

31
Philadelphia Feb. 5th 1806

My Dear Maria

I have just returned from Chesham where I spent a very pleasant day, and feel that the evening could not be so happily employed in any other way, as in devoting it to my dearest best of friends - your letter arrived this morning for which I most gratefully thank you, the kind expressions of solicitude & friendship are impressed on my heart, and at the same time that I beg you will banish all anxiety concerning my health, I cannot conceal the pleasing sensation that tender interest excites. My Maria, I am very well, and I hope when we meet, to make a suitable return for all your goodness. you know how much I wish to see you, and may expect me to embrace the first opportunity of visiting you, that is offered to my choice. at this period I am particularly anxious to be with you, and pray that the protection of heaven may be extended to you and all happiness with speedy restoration to health.

I am astonished to hear that Ann complains of Madame Gueland they appear on excellent terms, and she is at present very indulgent respecting their expenses. I do not know how far she restricts them, about Christmas time Matilda mentioned to me that she was so badly off for frocks that she could not manage to have one clean for Sundays, as she has outgrown all her old ones. I then purchased three new ones for her, and had one or two of her old ones fitted up & lengthened. I also got her a velvet Spencer and some other trifles amounting to about thirty Dollars, as she said Madame G. would not give her any thing and she was tired of repeated applications. since that time she has not required

any thing but ~~the~~ pair of dancing shoes.

And want of shoes must be occasioned by her negligence and the Bretnall tardiness. she has a pair of cork soles but her feet are so tender that it is painful to wear them, and she has I fear made them worse by walking out in laid. however they are not very bad, and she can walk & dance with her usual activity. They had an examination on ~~Wednesday~~ Monday. when they performed a little French Comedie before some professors and I hear Ann & Matilda acquitted themselves with great credit to themselves & teacher. Mr Dennis told me to day his next Post the would contain an article of commendation written by a Gentleman & Scholar who was present. Madame G. also informs me that Matilda makes great progress in english and every branch of education - her embroidery I think equal to any I have ever seen. and from her account Mr H. will be compensated for the anxiety of this long separation from his daughter by the improvement she has made -

And how my dear Girl I must tell the liberty I have taken with you and the consequences - your journal which I have so often perused with delight, I was induced to shew to one friend Mrs Meredith, which having read aloud to Mr G. gained you not only all the praise that elegant & chaste composition merits, but has produced a request for some extracts to be published in the Port Folio. Mrs M. begged me to ask your permission which I do from her - at the same time assuring you, it was only to her private perusal I committed it and that I do not urge your compliance, tho I think it worthy of preservation; and that your descriptions of the country would be a

Feb 6 1863

12 1/2



Miss Brady

Chas Ogden Hoffman

No 66 Greenwich Street

New York

