

Oct 28th 1812 -

We were very agreeably surprised this morning by a visit from our friend Washington. who is making but the stay of a single day in our city. he brought me a message from you, that had you known his intention you would have written. he likewise told me he would call again for a letter - we have lately become such bad correspondents my dear friend, that I feel unwilling to let so good an opportunity slip of thanking you for the above mentioned intention tho' alas, I profit little by it except in the idea that you much often think of me than tell me so - and I hope you sometimes resort to the same consolation respecting your once more attentive friend - I believe all the affairs of life are liable to their ebb & flow, and in matters of this kind we are oblique sometimes to yield to the caprices of feeling -

I had scarcely time to learn anything of your family from Washington but that they were well. our dear Eliza very happy in the maternal character and her husband very proud of his son. George too is going to be married - you will really form quite a respectable family circle. you will feel quite maturely when these children of your care, are settled round you -

we begin to look for the return of our Brother Hyman, the only pleasant change we anticipate in our family. I am always upbraiding my bachelor Brothers for their continuing in a single state, a bad example in the eld's seems to infect them all, and I fear we shall all grow old together in the family mansion. Isabella C. informs me you are about becoming

your daughter. I hope you will become fat & healthy again, and enjoy the approaching season of gaiety. Your husband's absence will make some exertion necessary & I do not know why you should not let society profit something by it - Anne being with you will make the effort more necessary and much easier. I suppose you introduce Mary in society this winter too - what a happy lady you will be in the fashionable world - I hear too, that you never looked better, or were more likely to make the belles jealous by procuring a share of their right to admiration.

Rachel is still abroad, but cannot continue so long - she is in excellent health. Sister Keys devoted to her infant - we shall have two nurseries to retire to for the winter, rather an unusual occupation for old maids. do you not think we are greatly indebted to our sisters - we shall never lose the agreeable & interesting solitude that keeps the female heart gentle and tender. while they continue to introduce young infants to our care -

Our friend Mrs. Grove of Baltimore, is here under the care of Dr. Rush, her health is extremely precarious, a consumption is apprehended and I fear it will exceed his skill to avert it. she is much weaker since her arrival - a voyage to the West Indies is the wish of her husband but the Dr. discourages it lest at this troubled period they might be captured, or otherwise exposed to inconveniences & dangers beyond her strength to bear - she is a charming woman, and bears her situation with a degree of fortitude, even cheerfulness, beyond any one I ever saw; she has one child - a son of twelve years old -

Sally has gone with the ship Ellings to pass the day with Mrs. Keys, or she would send some kind message to you -

Remember me affectionately to Ann & Mary, and your husband, also to dear Eliza and family - embrace your darlings for me and believe me dearest Maria, ever faithfully and affectionately your friend R. G.

Oct 21 1812

Mr. Ogden Hoffman

New York

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