, and from seven until ten in the evening. We have service in the chapel at nine in the morning and six in the evening. The students walk down in procession to the chapel. they look very peculiar with their caps and gowns



THE CHAPEL.

Photograph from *Reminiscences of St. Stephen's College*. Retrieved from archive.org

Philanthropy

Louisa Adelia Nichols' charity extended to support the second family of her bigamist grandfather. She provided financial assistance on a regular basis.



Philanthropy

St. John's Hospital Chapel



Image retrieved from *St. John's Hospital Tenth Annual Report*. 1883.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

In 1874, Louisa Adelia donated \$10,000 for the construction of a memorial chapel at the hospital and \$500 towards a stained glass window.

Louisa also extended her artistic talents and contributed to the design of the memorial chapel windows in dedication to her beloved family.

Philanthropy

St. John's Hospital Chapel

The corner-stone of the permanent new building was laid by the Bishop on St. John Baptist's Day, 1877. \$10,000, given by Miss Louisa Nichols, had been in bank some three years for the erection of a memorial chapel, and she consenting, the money was expended on the chapel attached to this hospital building.

To this fund have been added and expended, for chapel and Hospital, \$90,000 more. It was opened for patients November 1st, 1882.

Image retrieved from *St. John's Hospital Tenth Annual Report*. 1883.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Schedule of Fixtures, Furniture and Decorations to St. John's Hospital, with the Names of the Donors.

	ESTIMATED COST.
Stained glass south window, by Miss L. A. Nichols.....	\$500 00

Image retrieved from *St. John's Hospital Tenth Annual Report*. 1883.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Philanthropy

St. John's Hospital Chapel

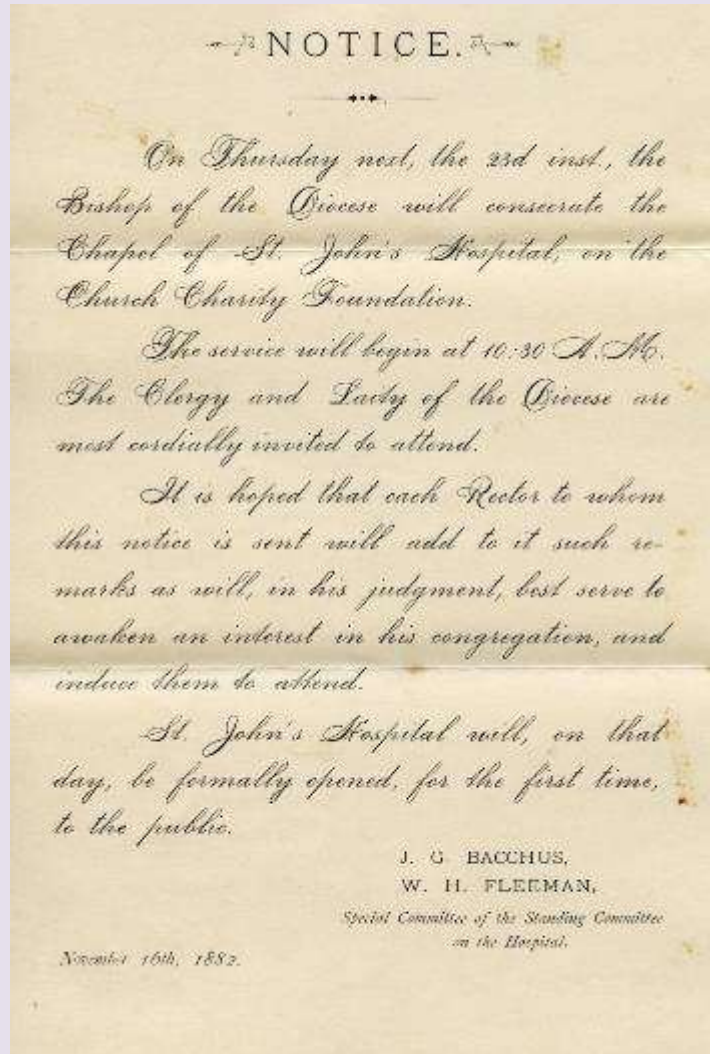
The chapel sat 400 people and was centrally located within the hospital and was accessible to all the wards.

responding extension on the easterly end. There is a chapel in the centre, 38 X 78 feet, and 45 feet from floor to apex of the open roof. The chapel is Norman-Gothic in style, and finished in ash, and has all the accessories—stained windows, fine organ, chancel furniture, &c—to make it beautiful and complete for Divine service and devout meditation. The heating and ventilation are of the most approved system, and

Image retrieved from *St. John's Hospital Tenth Annual Report*. 1883.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Philanthropy

St. John's Hospital Chapel



On November 16, 1882 the chapel that Louisa helped build was consecrated.

Philanthropy

St. John's Hospital Chapel

A patient wrote a letter to Louisa about
“the first Easter in the Chapel.”

Louisa wrote to Sister Julia her heartfelt
thanks and gratification and wished she was
able to see the chapel in its Easter dress.

St John's Hospital
Apr. 7th 1883 -

Miss Nichols!

I am a Patient
in this Hospital; thinking
you would like to hear a
little of the first Easter
in the Chapel so dear to
your heart. I asked dear
Sister Julia for your address,
At 6 o'clock in the morning
the dear Sisters & as many
as wished, went to early

Brighton, April 11th 1883.
P.O. box 1051.

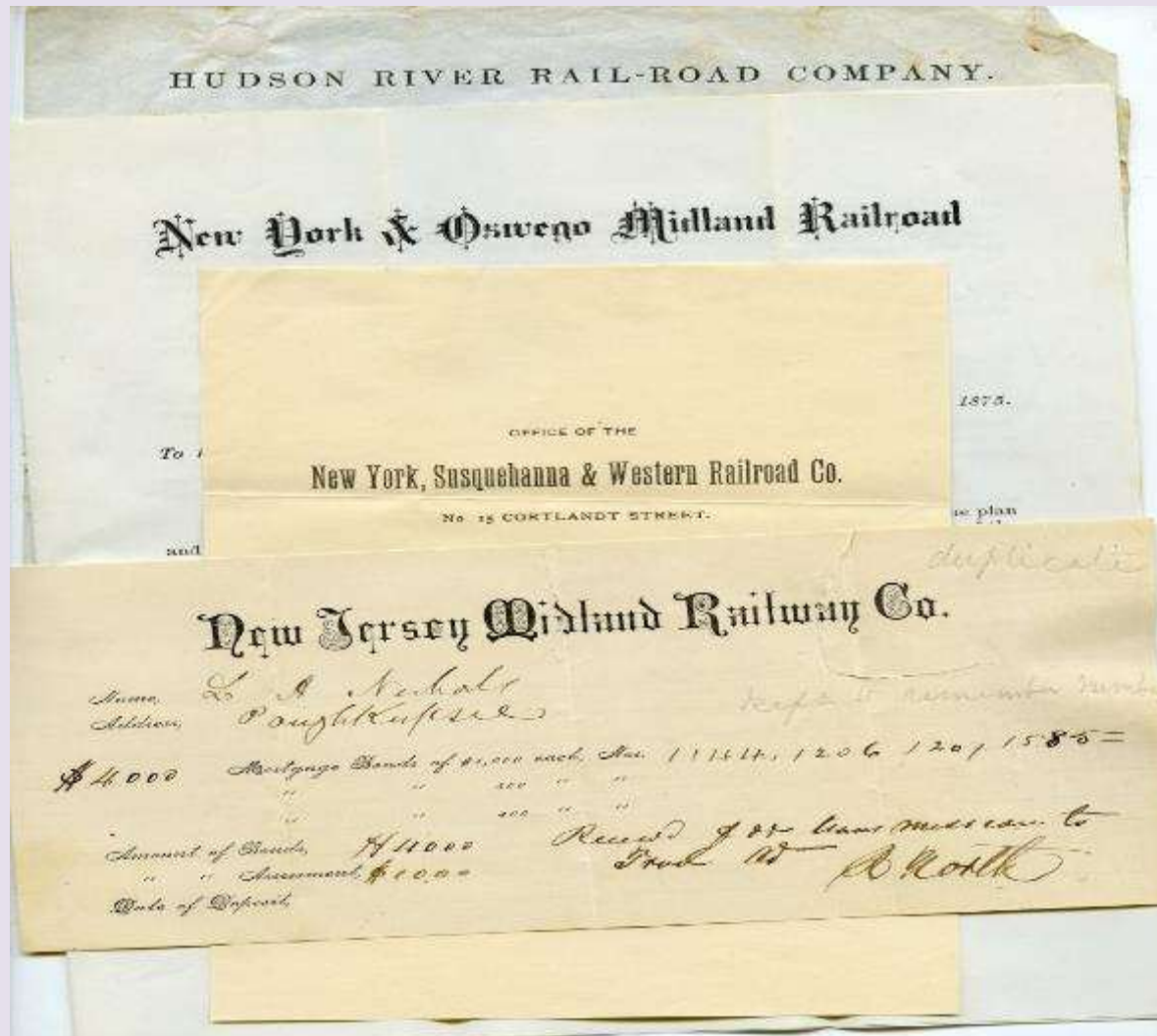
Dear Sister Julia,

A few days ago I received
from A.H. (or is it B?) a letter, dated St. John's
Hospital, April 7th, and enclosing the Morning and
Evening Credo of the Easter service, also
Provisional Chant or Cant, for the A.M. and P.M.
Easter service, ~~and~~ giving some account of the first
Easter celebration ^{in the Chapel}. Please give my heartfelt thanks
to the writer for the kind attention. It would be a
great gratification to me to have seen the Chapel in
its beautiful Easter dress. Every thing connected with
it is interesting to me, and whatever I meet with in
the papers concerning it is read with attention, also
concerning St. John's Hospital. May they long
unitedly do much good!

