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Philadelphia January 11th 1867

How joyfully did I again recognize my dear Friend in her affectionate letters, and gratefully my love, does my heart reciprocate all your good kind wishes. You are happy and to pray that heaven may continue to you the blessings you possess, is all that your friends need ask, and that the fruition of your every wish keep pace with the realization of your hopes & wishes respecting your beloved children is perhaps all that an affectionate heart ~~might~~ add, this and all other happiness I ardently wish Maria, and yet think not I ask for an enjoyment ^{more} than she merits, even weighing in the rigid scales ^{in which} ~~that~~ poor mortality is scanned her deserts.

I had really begun to feel quite restless under your long silence, but am sorry to find you had such good reason for it. I hope your children are entirely recovered. I am delighted to hear your sweet Eliza exerts you when of seeing Betty quite encourage the little innocent in imitating her mother in every respect - and it will not be difficult to make her, the very thing you wish her to be by & bye.

We have been entertaining to day a charming girl - from Mrs. Gueland's boarding school, Miss Eaton who with E. Nicholas joined our family party. The latter seems affected by a sympathetic sadness I never saw him look more gloomy than within the last week - which however he attributes to the feverish effects of a cold - Sister Mary for the first time this winter passed the day with us - her children and her self have considerably been sick but I now hope her short respite

will be left fatiguing - next month she expects to pass in her chamber
our city is not so gay as yours, we have not had one private
dance yet - but tea parties without number - we have been at three
within the last week, but not such as used to give such a terrible name
to Phil - tea parties - they are more sociable & of course more pleasant -
our theatre too is much improved - we have admirable singers, and
it has become the most fashionable & agreeable place of amusement -
you will scoff at the tardiness of our gentlemen when I tell you
they have just called their first meeting & chosen managers for
the City assembly, but such things are not of so much importance
to me, as they used to be, and unless to accompany some stranger
or other, I do not think I shall go to an assembly this winter -
the Cotillon parties are much better suited to my taste -

I am much obliged to Miss Ogden for her distinguished
remembrance of me, and I beg you will request Elisa to assure her
of my very grateful acknowledgments - to be thought well of by Miss
O - I consider a high compliment and shall be very happy on
some future occasion to endeavour to deserve it - but my dear
Marian do not think my vanity can keep pace with the extravagance
- and of your New York I hear who'er he may be - that seems to
have been coming over fine speeches - which perhaps common
sense told him could not be offered directly to any Lady's ear
without danger of offending her - and therefore (rather than lose them
quite) took the opportunity you mention, of saying them for me, tho'
it may be - he scarcely knows me - for if he did - his sincerity would have
blushed at it -

the kind things you say - are still more flattering, but all
women love to be flattered, in some way or other - and such words

X Jan 11. 1807

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