

Edgeworthstown - Ireland
Oct 1st 1839

My friend Mr. Gerard Palstone has promised to convey this letter to Miss

And assures me that she will not think it an intrusion on the part of a stranger - In plain truth he encourages me to hope that the name of Maria Edgeworth will not ^{be} so sound as that of a stranger. Of this I the more readily flatter myself as I have received so many proofs of cordial kindness and esteem from Americans in general of all persuasions and from the inhabitants of Philadelphia your country women in particular and still more to my hearts content from many of your persuasion my dear Madam.

I have had for many years - Alas I must now say I had for she is no more a correspondent and friend every amiable and sensible and highly cultivated and elegant minded American Jewess. - Born I believe in Virginia - her maiden ^{family} name Mordecai - married to M. L. L. L. of Wilmington North Carolina - I have numerous letters from her during a 20 years

correspondence, - letters which I justly value
and I am surrounded in the library in
which I am now writing and in the hall
next to it with curiosities of her country
which she has sent me and memorials
of her friendship and desire to please me in
the merest trifles as well as in things of impor-
tance - I have the rice birds wing sent me
by her youngest boy at the moment it was
his most valued possession - I have the prettiest
of humming birds which was packed for me
in the softest crumpled satin lined ^{box} of my jewel
own making - and I had the nicest needle
work veil of her own working - I could not
enumerate all that she has taken the trouble
to do for me - yet I have great pleasure in
thus gratefully recording some of her many
little and great kindnesses; And you must
not be weary but permit me to tell you how
that friendship began which has lasted so
long & sworn so well - She at first totally a
stranger to me wrote to reprove and properly
to reprove me for having in some of my stories
followed the too common European custom
and prejudice of representing Jews as persons
to be suspected avoided & shunned by Christians

My dear friend Mr. Ralstone has sent me
a fine collection of American birds (including
the beautiful blue jay ^{for which I had a} particular fancy - and the American pheasant
which has that curious little drum under the
condary wing - mentioned in Wilsons Ornitho-
logy - I have had all the birds well stuffed
by a skilful artist in Dublin and they are
now in glass cases in our Hall -

Mr. Ralstone gave me ^{I must indulge my} self in the pleasure of boasting to you of his
kind munificence all the set of Wilsons
beautiful colored plates 3 Vol Quarto &
his most entertaining 6th Volume of ^{them}
stanzas - The plates were very expensive
I believe, so much so as I conceived that I
wished to decline accepting them; But
Mr. Ralstone told me that he conceived it
a sort of duty to forward the Arts in his own
country by making such presents to Foreign-
ers and he represented to me that if I declined
accepting this valuable book, he would
offer it to some other English person to
whom he might wish to make his esteem
- For 15 years he has taken the trouble
to send me regularly the Quarterly &
the North American Review & admirably
some of those reviews

You must pardon me my dear