I often think of little Ferdinand, and

Business Affairs

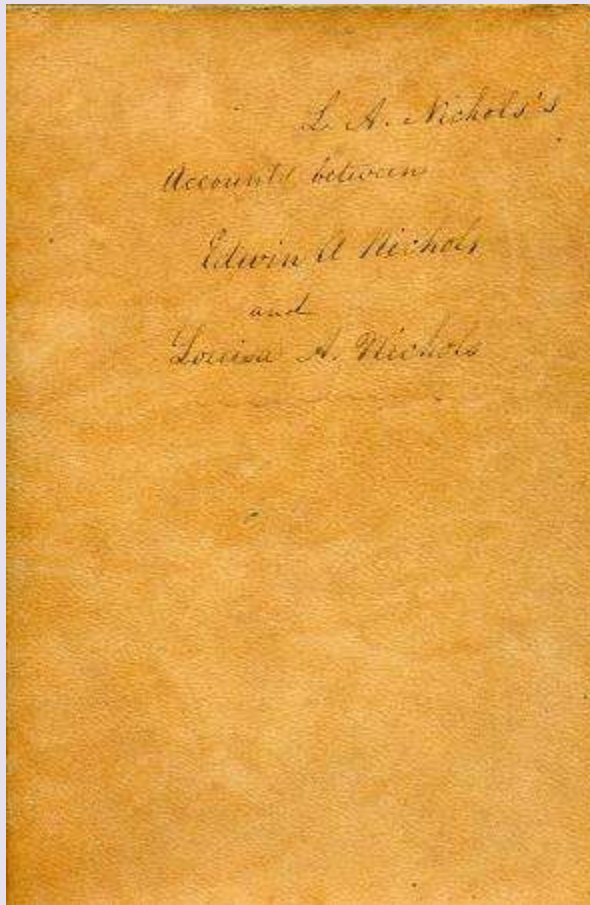
Louisa was also a woman of business. She invested in a variety of enterprises including real estate, rail roads and mortgage securities.



Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Business Affairs

Louisa's real estate transactions included her younger brother Edwin A. Nichols. They held and maintained several properties on Rivington and Essex streets in New York City.



A handwritten ledger page on lined paper, titled "List of property in New York". It contains a table with three columns: a description of property, a numerical value, and a date or reference. The entries are as follows:

River 118 Rivington street (3 front -)	330	1834
" 121 " " "	350	1834
" 122 " " "	375	1834
" 116 " (1/2 of front)	420	
Shop 15 Essex " "	75	1834
Grand total	1450	" 1834
also paid for 1834 - at 1/100	70	
	1520	

Business Affairs

Louisa invested some of her money in farm mortgages with her nephew George G. Nichols.

WESTERN FARM MORTGAGES.

Their Absolute Safety as a Security.

Frequent discussion and occasional adverse criticisms regarding the security of investments of Western Farm Mortgages and Bonds, issued by Loan Companies and secured by collateral, led the writer to make an extended tour through the great West. After a personal inspection of the country and the mode of making these loans, he confesses to very great surprise, although previously an admitted sceptic, to find such securities to be, in his opinion, as absolutely safe as they have been claimed to be.

Sharp Competition.

The competition for loans is generally sharp, no bond the policy of advancing over 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. on estimated values closely adhered to, and as all responsible Loan Companies guarantee their own securities they are naturally and sensitively cautious in avoiding anything like hazardous risks. The money borrowed is in most cases devoted to the permanent improvement of the premises on which it is loaned. The progress of the West strikes the visitor as little short of the marvelous. The country, once covered by prairie, is now being brought under intelligent cultivation and being converted into improved well stocked farms.

Interest Promptly Paid.

All interest payments are made with promptness, but the principal is not always paid in full at maturity, in which case new Loans are then made, for the balance, and are assumed by the Guarantor.

Foreclosures Very Rare.

Loans made a few years ago represent a very small percentage of the present value of the property mortgaged. The County records show foreclosures to be rare. Many Loan Companies after ten or twelve years' experience claim a record of not a single foreclosure. When a farmer finds his debt a burden he generally sells, or exchanges with some one better able to carry the loan. The writer was unable to substantiate the adverse criticisms appearing from time to time in the newspapers, and infers that they had their source either in ignorance or malice. In the older settled portions of the West he found more releases being filed than mortgages recorded, and while a large percentage of farms are mortgaged, it seems to be simply a repetition of the history of the older states in their period of development.

The prairies are being reclaimed, and the settler striving for home and competence is aided by Eastern money, which is sure to find a safe investment if placed by honorable and conservative men residing near their field of operations.

George G. Nichols.

New York, 1st June, 1889.
51 Exchange Place.

George G. Nichols and Schuyler N. Warren.
51 Exchange Place,
New York, 29. June 1889

Mrs. Louisa A. Nichols,
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
Your Aunt Adelia,

We beg to offer, subject to prior sale,

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF SECURITY	RATE	NO
\$78 000	Otoe County, Neb. 5 per cent Refunding Bonds, 10-20 years	105 & int.	
14 000	Lincoln " " 6 " " Precinct " 16-20 "	110 " "	
8 000	Thomas " " 6 " " Court House " 10 "	108 " "	
12 000	Superior City, " 6 " " School " 5-20 "	105 " "	
25 000	Grand Island " 6 " " " 10-20 "	108 " "	
25 000	" " " 6 " " City Hall " 5-20 "	105 " "	
50 000	" " " 6 " " Sewer " 5-20 "	105 " "	

Principal and interest on all the above bonds payable at Nebraska Fiscal Agency, Messrs. Kountze Bros., 123 Broadway, New York.

We also offer the following bonds at par and accrued interest, subject to prior sale, principal and interest being payable at Mercantile National Bank, New York.

\$15 000	York Street Railway, (Nebraska,) 1st Mtge. 7 per cent. Bonds due 1 June 1899. Coupons, June and December.		
5 200	First Mtge. on brick block, value \$8,500, York, Nebraska, 7 per cent. Bond, due 1 April, 1894. Guaranteed by Mead's State Bank, York, Nebraska. Coupons, April and October.		
20 000	Ten-year 6 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures, secured by 1st Mortgages, 1-3 value real estate. Coupons, April and October.		
40 000	Five-year 7 per cent. 1st Mortgage Bonds, 1-3 value of improved real estate in Nebraska and Colorado. Semi-annual coupons.		

We recommend all the above investments.
Respectfully,

George G. Nichols.
Schuyler N. Warren

Louisa tenderly cultivated the family gardens. She grew several types of flowers and vegetables, many from seeds.



Domestic Life

Gardening

52

CATALOGUE OF THE JOSEPH HARRIS SEED CO.

53

FLOWER SEEDS SENT PREPAID BY MAIL.

Many of our pictures of flowers are far inferior to the flowers themselves: but with Chrysanthemums, grown out-door from seed, the flowers do not prove equal to what the boys and girls may have been led to expect from the illustrations.

CATCHF

A beautiful free easily raised and wa-
tivation; grows ab-
Three packets, 12 ces



CATCHFLY.



VIRGINIA GRANDIFLORA.



NEW SINGLE FRINGED PETUNIA.



PHLOX DRUMMONDII—MIXED COLORS.



STRIPED AND CLOVERED PETUNIA.



each inch of row. Cover not more than half an inch deep. The bed should be carefully raked before sowing the seed. As soon as the plants appear, hoe between the rows and suffer not a weed to grow. If the land is rich the plants will completely cover the ground, even if thinned out to a foot apart in the row, and you will have a mass of the most brilliant and beautiful flowers.

Phlox Drummondii.
Brilliant Scarlet.—One of the most beautiful varieties. Large, brilliant flowers, and a profuse bloomer. Three packets, 12 cents each.
Flora Alba, Pure White.—One of the most desirable of all Phloxes.

