

Nov: 28th 1800—

I never despair of the performance of your promises, my Beloved and therefore have been anticipating the arrival of your last favor a day or two before its arrival. yet it came in good time, and came like all its predecessors with full power to charm away my anxiety, and even cheat me of the bitterness of grief, while my tears flowed over the tribute you related. joined to the memory of my dear Miriam by Miss Ridley of whom she was always very fond.

I never knew so young a person who made so universal an interest in the heart of their acquaintance. her brother-in-law in relating her death says no event of the kind had been so generally lamented in Georgetown for a long time. during her short residence in that place she attracted the interest & the affection of all the best people of the place. her youth and the peculiar situation she was in—separated too from all her relations & friends. seemed to touch all hearts for her. she was sensible of her danger—yet composed & resigned—requested them to pray for her, and died (I hope) the death of the righteous, she had an innocent heart, and performed the duties of every station it pleased God to place her in, in this world. and indeed my Dear Maria, she had many severe trials—an orphan almost from her birth, she never knew the happiness of a mother's smile, or felt what joy it was to be instructed, approved of, and caressed by a fond parent. an estranged father & a cold hearted ~~step~~ mother made her natural home comfortless and uninteresting. yet never did a repining expression escape her. and tho' I suspect her confidence in other things, I never from her self had an idea of those sufferings.

I have written to her affected Husband, he is inconsolable for her loss, and pledges himself to her dear children, which he says,

is all that binds him to life. I never read more affectionate bewailing and believe he really is a sincere mourner - this day three months the account of her death arrived, Gracious God! what misery has been crowded in that little space of time; I can sometimes scarcely realise the dreadful depopulations that have taken place, and yet they are never a moment out of my thoughts.

Mrs Meredith called here this afternoon and showed us a beautiful penciled likeness of our Dear Harriet, she was going to carry it to Sally, to have it copied, and I requested her to have one done for me, it is a profile done by Malbone, and I think as good a likeness as the miniature.

The account you heard of poor P Ewing is I fear too true, ~~the Dr.~~ ^{Ewing} her Brother thinks it is her Liver that is affected, I hear she is in town and undergoing salivation for that disease, she has long been a great sufferer, and I fear will never again be restored to health.

Our little Henry is much better, he came in yesterday & dined with us, and I hope will soon regain his strength, you have no doubt seen my Brother Hyman, he has been making quite a long stay in New York till him not to venture back in the mail stage, last night it was twice over set, and broke down beside, several of the passengers very much hurt, and all in great danger of being drowned in the Delaware. Mr Shaw I hear is a good deal better.

Charles N. has been to see us, he spoke of you all, and has given good accounts of your health, I am sorry to hear that Ann is still in the habit of meeting Cooper, I do not believe that C would approve for I know he is no favorite of his, and is certainly no companion for a delicate young lady. A. has much to contend with too on the score of prejudice so much has been said on that subject, that however she may be able to justify herself to C & his friends will be difficult.

Nov 28 1861



Mrs Ogden Hoffman
New York

