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My dear Maria

While we were at dinner yesterday our
good neighbour Dr Chapman came in with a letter in
his hand which he had just received from Dr Wilson of
Charleston, the gentleman to whose medical care he had recom-
mended our dear Eliza, the perusal of which has given me
so much pleasure, that I cannot delay one moment to com-
municate it to you. Dr Wilson says she received no injury from
a very disagreeable voyage, that he ^{scarcely} ~~could~~ met with so delicate
a pulse under such suspicious symptoms, that she at present
cannot be said to labour under any fever, her cough by no means
troublesome, and her breathing tolerably easy. he very much
approves the regimen pursued by Dr Chapman which he means
to continue, "under a conviction that more is to be effected by such
a plan than by medicine in the present state of her disease"
from all he says, my dear friend, notwithstanding the caution
necessary to gentlemen of his character in his profession, he certainly
leaves great room to hope for her restoration to health. he further
promises, that nothing shall be omitted in the power of himself
or family to render Charleston agreeable to her & her husband. he
is very much interested for Eliza. & he says implicitly adheres
to every recommendation whether dietetic or medicinal. This letter
is dated December 10th — which is nine days later than my letter.

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I have been anxious to hear from her some time, but know she has so many superior claims, that I do not expect to be often gratified. Gile is not very industrious at letter writing, and I have never had courage to ask such a favor of him.

There has been much talk lately about a marriage, which was to have taken place yesterday. Dr Libecrombie to a Miss Mason, a young girl of 22 yrs of age. his family were in the deepest distress - and his friends as deep in perplexity, and stratagem to break it off. the Bishop's family Mrs Meredith & some other ladies of equal authority undertook the matter and by representations to the Mother of the bride-elect. of the evils likely to result from so disproportionate a match. the injury such an impudent step was likely to produce to his character as a clergyman &c. they succeeded. to the endless mortification and disappointment of the enamoured youth, and adventurous damsel. and the great joy of the poor girls. Betty was quite sick for several days. and I believe had it taken place the family would have been almost broken down by it; as his congregation was completely averse to it. the engagement has been known three months to his family & particular friends but never transpired till lately.

I had a letter from Isabella Ogden last week, she tells me she does not see you very lately, but that Euphemia had. her accounts are not so favourable as I could wish. but I cannot help looking joyfully forward to the renewal of health. now, you are resolved to take good care of your self. shut out from the cold and damp of your pernicious climate. What a happiness might I have the privilege to cheer some of your solitary days! - but my beloved friend, you who submit to so many privations will hardly give me credit for

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Dec 26 1835

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Mrs Ogden Hoffman

New York