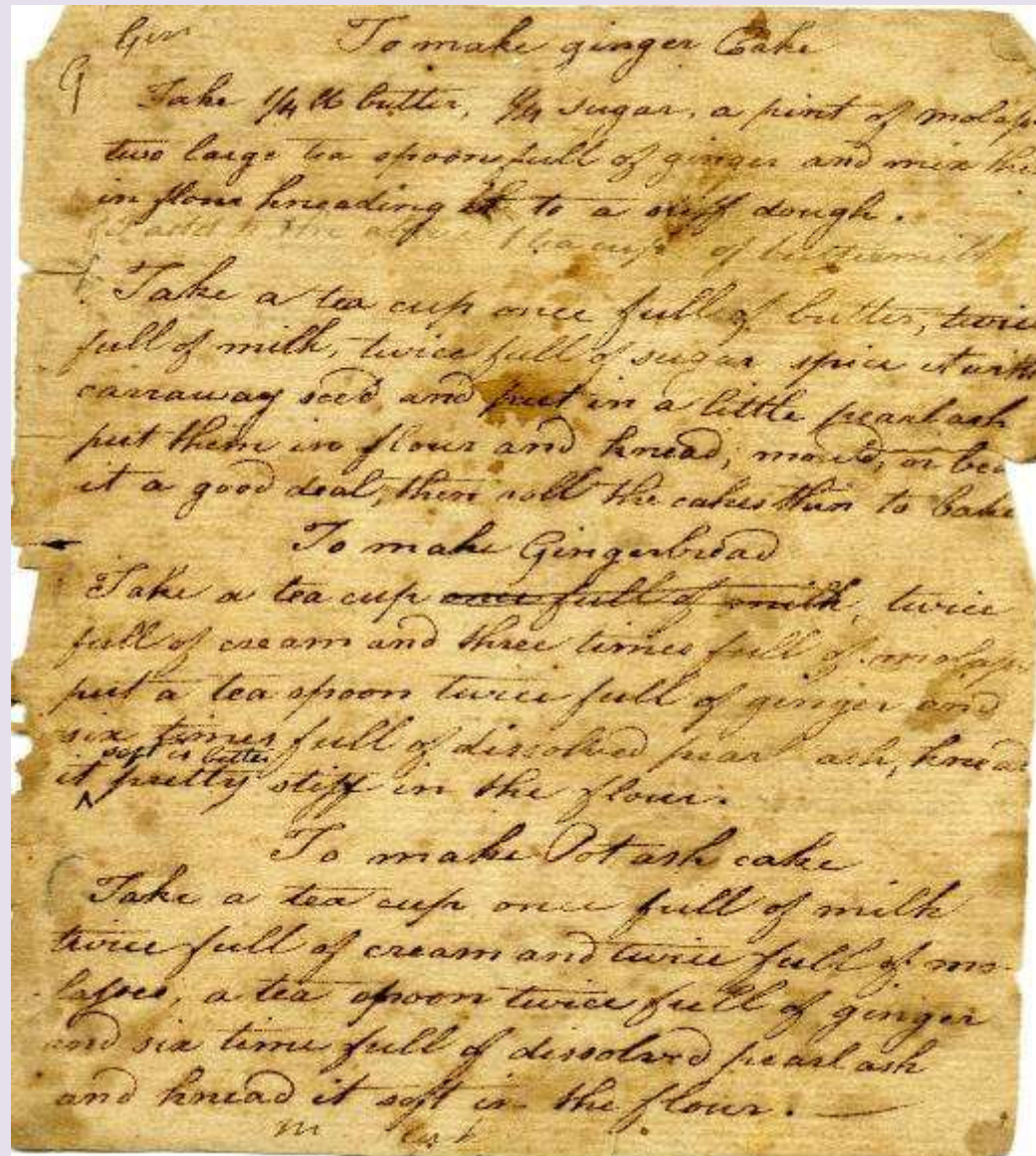


Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Watercolor practice Sheet, n.d.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Pages of seed catalog, 1883.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Domestic Life

Cooking Recipes



Domestic Life

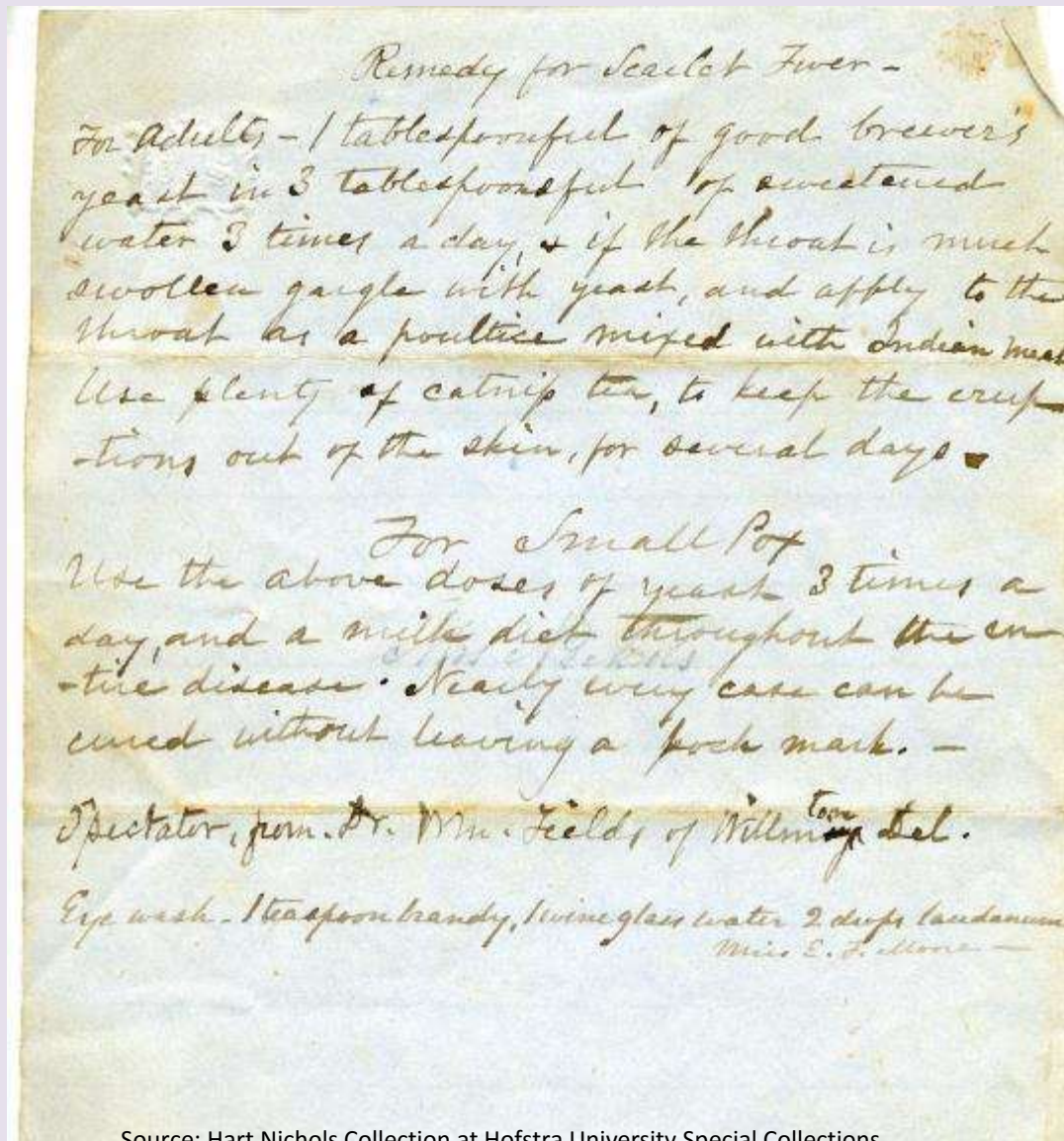
Medicinal recipes

Preventive of infection from Typhus fever.

Six drachms of powdered salt petre, six drachms of oil of vitriol - mix them in a tea-cup, by adding one drachm of the oil at a time; the cup to be placed during preparation, on a hot hearth or plate of iron, and the mixture to be stirred with a tobacco pipe; the cup to be placed in different parts of the sick room.

Domestic Life

Medicinal recipes



Domestic Life

Sewing



Louisa sewed her own clothing and accessories.

This blue silk over dress has iridescent buttons. It has long sleeves and a hook and eye enclosure on the bodice and sash. (c1870-c1890)

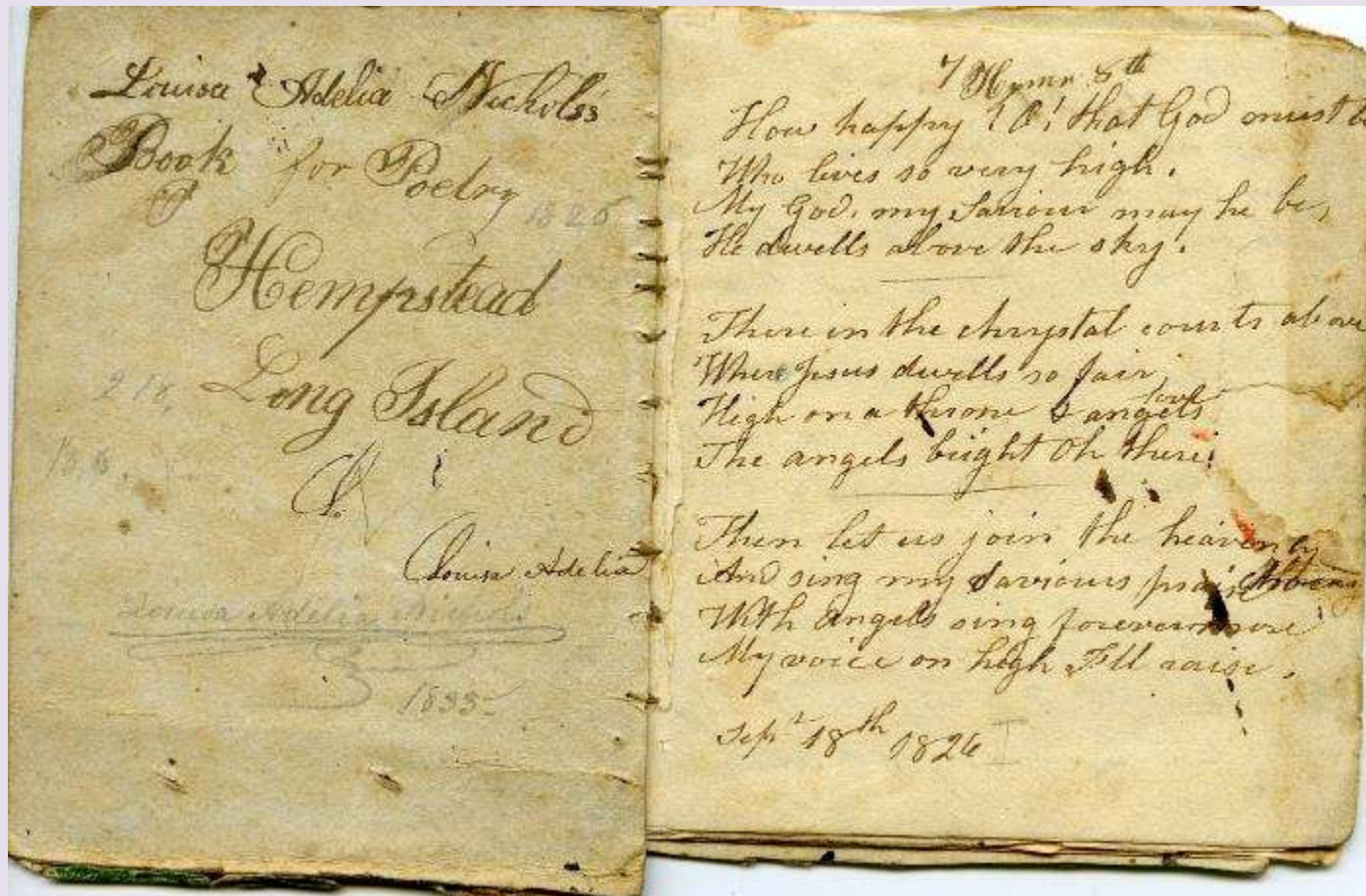
Domestic Life

Sewing



Louisa wore this sheer
black silk fichu.
(c1838-c1892)

