

My Dear Maria

Rachel was yesterday made the happy mother of a fine Boy, and they are both very well. This you may believe has rejoiced us all very much. particularly as her mind had been very sorrowfully impressed with apprehensions lest the calamity her last babe experienced should be visited on this. he is now even in all respects what she wished, and her gratitude and joy is proportioned to the depression she felt previous to his birth.

Ladies are allowed to be fantastical on some occasions, but when they indulge an "evil imagination" to disturb their repose, they are to be pitied as well as blamed. I know you are not subject to weakness of that nature, but if any of your delicate friends should be, you may afford them the benefit of this instance, and tell them besides that she fell down stairs a few months ago with as little injury as the lightest form imaginable could have hoped for. I hope Anne & you, in due season may pass through the trying hour as safely, and I beg you will take good care of yourself during your probation. avoid getting cold at this season, and do not fatigue yourself over much in preparations for the winter, if you were as prudent

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in that particular as you are perfect in other virtues. Your friends
would be too happy in the idea of always being blest with your
society & example - but you continually make them sensible that
the best of human affairs are frail, and liable to change. Sickness
& sorrow is the common lot - to insure the first, you make us heirs to
the latter -

I am vexed to hear Mr. K. behaved so whimsically to you
they speak of your kindness in terms to make one suppose they felt
it, and yet received it so ungraciously. Peggy would have acted differ-
-ently. she is quite unchanged. she passed a morning with us since the
partys return, and related how hospitably you & Anne behaved to them.
James & Andrew also called here the other day. the latter is more
affected, more weak, and more childish in his manners than ever.
I wonder we could ever have willingly spent so much time in his
company. even Peggy seems wearied from Becky. she spoke of the
death of one of her children as a fortunate occurrence, without the
least pity for the feelings of a mother on such an event, and without
adverting to the painful state in which she must have been during
that season of affliction. destitute of the consolations of friendship
in a land of strangers - they never hear from her except through Mrs
Johnson, who informs them of her loss -

Poor Mrs. Moore expired on Sunday morning. her mother &
sister, notwithstanding her long illness, were unprepared for the event
and are greatly afflicted. they have written for her husband and
expel him and Ruth Gibbs tomorrow or Saturday. The wife will be

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Mr Ogden Hoffman

Broad way
New York