

that your conscience, my Dear Maria, may be perfectly
 easy under the unusual circumstance of your having written
 so soon after the receipt of a letter, I hasten to participate your
 fault and shall read this within three days after your most
 welcome epistle by your husband, who arrived safely with no other
 inconvenience from his journey than one of his usual headaches
 he looked very well, and was in excellent spirits, paid us several
 visits during the day (Friday) dined at Mr Charles Fries with his
 friend Daniel B. and left town yesterday morning with him for Wash-
 ington he told us your cough had been rather worse lately, but does
 not seem to think your health materially injured by it, and as he
 has confided so precious a charge to your own keeping, I know you
 will exercise all your prudence to prove how well you merit the
 trust.

My heart sympathizes in your tender regrets my dearest
 friend, I know they are not indulged without recurring to your conso-
 lations & I pray that the God who has visited you with afflictions
 may sanctify them to you, and turn to you in mercy with seven fold
 blessings.

One dear Sally has been quite indisposed for some
 days. Sleepless nights threaten her with many evils. we have called
 in Chapman who has begun a depleting system pretty rapidly -
 she was very full, looked remarkably well, and has been enjoying
 her usual spirits, but we shall be obliged to reduce her again, to restore
 her rest. she has been twice bled since Wednesday, is dieted and physicked.

She is aware of the necessity of that regimen, and anxious to procure it until it produces the effect. The rest of the family are all well. Mother Elting just recovered from a nervous attack of three months confinement. I shall be very happy to receive the letter you promise but not my dear Maria that I agree with you as to their value to me they are inestimable, and might each cost double - nay three double the worth of the best I could ever need in return -

Humility is an attribute of superior worth I will not quarrel with it in you - because I love all that is admirable in your character -

Give my love to Anna, her attention to you is very amiable, and I have no doubt makes her happy. a representation of kindness always carries its own reward. I have no news to tell you - the city has been very dull this winter. the Death of Mr Dallas for a time cast a gloom on the whole fashionable circle. the effect is now wearing off, but I do not expect much gaiety - the cotillion parties are not well attended & private dances seldom occur. I have been to but one party this winter, and hardly think I shall go to another -

I suppose you heard of the engagement of Miss Bradley & Mr Gibson I believe twenty years ago it would not have created so much surprise but I think it very appropriate. their characters assimilate, and throughout the period when the temple of Hymen is devoted by the rays of hope & the arrows of Cupid, they may still be in time for much rational domestic happiness -

It is reported that Isaac Povel & Elizabeth Phillips are to be engaged they will be a most brilliant pair. well, if I have told you no news you see I have at least entered into the talk of the day. you must

Feb 2 1817

Dr



Mrs. Cyden Hoffman
New York