The Writer



Early book of poetry by Louisa Adelia Nichols, 1826

The Writer

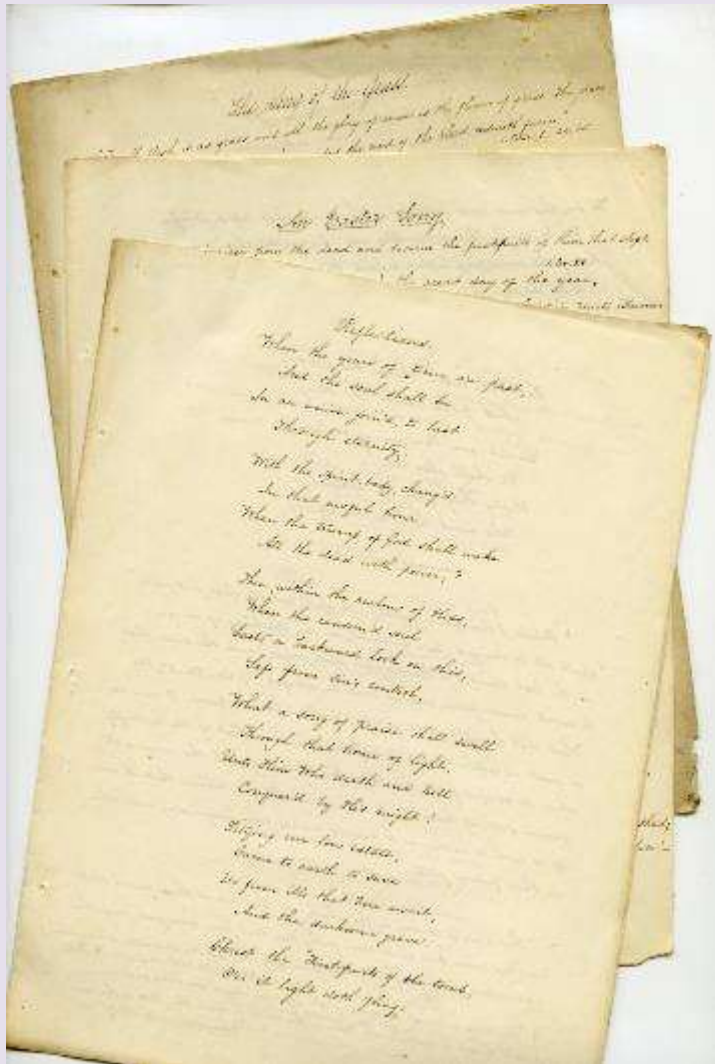
*"How happy O! that God must be,
Who lives so very high.
My God, my Saviour may he be,
He dwells above the sky."*

*"There in the chrystal courts above,
Where Jesus dwells so fair,
High on a throne and angels love,
The angels bright Oh there!"*

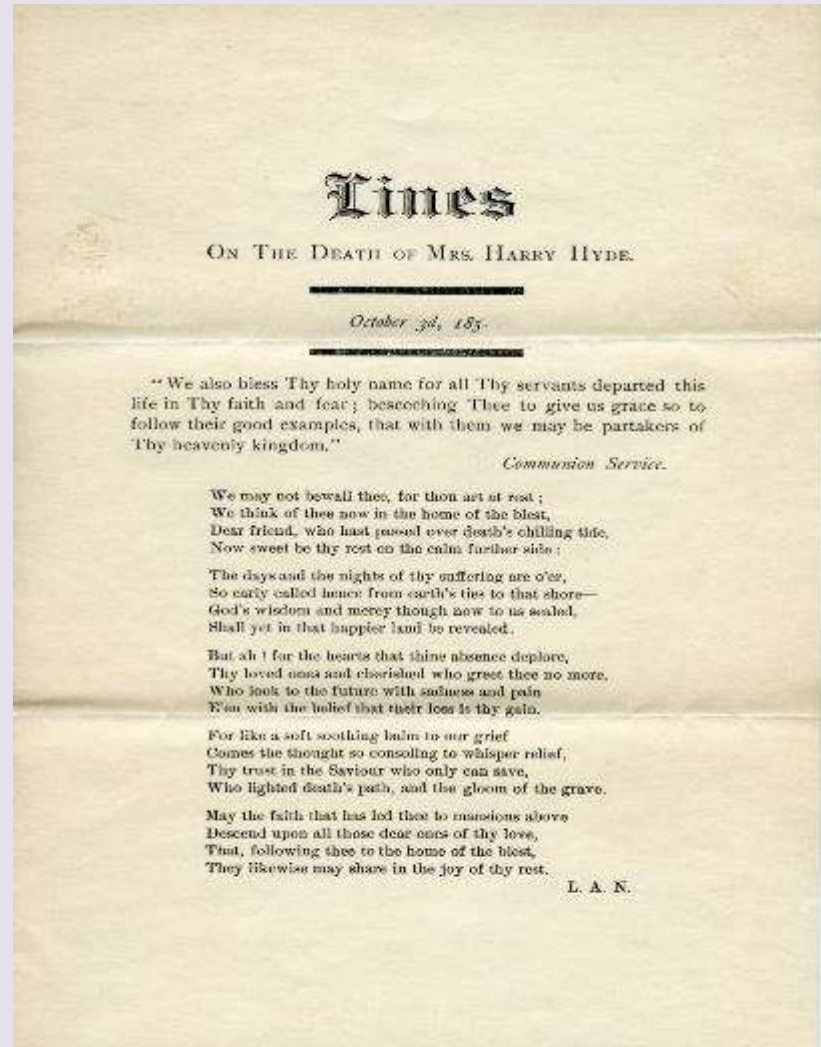
*"Then let us join the heaven by,
And sing my Saviours praise,
With angels sing forevermore,
My voice on high, I'll raise.'*

- Louisa Adelia Nichols
September 18, 1826

The Writer



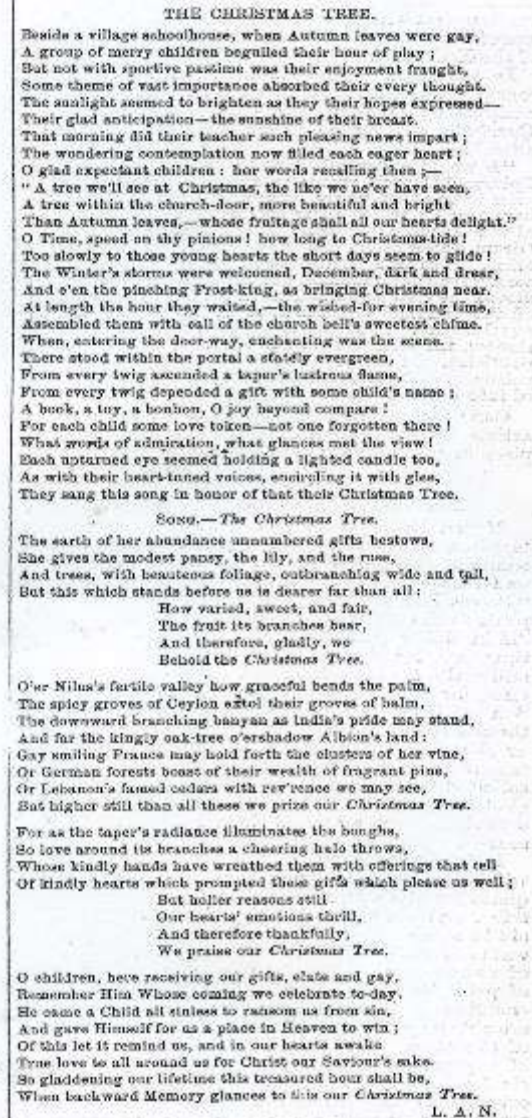
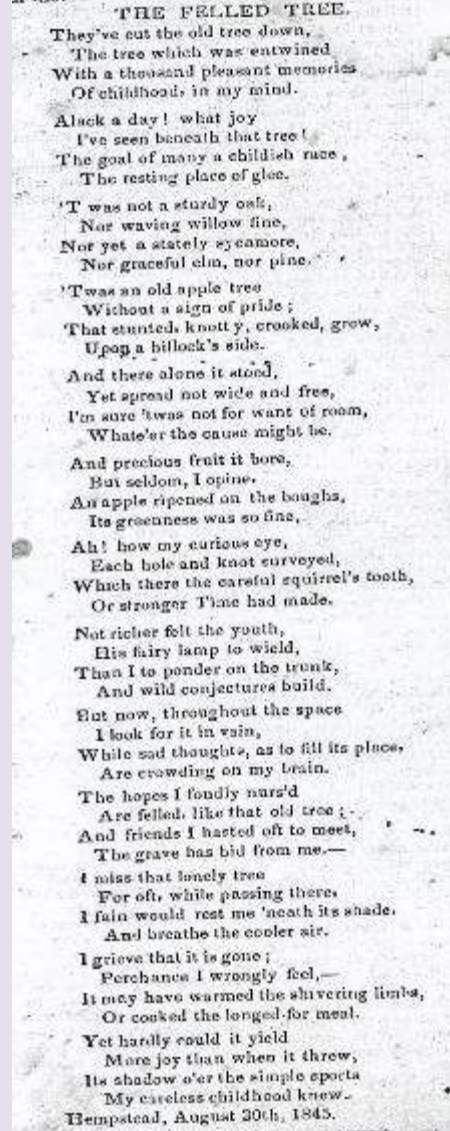
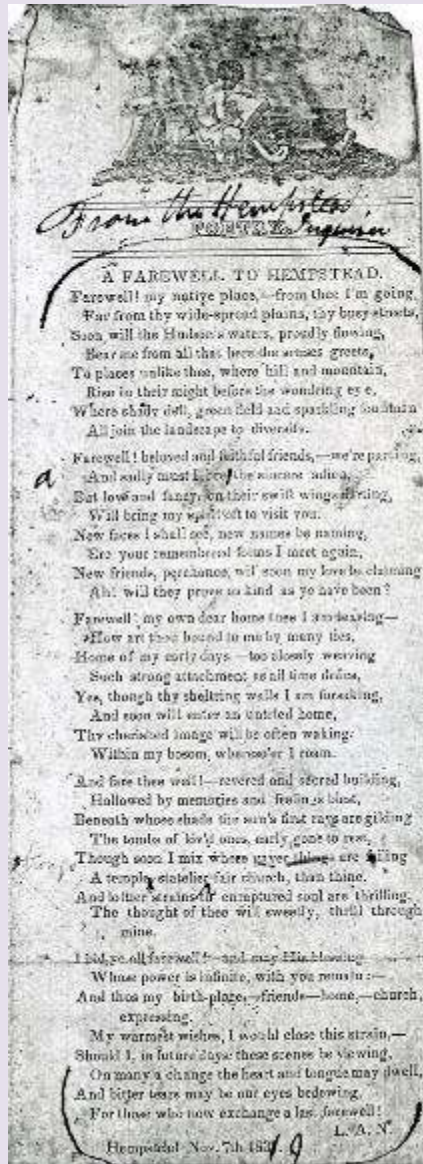
Author: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Example of poems



