

Oct. 20th 1867

I have not written to you my dear Maria, because I have been a good deal engaged, but my thoughts have often turned to you and I have talked about you, with friends who know & value you, so that my separation has not appeared as long as it really is.

Last week John Myers & his parents left us. John had been at our house nearly four weeks, very sick, and as he was obliged to stay at home, my time was taken up, to keep him company. He came from Baltimore with the remains of a fever on him, which so affected his nerves as to alarm us, and induce us to write to his family to come up & visit him. This brought his Brother Saml from Richmond & his Parents from Norfolk. Dr. Chapman attended him and recommended his going home, and if the symptoms did not soon disappear to put him self under a course of Mercury. His father however writes that he is better, but I hope they will be judicious and not, to avoid a severe remedy, permit a worse disease to take too deep root. He has been living in Baltimore two or three years keeps house, and in the solitariness of bachelors-hall, had no one to take proper care of him in his illness. accordingly he did many imprudent things while sick, and lastly traveled in the steam boat to Phil^a with his fever unbroken. the first attack was somewhat similar to his, from his account of it, a remitting bilious but being protracted, affected his nerves, which is always tedious and distressing. I hope however he will soon be well again.

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I have not seen the criticism of Harrington you mention, but con-
-fess myself very well satisfied with the Tale. I do not think she could
have ^{managed} ~~reated~~ her fable better. there was a necessity for some sacrifice of
subjects principal, and we are better pleased it should be kept out
of view & have been made by the parents of Breemie, than by either
her or Harrington. there is a strong instance too of religious Tolerance
in Monteneris educating his daughter a Christian, and in the har-
-mony of their affections towards each other, which contains the
moral she would inculcate in her tale. I think however a more
interesting & natural story might have been produced, in making
the characters of Jew & Christian associate, & assimilate in all the respect-
-ive charities of social life, without bringing the papists into contact
I believe it is impossible to reconcile a matrimonial engagement
between persons of so different a creed, without requiring one or the
other to yield. in all instances we have heard of in real life, this
has been the case, and where a family of children are to be brought
up, it appears necessary that parents should agree on so important
a subject. I have known many Jews marry Christian women, whose
wives have become strict conformists to the rites of one religion -
and, ~~perhaps~~ married to Christians, who have entered the church, as
in the instance of my Aunt Schuyler. one instance similar to Monteneris
I have heard of here, but the parties lived very unhappily. little jealousy
was continually occurring, and at length when the Husband died
the widow & her daughters returned to her family & the synagogue
while the son was put in the navy, and quite estranged from the family.
The poor fellow is also dead, but had he survived the division of interests
and sentiments would have broken up the harmony of feelings that should
subsist between such near relations.

I saw one old friend James Paulding in his way home, he appears to

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Mrs Ogden Hoffman

New York