

Philadelphia April 29th 1811.

Once more My Dear Maria I have the pleasure of thanking you for a letter, which I began to despair of ever having it in my power to do again, and had been pouting and complaining like a humoured child who had been long indulged with a favourite amusement - which was all at once with held, without any reason being assigned for the deprivation, and after wearying my self out with expedients to regain my treasure, thought of one neighbour Lister, I went to his father Jefferson, and in the wrathful spirit of the above worthy Gentleman sent you a message by one friend Washington that I would write no more - not doubting that such a penalty would produce the desired effect. Now for the love you bear me let me hear that the message miscarried, or my vanity may suppose that I am indebted to it for your letter, and you know not how impatient that thought might make me. Ann and I are in the habit of comparing notes on this subject she says you are very cautious of exciting any jealousy between us, that you seldom give her a longer one than you send to me, and are very just and equitable in all your dealings, but not quite so generous in epistolary matters as one could wish. However, I am left disposed to murmur at the least. than to be thankful for the present favour, and look forward to the future with a hope of more abundant harvest. Our friend Mrs. Mendith will be in New York tomorrow, and I hope you will see her, she has been about ten days at the Vale, and is a good deal affected at the thoughts of the family leaving it. I received a charming letter from her this morning - there is nothing more calculated to afford a mind of sensibility than visiting a spot, once the seat of hospitality and joy - and to find it spoiled of the venerable and respected host - and every where observing sorrow & desolation.

and mourning, instead of the voice of mirth and domestic enjoyment

I can imagin what her feelings are by my own. for this comparatively a stranger at the Vale, I never felt more Melancholy than in comparing my last, with former visits there. Mrs M's grief for her recent misfortune, are all renewed by meeting with her Mother, and on the spot where they occurred.

You will be quite near neighbours to Mrs Boden when you are fixed in your new habitation, tho you have been so long in the habit of changing your abode every Year, that I fear they may not calculate on long preserving that advantage. Mrs Boden tells me she left you in the bustle of moving hub-bub. It is well Cooked Cooper are not performing in New York at this important moment, or I apprehend your sober citizens would be cruelly beat off the ground. Nothing can exceed the struggling for Boxes the crowding at the doors of the theatre, the peeping for seats, and the delight of the audience - for four successive nights we have been quite deserted, every body gone to the play, and I never heard such praises bestowed on mortal powers before. Sully has made a fine picture of him and we are to have a full length one placed in the Academy of Arts, thus your public honours are decreed to this great actor, a young man of extraordinary talents, who has never been instructed in the art of painting has made several likenesses of Cooke in the different characters, in which he has appeared. he has gained great celebrity from them, and I hear is patronised by the Society of Artists, who mean to send him to England to be instructed by West.

Your account of our dear Eliza grieves me exceedingly. that she is pale and thin, must arise from her being either out of health, or out of spirits, and I greatly fear this spirit of procrastination so much to be reprobated in certain Stomachs like hers, is not altogether harmless. The month of May is close at hand, that season of smiles and happiness and new-born beauty. It seems intended by nature, that all creation should rejoice when she puts on such gay apparel, and sends her fragrance abroad to delight the senses, and all creation seems better to understand & fulfil her intention, than the great

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Mrs Ogden Hoffman

New York.