Author: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Example of lines

The Writer

Many of Louisa's poems and short stories were published in local papers and religious publications like the *Hempstead Inquirer*, the *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, the *Queens County Sentinel*, and the *Church Journal*.



The Writer

Working copy of 'The Old Chestnut Tree' poem and the published version.

The old Chestnut tree -
In the woods on my brother's farm about one mile south of
the village of Hampstead. Long Island. -
How firm and strong it stands -
That tree of many years -
With lofty head and arms upraised *like some stern*
To catch Heaven's smiles and tears *giant's stalwart form,*
The rugged trunk, the hollow root, *whose bosom*
The gnarled and massive limb, *knows no fears.*
In language eloquent, though mute,
Tell of past
Of bygone ages dim.
The squirrel leapt in merry mood
From leafy bough to bough,
And sought its prickly coated food
Long - long ago - as now
And eager children sought beneath
Its kernels sweet to find,
While from its branches seems to breathe,
Instruction for the mind. *(Food for the willing mind.)*
How pleasantly it stands, -
When noonday heats pervade,
Its countless leaves - a marvel each -
spread out to form a shade.

*(This changed around it is the scene
 How changed the race it knew,
 When it stood with young leaves green,
 Instructed and smooth skin'd sapling grew.)*

THE OLD CHESTNUT TREE.

How firm and strong it stands—
 That tree of many years—
 Like some stern giant's stalwart form,
 Whose bosom knows no fears,
 The rugged trunk, the hollow root,
 The gnarled and massive limb,
 In language eloquent, though mute,
 Tell of past ages dim.
 How changed around it is the scene,
 How changed the race it knew
 When it, adorned with young leaves green,
 A smooth-skinned sapling grew.

How pleasantly it stands,
 When noonday heats pervade :
 Its countless leaves—a marvel each—
 Spread out to form a shade.
 The squirrel leaped, in merry mood,
 From swaying bough to bough,
 And sought the prickly-coated food,
 Long, long ago, as now :
 And eager children sought, beneath,
 The kernels sweet to find,
 While from the branches seemed to breathe
 Instruction for the mind.

How hopefully it stands,
 When Spring's fair hands unfold
 On every twig the silken buds,
 So beautiful to behold.
 Then, whispered from each opening leaf,
 This lesson seems to flow :
 "O, youth! with turn of life so brief,
 True wisdom learn to know,
 And deck thy heart and deck thy mind
 With buds of purest joy,
 Which coming seasons shall unwind,
 And time can ne'er destroy."

How beautiful it stands,
 In its majestic pride,
 When Summer throws her drapery
 Around its branches wide,
 Then seems, throughout its rustling height,
 And clustered yellow flowers,
 To swell a song of calm delight
 Through all the sunny hours :
 "O, mortals! who these blessings share,
 Your grateful voices raise,
 For cheering light, for healthful air,
 To our Creator's praise."

How kindly there it stands;
 When, like a giver free,
 It shakes the bursting chestnuts down
 For all beneath the tree.
 Then, clad in robe of golden hue,
 A proud and stately form,
 It drinks, serene, the Autumn dew;
 Or wrestles with the storm,
 And seems to spread its tones abroad
 To teach the Gospel plan :
 "O, ye who boast your love to God!
 Prove it by good to man."

How solemnly it stands;
 When Winter strips it bare
 Of its embossments covering,
 With arms that will not spare.
 Then, sighting through the leafless boughs,
 Deep vines seem to say :
 "O, Christian! think upon thy vows;
 Prepare thee for that day
 When from thee all that earth holds dear
 By grief or death are riven,
 And place thy heart and treasure where
 They enter not—in heaven." L. A. N.

The Writer

Working copy of lines for the Orphans Asylum and the published version.

Lines written in behalf of
the Appeal for an Orphan Asylum in Poughkeepsie
suggested by an article in the Poughkeepsie Eagle of April 1, 1864.

Fellow-Christians, dwelling here
Where both Art and Nature smiling
Bid on every side appear
Marks of thrift, the eye beguiling, -
Let us show our thankfulness
For the favours that so cheer us,
By relieving their distress
Who are sadly sighing near us -
For the orphan now I plead, -
For the homeless in their need.
Flowing, ⁱⁿ down, through every street,
And beset by fierce temptation,
We ^{these} hapless wand'ers meet,
Struggling through their life's probation, -
Eager for their promised prey
Watch the evil ones beside them, -
Let us shield them from their way,
And a shelter safe provide them: -
They who ^{kindly mercy} kind compassion show
Mercy's sweet rewards shall know.

Written for the Poughkeepsie Eagle
Lines,
Written in behalf of an Orphan Asylum in
Poughkeepsie.

Fellow-Christians, dwelling here
Where both Art and Nature smiling,
Bid on every side appear
Marks of thrift, the eye beguiling;
Let us show our thankfulness
For the favours that so cheer us,
By relieving their distress
Who are sadly sighing near us:
For the orphan now I plead,
For the homeless in their need.

Roaming, too, in every street,
And beset by fierce temptation,
We the hapless wand'ers meet,
Struggling through their life's probation:
Eager for their promised prey,
Watch the evil ones beside them: -
Let us shield them from their way
And a shelter safe provide them:
They who kind compassion show,
Mercy's sweet reward shall know.

Hark! upon the burden'd air
Swells the sound of woe and weeping,
From yon darken'd chamber, where
Solitary ones their watch are keeping:
For, their trusted, only stay,
Helpless is before them lying,
(Hope, alas! has fled away,
And their mother lov'd is dying:
Ah! how priceless seems her worth,
As to them, how dreary earth!

Ye who gather round your board,
With a father's heartfelt blessing,
(Dearer than the miser's hoard,)
Your lov'd offspring, with caressing;
Ye, who all your life forgot
In a mother's fond arms folded,
Who each joy or each regret
Shares, within her bosom moulded, -
Think of those whose tears are shed
O'er their parents' clay-cold bed.

Ye, who only as the poet
Think of scenes that once delighted,
Happy days that might not last,
Sorrow'd lies, no more united:
Who embalm with fond tears
Cherish'd thoughts of your departed,
Of your moon and arena prayers,
And the hopes that death has thwarted,
With your sympathy's sweet balm
These bereav'd ones' sorrows calm.

Let us in a Christian home
Those forsaken children gather,
And with duty's light illumine
Unto man and God, "our Father,"
For His sake Who freely gave
His own life for our relieving,
Pain and shame could not to save
Us from pangs of endless grieving,
Let us seek, with ready hand,
To obey His "new command." *

As the palm tree's branches, high
O'er the eastern landscape waving,
Tell of streams that 'neath them lie,
All unseen their glad roots laying, I
May our gracious actions prove
From what holy Source they're flowing,
That the "faith which works by love"
Deep within our hearts is glowing:
That his weak's great lessons taught
We have studied as we ought.

Then, to beautify our hand,
And a blessing in its station,
This our "Barabas" shall stand,
Shedding round its consolation:
Who shall proudly dare to say
They will never seek its portal?
Riches soon may fly away,
Death declare their dear ones mortal,
And their homes, though lov'd and fair,
Know are long a stranger's care.

