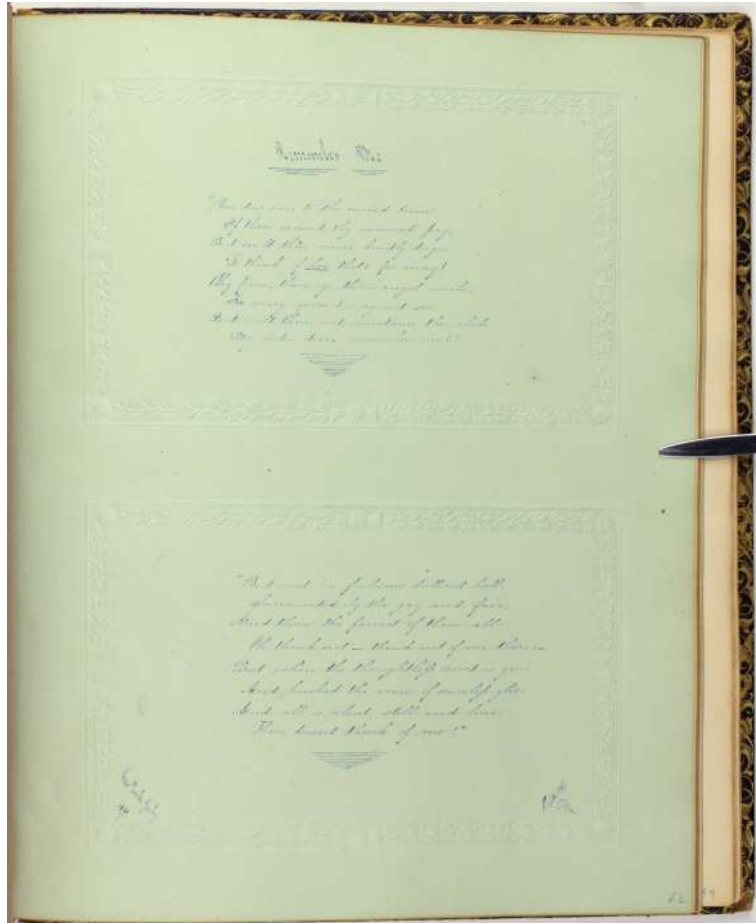


Martina Dickerson Album

Page 62



Headnote:

This poem, entitled “Remember Me,” asks Martina to remember the author physically, emotionally, and mentally. The poem is signed EDR and is dated July 1840. While we do not know the identity of EDR, we do know she was a part of the network of African Americans in the urban North, having inscribed the poem in New York.

Transcription:

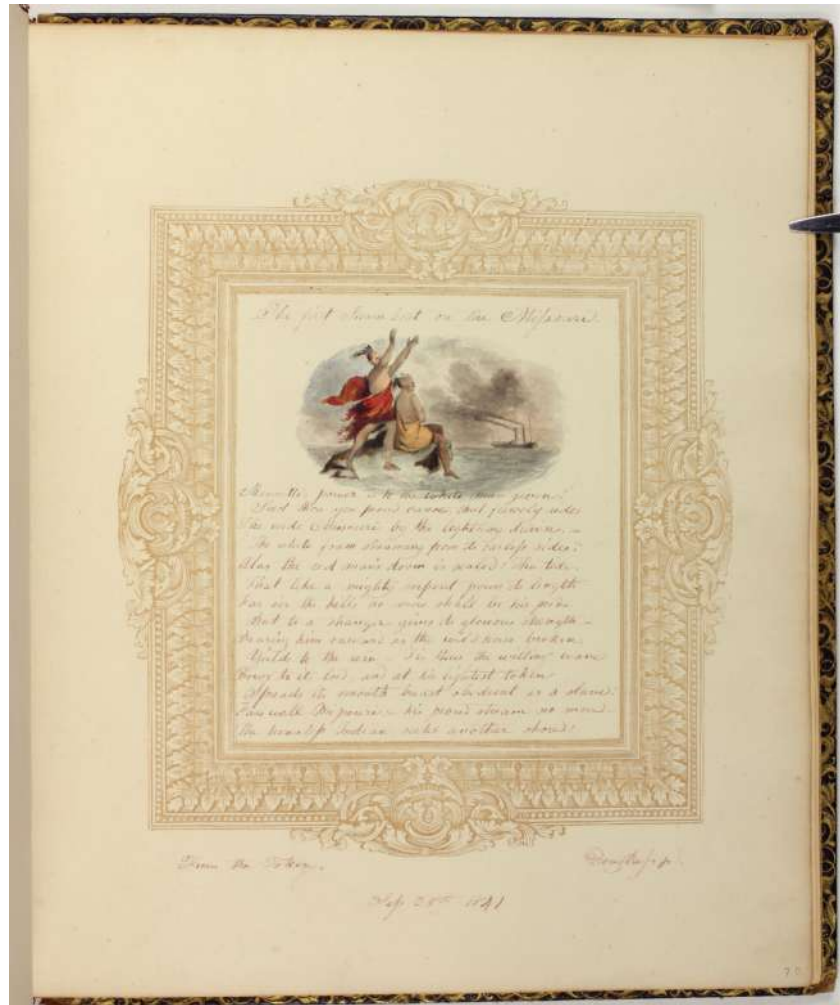
Remember Me

“Yes, dear one, to the envied train
Of those around, thy moments pay;
But will thou never kindly deign
To think of her that’s far away?
Thy form, thine eye, thine angel smile,
For weary years I may not see,
But aren’t thou not, sometimes the while
My sister dear, remember me?”

