

March 7th 1839

My Dear Maria

We are greatly distressed at the accounts of our dear Matilda's illness. I have thought of nothing but her since I heard of it, your letter alarmed me, but I was quite indisposed myself and not able to write yesterday. Mr Hoffman's letter has however put all my pains & weakness to flight, in the consideration of the greater evils which impend over my Beloved Friends. God in his mercy will I trust spare the dear Girl to you, for a blessing. She has ever been deservedly your darling, and my heart is cheered with the hope that her existence will be preserved to fulfil the promise which her early virtues hold out to her affectionate parent. The mail arrived so late to day that I had not time to tell you how severely I partake your sorrow, or how earnestly I hope & pray for her recovery. I sent immediately to inform Charles N. and expect he will be the bearer of this, his presence may be consoling to Mr Hoffman, tho' I trust he will be relieved before he arrives. Her youth, and patient disposition are greatly in her favor, and the affectionate attendance she receives will keep her mind from despondency. Who are her physicians?

I know my Dear, you cannot avoid a large share of fatigue, your feelings & inclination will keep you at her bedside

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but I beg for your infants sake that you will endeavour to keep
up an appetite, and a tolerable share of composure, which you know
are indispensable as a nurse -

Wednesday

Mr. Hoffmann's letter My beloved Maria, has brightened
my hopes. God is merciful! and will listen to the prayers of the afflicted
May our Dear Matilda soon be restored to reward the anxious
sufferings of her tender Parent. I am quite grieved at her Father's
misery, but hope to-morrow's letter will be written in greater confidence
Charles I find does not leave town until to-morrow. I will not
bother you with a longer letter - My heart is with you,

and my prayers meet yours at the mercy seat of God
for the boon of health to our mutually beloved Matilda -

Adieu My Dearest Friend, ever yours

R. Gately

March 17 1809



Mrs. Ogden Hoffman

Malethuel

New York —