

Philadelphia July 15th 1810

I have been so much more accustomed to see you encountering the evils, than yielding to the frailties of human nature, that I assure you my dear Friend, your silence did not betray me into a suspicion of your having forgotten your promise, tho' I long'd anxiously to receive a letter. Your poor little delicate Boy presented himself to my mind as a most probable cause of your not writing. I trust his constitution will strengthen, he is the sweetest child I ever saw, but too delicate for your comfort - however, we must not always judge from appearances, the slightest seed frequently outlives the storm that lays prostrate the lonely oak - and many in the full tide of health are cut down, while the hand of Providence sustains those, who appear to us sinking into the grave -

We have been, and continue to be in great anxiety about our Brother Simon from whom we have not received the least intelligence since you left us. a silence so unusual as to throw us into the most distressing apprehensions for his safety, as there are post towns all along the route he meant to take and he is always very punctual in writing. If Tuesday fails to bring us intelligence of him, we shall not know what to think - our only hope is that his letters have miscarried - otherwise he must be ill - or have suffered some accident - God, in whom he has

even trustee, be his gaudian & shield / he have every ~~have ever~~ ^{reliance}
in his providence, and know that the fate of all his creatures
are in his hands. this is our comfort - but suspense & anxiety are
noise trials, and beget such frightful phantoms, that they almost
drive reason from her seat -

I am glad to hear your dear Charles is recovered, he really seemed
to be quite home-sick, does sweet Julia grow, and retain her health?
and does her mother, with a full view of all her duties, present & to come
before her, still see a prospect of continuing her nurse? or in other words
My dear Maria, will your health permit you to nurse through the summer
You so carefully avoid mentioning self. that on this subject alone your
letters are unsatisfactory. and pardon me, this is the most important
on which I would be satisfied. so you must learn to write better letters,
tho' do not let it be known such a thing is required of you. or I shall
by all the world of taste & judgement be condemned not only as a
stranger to them, but a most unreasonable being besides.

I saw our dear Ann yesterday, she is quite well, and impatient to
be with you, her daughter is likewise well, and has improved greatly
in her complexion, tho' not much increased in size, however she is large
enough to do her mother credit, and I am told has a most noble
appetite. Mrs. Norton will not deviate from her usual prudence, or
I believe Ann would forego the privilege of being nursed any longer

July 15. 1810.

122



Mrs. Cydca Hoffman

Gen. Locke