“But not in fashion’s brilliant hall,
Surrounded by the gay and fair,
And thou the fairest of them all
Oh think not – think not of me there;-
But when the thoughtless crowd is gone
And hushed the voice of senseless glee,
And all is silent, still and lone,
Then, dearest think of me!”

New York July
1840

EDR



Headnote:

Antebellum African American activists saw a connection between their plight and that of Native Americans, as reflected in the inclusion of this poem in Martina Dickerson's album. The poem describes how white Americans' technology – in this case, the steamboat – contributes to the desolation of native societies. Accompanying the entry is a drawing depicting the poem, wherein two Native American men view the first steamboat on the Missouri. The artist and transcriber is likely Robert Douglass Jr., the respected African American artist who contributed entries in other Philadelphia friendship albums.

Transcription:

The first Steamboat on the Missouri.

Mannatto's power is to the white man given!
Seest thou you proud canoe, that fiercely ride,
The wide Missouri by the lightning driven. --
The white foam streaming from its burlap sides?
Alas the red man's doom is sealed! This tide,
That like a mighty serpent pours its length
Far o'er the hills no more shall be his pride
But to a stranger gives its glorious strength-
Bearing him onward as the wild horse broken,
Yields to the rein- Tis thus the willing wave
Bows to it lord, and at his lightest token
Spread its smooth breast obedient as a slave:
Farewell Missouri: --his proud stream_no more --
The homeless Indian seeks another shore!

From the Token
Sep 25th 1841

Douglass R



Headnote:

The entry opens with a beautiful drawing of a colorful flower. The poem that follows is one of friendship and remembrance, which asks the viewer (in this case, Martina Dickerson) to look to this album entry in times of loneliness. At the end of the poem, the initials AHH are signed. The drawing's precision is telling of the author's artistic background.

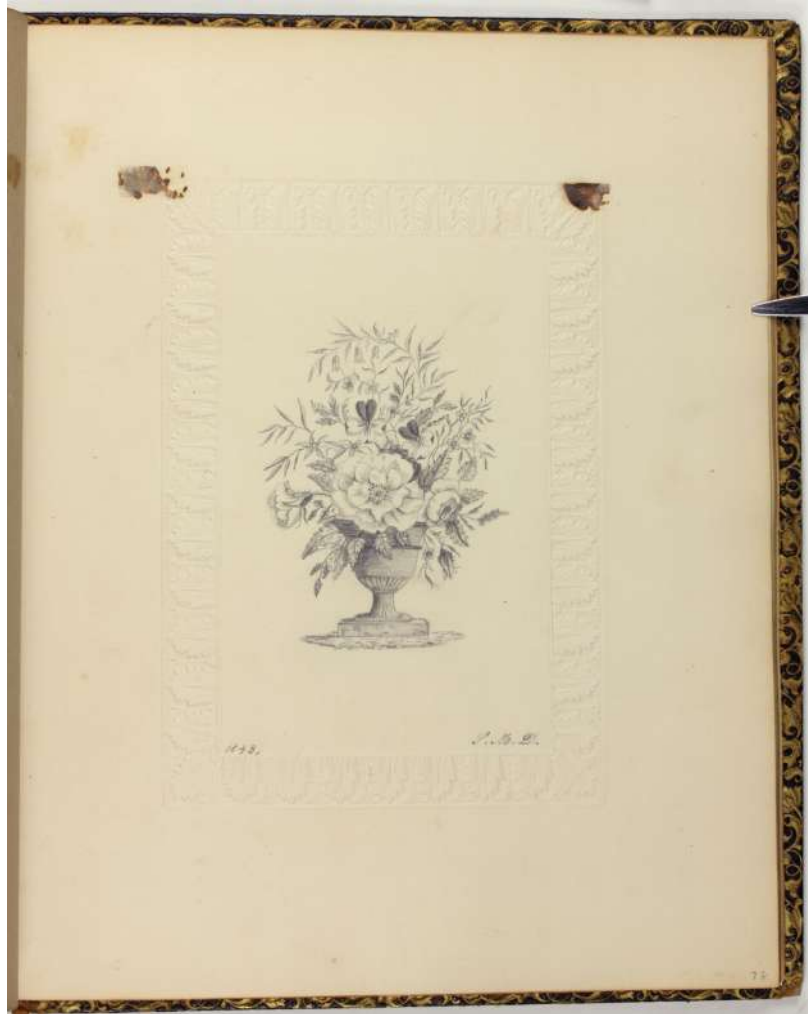
Transcription:

“A mark of friendships pleasing power,
In this small trifle see
And sometimes in a lonely hour,
View it and think of me.”

