

Philadelphia Nov^r 13th - 1809 -

Your good accounts of your own dear family. My Mother has removed a weight of anxiety from the heart of your friends, and we most sincerely rejoice with you in the fair prospect of little George's health. Washington dined with us yesterday, and we talked about you, the last letter which had then been received was written on the morning after your night of trouble, and tho' we hoped for the best - our fears did not let those hopes lighten the care, ~~which~~ the idea of your suffering, gave rise to. I am happy to inform you that my sister is also much better, tho' she is still confined to her chamber, and in daily expectation of a surgical operation on her eye. her health is improved - at least her strength is increased, by a great deal than she has been allowed for some time past, but this is only to enable her to endure the pain preparing for her, and the knowledge of this, keeps her from any real enjoyment, we have almost deserted our home, to cheer her solitary hours, which the gloom of confinement, under such circumstances you may suppose renders heavy enough. however as the Dr assures us the remedy is a very safe one, and withal not very severe, we look forward to it with less apprehension, than the idea of a surgeon's knife might be expected to inspire. and as soon as it is over, I shall let you know, whether

we have deceived our selves with false hopes, or alarmed ourselves with unnecessary fears, until then I beg you my love, not to interrupt the interval of tranquillity Your darling's recovery has bestowed by thinking too much of the concerns of your friends. If it be possible for you to take a ride to Phil^a which in a favorable state of weather would I am sure be of service to you, you will find that we do not despond, on the contrary that we should be able to enjoy the happiness Your presence always gives us, and that even the Invalid will greet you with smiles.

You may tell Aunt & friends that she is by no means considered in bad health here, and that she seems so well satisfied with the portion of that blessing allotted her, that I do not believe she would exchange her present imperfect state, for the brightest bloom that ever glowed on the rosy cheek of youthful beauty. She has been nursing her sick husband and looks a little pale from confinement, but does not complain, and as Charles is recovering, expect we shall soon see her restored to her good looks again. Mary appears much better than when she arrived. Mr H. should not recall her this winter, the Climate of P. certainly is more favorable to her health than N.Y. - She is quite satisfied here, and may have every advantage in the way of school that she could have at home.

I am exceedingly sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs D^{rs} Ogden, our friend. It is in great distress about her, I hope she will recover, she is a young & amiable woman, & has too many ties on life, to lay it down without reluctance. but this is not stay to the hand of death, and we are very anxious about her -

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Mrs. Ogden Hoffman

New York —