

Philadelphia Decr 15th 1815

I thank you, my Dear Maria, a thousand times for the kind letter
received this morning, if it does not relieve my anxiety respecting your
health, it over comes the dreadful uncertainty & suspense your long silence
occasioned, and bids me hope for success to the remedies applied. I do hope
my Beloved friend the skill of Dr Post, his knowledge of your constitution
and the confidence you place on his prescription, are powerful agents in the
hands of Providence. Oh, how joyfully shall I hail the Spring if it realises
the long promised happiness of bringing you to us, and how grateful I feel
at the intelligence that you are trying to take care of yourself thro' the
winter. Dr Chapman said some time ago, from what he would learn, by the ap-
-sentations we were continually making of your symptoms, that you ought to be
confined to your own room, and keep it, in a summer temperature. Dr P.
has no doubt ordered the same, and from the success of that system, in Mrs
Hornes case, I am doubly anxious you should try it. Make a business
of nursing yourself this winter, and your excellent head will be amply
rewarded by the happiness you bestow on your friends and the comfort
you will experience in resuming the charge of your family.

You have no doubt heard from Eliza ere this, and would, much sooner
had she not been under the impression of your being here to read her letter
to me, which was dated 2nd Decr. They arrived the 1st after a very rough, dis-
-agreeable voyage, they were 4 days getting down the Delaware, had a severe gale
off Cape Matherias, and were five days at sea. Eliza was moderately sick
but has not been troubled with her cough since she first got to sea. She was
in expectation of getting comfortable private lodgings with a relation of Mrs
Hollingshead, who was a housewife in the trade Hampton

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and writes in high hopes of receiving all the benefit expected from the
voyage. she says the gardens are full of flowers and fruits, and the trees still
clothed in summer foliage. Mrs Winthorpe of New York was at the same board-
ing house with Eliza, and already so much better as to encourage her friends
with a prospect of her recovery. Eliza is extremely anxious to hear from
you, and applies to me for information, she did not know of our disappoint-
ment. you must write to her my dear Maria, if you can, punctually, but
if writing is any injury, do not write, either to her or me - but get Mr. Hoffman
an to satisfy Eliza, and I will endeavour to get Bella Ogden to let me
know how you are, when she writes. this is apparently making a great
sacrifice, as you know how I value your letters, but it is not disinterested
for you know too how much more I value you. it is only postponing a
pleasure to make it more complete.

how I love your dear little children, and long to see your rosy namesake.
your occupation of school-mistress is excellent, if you are like me, you will
never tire of it. children are very good society. I am never more entertained
than in Rachel's nursery, or when Sister Kay's little girls are with us
in the country they pass weeks at one house, and their reading exercises
are quite as improving to me, as to them. Sarah Ann is a very intelligent
child, and her ideas on every thing new present themselves to her mind, were ex-
pressed with so much freedom & in so natural a manner, that we were
never tired of her remarks. Julia will be this pleasure to you. Geo. is a
little wag, and ^{only} keeps you in laugh, but I hope you will be moderate
even in these indulgences, and not suffer them to fatigue you.

Aunt's little girl was better when I saw her last, but think it
probable she will continue delicate. Ann is not a very good nurse, and
her baby not fond of being nursed. which no doubt keeps her cooped
we do not see them very often, as we keep at home a good deal, and
Ann has been confined with the child. I heard the other day, that



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Mrs. Ogden Hoffman

New York