A.H.H.

Martina Dickerson Album

Page 78



Headnote:

This entry has no text, but instead is entirely comprised of a drawing. Sketched by Sarah Mapps Douglass, who signed her initials at the bottom of the entry, this vase full of flowers is artistically and scientifically accurate. The still life represents African American women's educational pursuits and achievements. Douglass's position as a prominent teacher of African American youth in Philadelphia makes this drawing's connection to education even more potent.

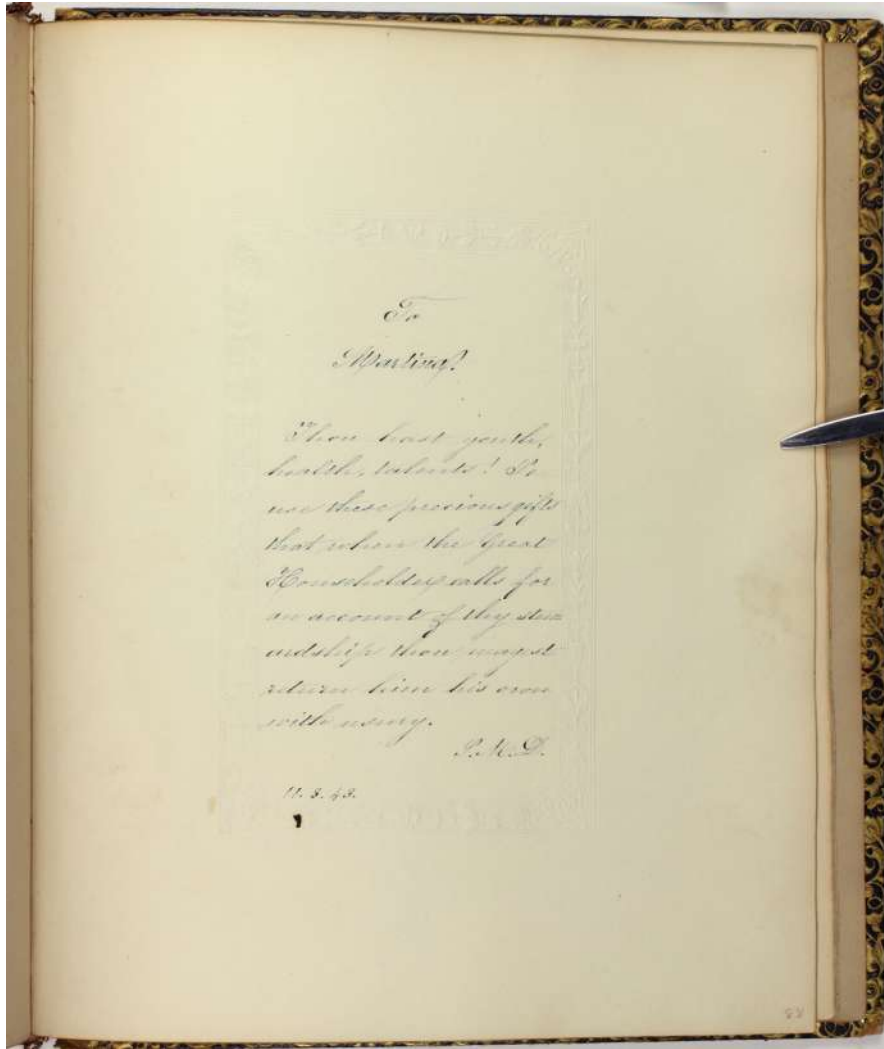
Martina Dickerson Album

Page 83



Headnote:

Sarah Mapps Douglass provided another floral image for Martina Dickerson's album in this beautiful forget-me-not. As in the vase of flowers, this drawing is scientifically and artistically precise, an indication of the importance of education to Douglass, Dickerson, and middle-class African American women more broadly. The image and accompanying text, "Forget me not," are also indicative of the sentimental connections between African American women in the antebellum period.



Headnote:

Sarah Mapps Douglass, a freeborn African American teacher in Philadelphia, composed this original poem to her pupil Martina Dickerson.

The poem serves as a reminder of the accountability and social responsibility expected of educated young black people. Formal education for blacks in the antebellum period was a privilege and served as a way for educated blacks to uplift those in their communities.

Transcription:

To
Martina.

Thou hast youth,
Health, talents! So
use these precious gifts
that when the Great
Householder calls for
an account of thy stew-
ardship thou mayest
return him his own
with usury.

S.M.D

11.3.43