

April 4th - 1808

Your letter this morning, my dear Maria, containing such good accounts of our Gerrit has really delighted me, our hopes are easily elevated by our wishes and mine have already reached the anticipation of seeing her restored. Mr Rodman will I hope be induced to try the effects of a warm climate, to which he has every inducement that the experience of others can offer. Mrs Tilghman has several times been snatched from the very jaws of death - tho' at her advanced period of life there was certainly less to be expected, and New York affords you many instances of the like success. I shall be impatient to hear that he has determined on going.

I think my Dear, you do not manage your baby, with your usual propriety. Why devote your evenings entirely to him? the good City should be entrusted with him, and you permitted to cheer the company below, by your presence. If I were in New York I should not quarrel with those chamber scenes provided I might be permitted sometimes to enjoy them - but too free a scope to the indulgence of ones own reflections, is not good either. It is seldom productive of happiness. the mind is awakened by the recollection of so many evils as well as good things, that at best it is but retracing the chequered map of life, on which we have still a

61
a large untrodden track to pursue, and hope cannot always in spite of experience represent the future more smooth, if we are continually looking back on the ruggedness of the past -

I had heard of Phil Jones' duel but not his marriage - I pity his wife. yet can hardly reconcile to myself the character of a fine woman, and a widow, marrying the lover of a deceased sister. New Orleans seems a spot to engender every sort of immorality & corruption. there are more duels fought there, than in all the united states. and I believe more vice of every kind. death is so common a calamity, that the horrors of the scene is forgotten, as soon as past. I heard a gentleman speaking of the facility with which they get over such distresses, say that a Lady at New Orleans thought herself very ill treated if she did not get three husbands at least -

When do you move? - in your new house, let the nursery be the most convenient apartment, as you seem to value these generally. You might take a lesson from Rachel on the management of this establishment. tho' I thought her one of the worst that is most slavish moves in the world -

I suppose Washington has told you how well Sulley is established here, & how much he has improved in his painting. we have prevailed on my Father to set to him, and he has promised to come to the house and paint the portrait.

Betsy Abecrombie has just left us, her visit kept my letter

April 4. 1868

Dr



Mrs Ogden Hoffman

New York