When within its cheerful walls
Industry shall ring with gladness,
And Time's hush'ning footsteps fall
On no cloud of pining sadness;
When those who, neglected, roam
A dreary and an affliction,
Working children's homes,
Remember grateful benediction
To the Power Who all can bend,
And a brother make a friend, -

Will not then our souls confess
That our gifts are well rewarded?
For on earth they're strong to bless,
And perchance in heaven rewarded.
When around its snow-clad roof
Howl the blasts of chill December,
But its tempests sit aloof
From their rage, we may remember,
(And the thought our hearts shall warm,)
That we screen'd them from the storm.

*St. John XIII. 34.

*The palm tree "is remarkably fond of water, and Sir Robert Wilson, in his expedition to Egypt, asserts, that when the English army landed in Egypt, in 1801, to expel the French from that country, Sir Sidney Smith ordered the troops, that wherever they found great water must be near; and so they found it on digging, usually within such a distance that the roots could obtain moisture from the field. Burckhardt also confirms this assertion."

Botany of the Scriptures,
†The above was written in Prison Week.

The Writer

Louisa also wrote a small series of 'Tea Kettle' short stories.

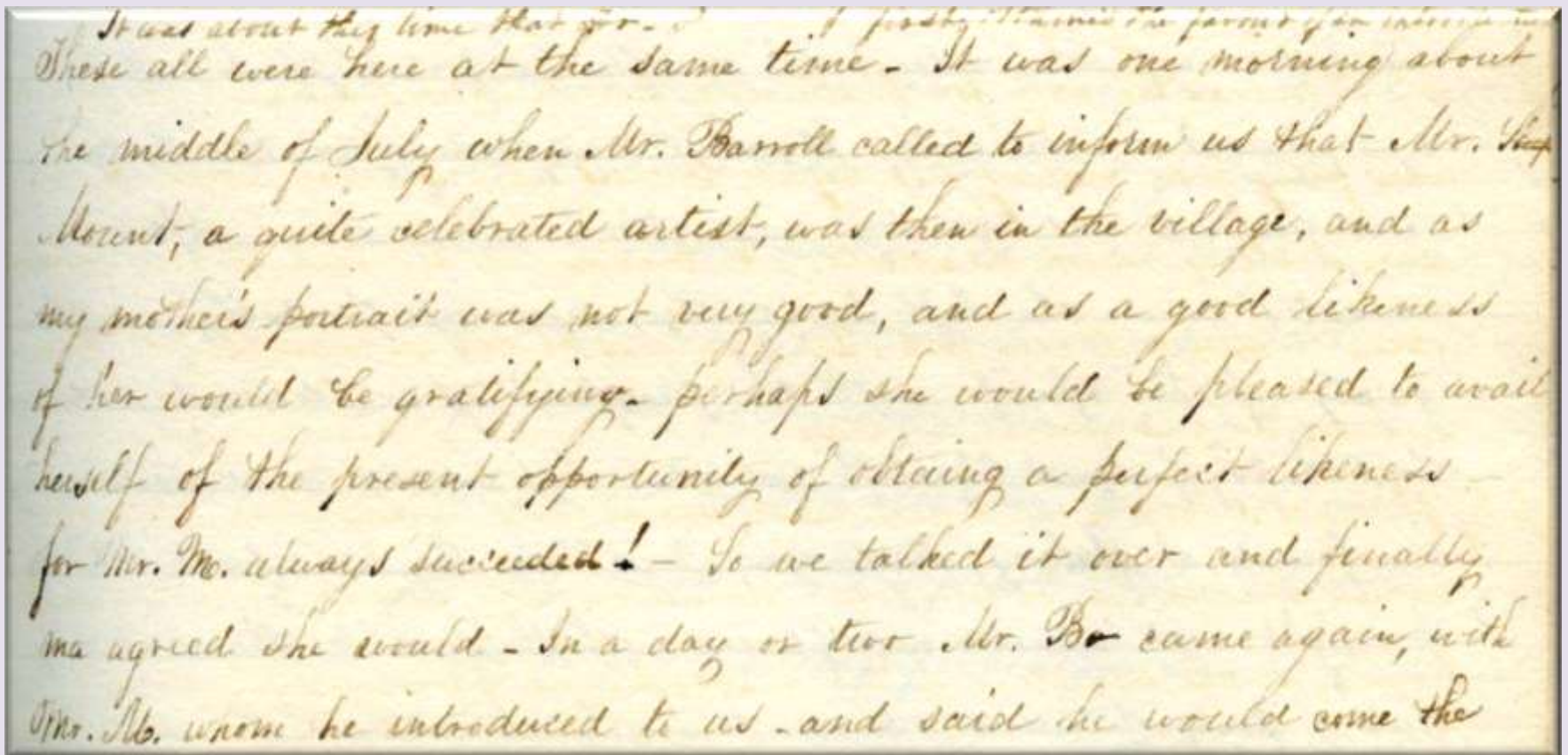
The Tea Kettle's Stories. No. 4.

1

The following evening found the young companions once more ranged round their venerable favorite as it then commenced its recital on this ~~evening~~. The morning of that Sunday dawned, - Advent Sunday, November 27th 1803. As on the foregoing mornings since that had been my home, there appeared, with the break of day, the glimmer of lights, and the sound of steps ^{was heard} moving to and fro, intent on household duties; yet I noticed an unusual quiet which distinguished it from the ordinary stir of diurnal proceedings. As the dawn ushered in the brighter day, I was removed from my resting place of retirement, of which I may tell you at some future time. Having been previously thoroughly cleansed both without and within, I was not like the hypocrite's "cup and platter" "deceitfully clean on the outside, but within full of extortion and excess"; but entirely prepared and fitted to begin my course of duty on this holy day. And this I say without levity, but with all seriousness. Cleanliness, the saying is, "is next to godliness", and my lady, true to an innate love of cleanliness, in which inclination I fully participated, indeed it is of more importance than many may suspect, for as a certain writer has said, - "when we consider how large a portion of the moral law relates to our duty to our neighbor and how much filthy habits are injurious to them, we surely need feel no hesitation in admitting the truth of the remark that cleanliness is next to godliness."

Shepard Alonzo Mount

On September 18, 1837, Louisa wrote in her journal that “celebrated artist” Shepard Alonzo Mount was in Hempstead village.

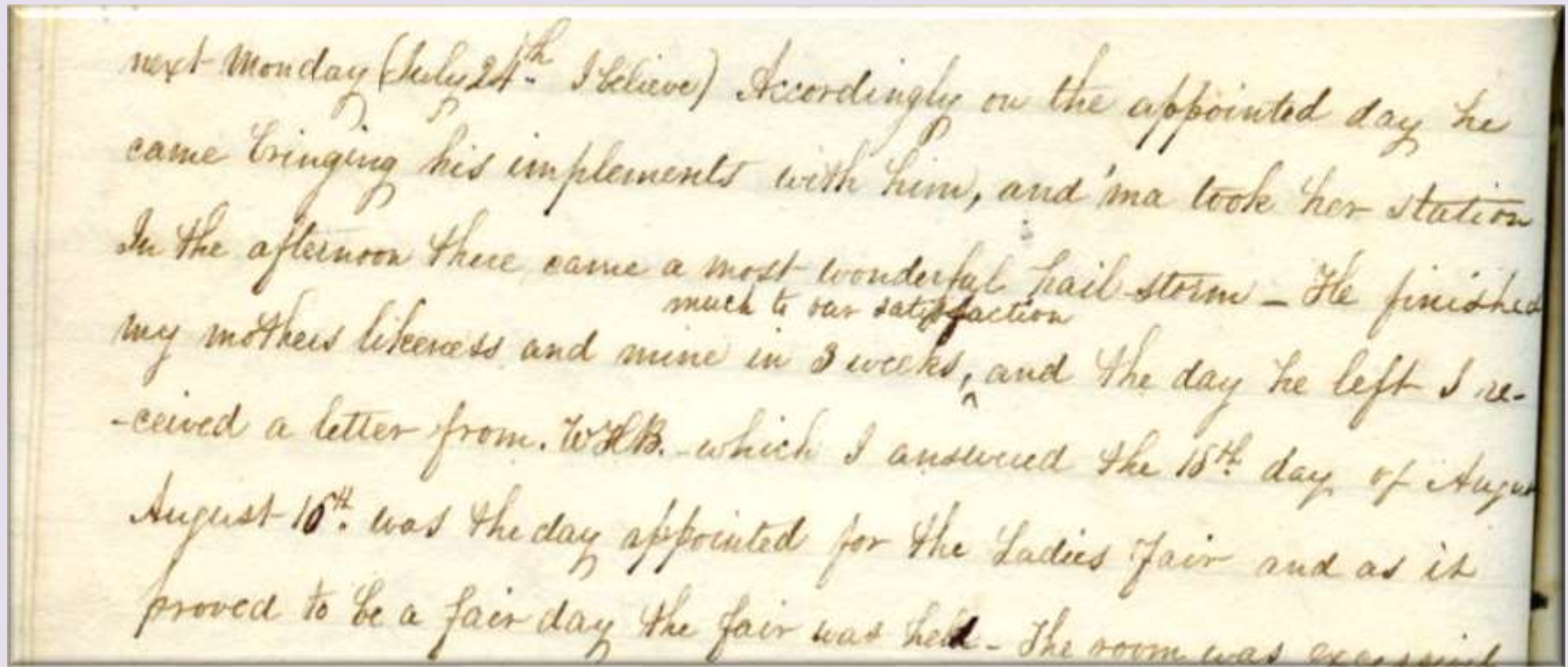
A photograph of a handwritten journal entry on aged, yellowed paper. The handwriting is in a cursive script, likely from the mid-19th century. The text describes a family discussion about having a portrait painted by Shepard Alonzo Mount. The entry is written in a single column, filling most of the page. The ink is dark, and the paper shows some signs of wear and discoloration.

It was about this time that Mr. ^{firstly} ~~firstly~~ ^{thanked} the family for interest in
These all were here at the same time. It was one morning about
the middle of July when Mr. Barrell called to inform us that Mr. Shep
Mount, a quite celebrated artist, was then in the village, and as
my mother's portrait was not very good, and as a good likeness
of her would be gratifying. perhaps she would be pleased to avail
herself of the present opportunity of obtaining a perfect likeness
for Mr. M. always succeeded! - So we talked it over and finally
we agreed she would. - In a day or two Mr. B. came again, with
Mr. M. whom he introduced to us - and said he would come the

At the time, Mount resided in Setauket on eastern Long Island. There he lived with his artist brothers William Sidney and Henry Smith Mount.

Shepard Alonzo Mount

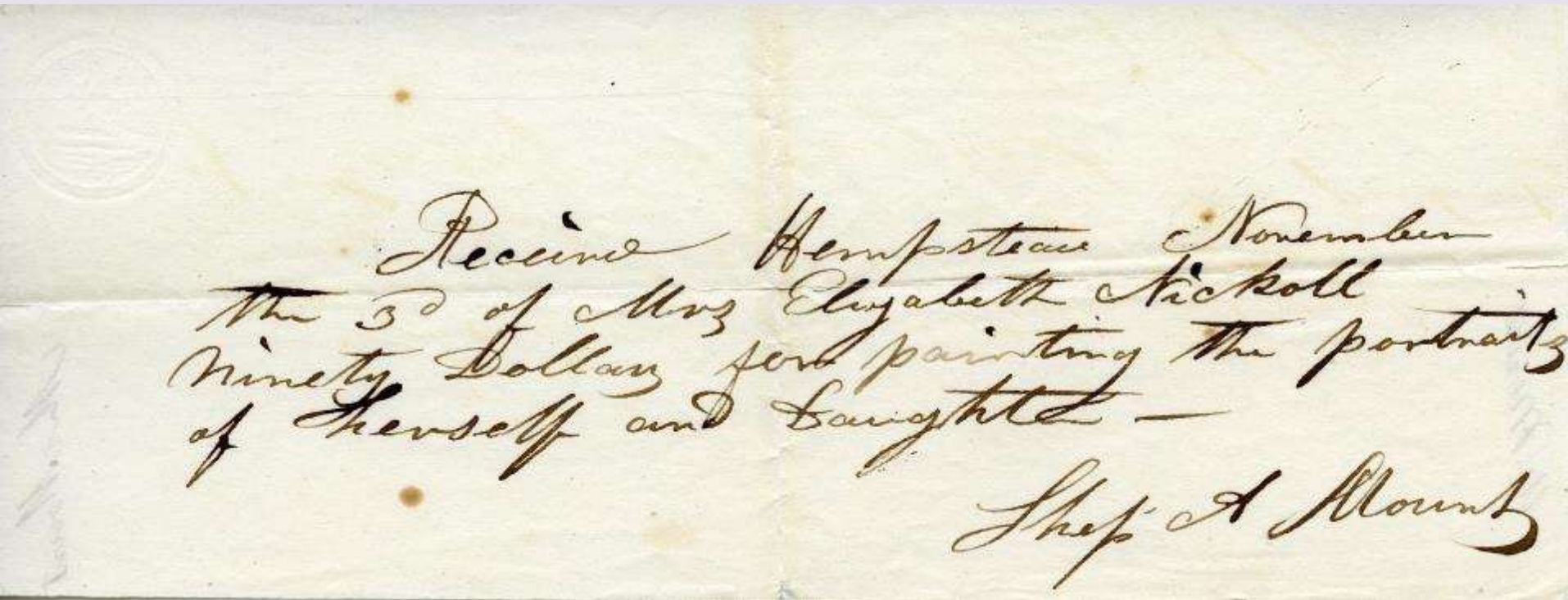
Louisa wrote that both she and her mother had their portraits painted. It took three weeks to complete both portraits.

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript page, likely a letter or diary entry, written in cursive. The paper is aged and slightly yellowed. The text is written in dark ink and is somewhat slanted. There are some corrections and insertions, such as "much to our satisfaction" written above "in 3 weeks". The handwriting is elegant but shows signs of being a working draft.

next Monday (July 24th I believe) Accordingly on the appointed day he
came bringing his implements with him, and 'ma took her station
In the afternoon there came a most wonderful hail storm - He finished
my mother's likeness and mine in 3 weeks, ^{much to our satisfaction} and the day he left I re-
ceived a letter from W.H.B. - which I answered the 15th day of August
August 10th was the day appointed for the Ladies fair and as it
proved to be a fair day the fair was held - The room was excessive

Shepard Alonzo Mount

It cost ninety dollars for both Elizabeth (Smyth) Nichols and Louisa Adelia Nichols portraits.



Received Hempstead November
the 3^d of Mrs Elizabeth Nickoll
ninety Dollars for painting the portraits
of herself and daughter —
Shep A Mount

Receipt for painting signed 'Shep A. Mount'.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Shepard Alonzo Mount



Elizabeth (Smyth) Nichols, 1837
Oil on canvas, 30 x 24"
Gold gilt frame, 2 1/2"



Louisa Adelia Nichols, 1837
Oil on canvas, by. Approximately 11" x 9".
Ornate gilt over gesso and wood frame.

Daguerreotype

Louisa Adelia Nichols and her mother Elizabeth (Smyth) Nichols.



Photographer: Weston, N.Y. Louisa Adelia Nichols (left) and Elizabeth (Smyth) Nichols (right), c1845
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections

The Artist

St. John's Hospital Chapel

Stain Glass Windows

Louisa lent her artist talents during the construction of the chapel at St. John's Hospital. She designed the stain glass chapel windows as a memorial to her beloved family.



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Pencil drawing of chapel, c1880
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

St. John's Hospital Chapel
Stain Glass Windows



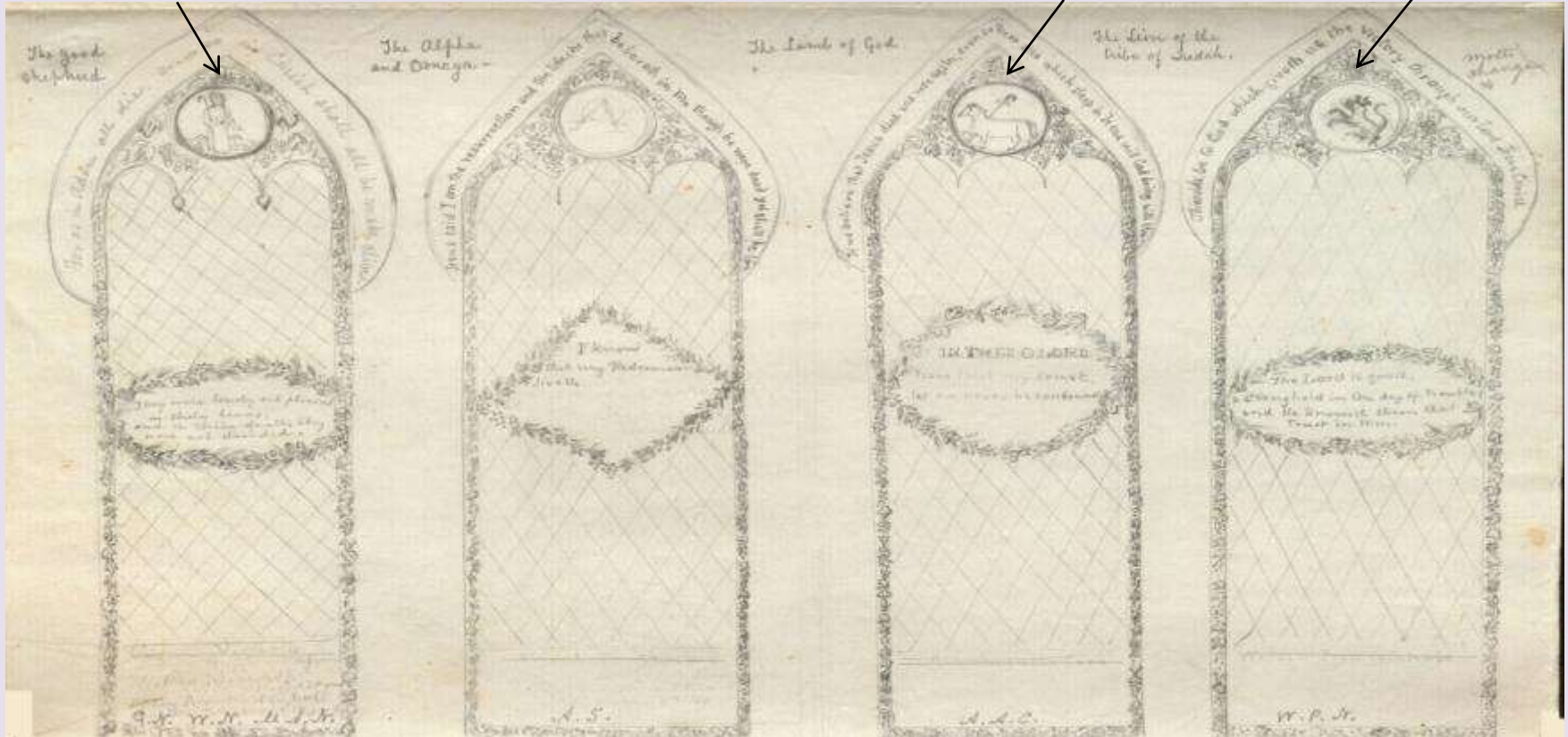
The Good Shepherd



The Lamb of God

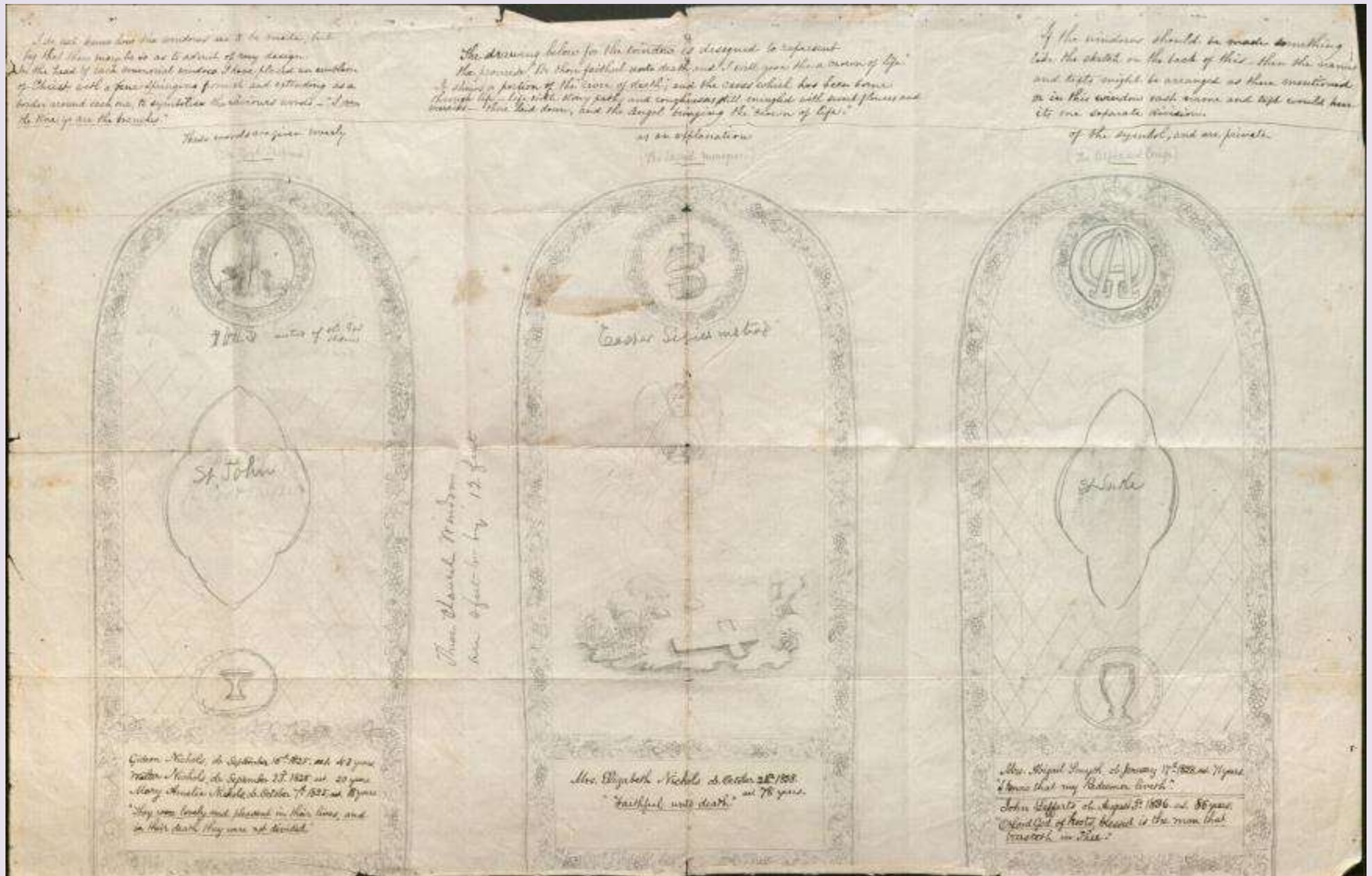


The Lion of the tribe of Judah



The Artist

St. John's Hospital Chapel Stain Glass Windows



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Drawing of chapel windows, c1880

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

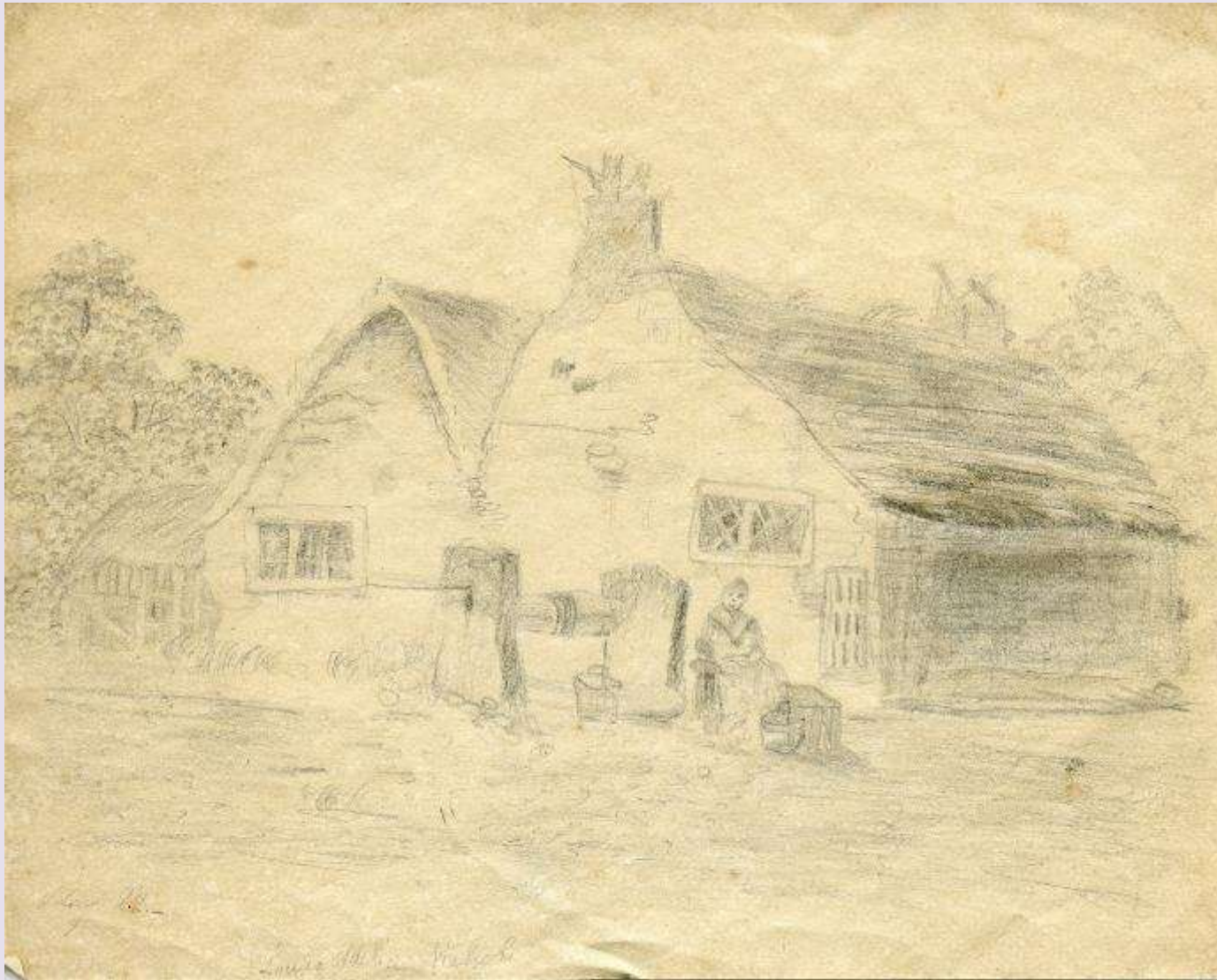
Pencil Sketches



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Pencil drawing of church, n.d.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

Pencil Sketches



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Pencil drawing of house and woman, n.d.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

Pencil Sketches



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Pencil drawing of man on cart and house, n.d.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

Ink sketches



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Ink wash of castle, n.d.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

Ink sketches



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Ink and watercolor of Three Angels, n.d.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

Ink sketches



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Ink wash of house and mountains, n.d.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

Watercolor



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Watercolor of horse and carriage, n.d.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

Watercolor



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Water color of roses, n.d.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

Watercolor



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Watercolor of tropical bird, n.d.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

Watercolor



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Watercolor of tropical bird, n.d.
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

The Artist

Watercolor

Flower petals with
aphorisms.

"Self-love"

Aphorisms are
brief statements of
principle.

*"Not until you
can command
your temper"*



Artist: Louisa Adelia Nichols. Watercolor of flower petals with aphorisms, 1834
Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.



Come visit Louisa Adelia Nichols at the Special Collections Department at Hofstra University. Her series and the rest of the Hart and Nichols Collection can be accessed by appointment. The Department is located in the Joan & Donald E. Axinn Library, Room 032. Please call (516) 463-6411 for an appointment or additional information.

Louisa Adelia Nichols. Carte de visite, c1850.

Source: Hart Nichols Collection at Hofstra University Special Collections.

Resources

Hopson, George B. (1910). [*Reminiscences of St. Stephen's College*](#). New York: Edwin S. Gorham.

Tenth Annual Report of St. John's Hospital and the Atlantic Avenue Dispensary.
(1883). Brooklyn: Orphan's Press-Church Charity Foundation.