

Dec 21st - 1817

My dear Mother

I have great pleasure in informing you that our dear Rachel is safely over her hurdle and has a fine daughter. The child was born at nine o'clock yesterday morning and both are well. She had been so long expecting this event that she became very apprehensive of it and suffered a good deal by anticipation but when the time came, she was wonderfully supported, and I believe never had less cause of alarm or less suffering on the like occasion. She is so fortunate as to get her own nurse too. Notwithstanding her great mistake in calculation, the Lady who was to nurse her was the nurses list, came before her and thus left her no room for the good woman's book by which she might be misled. I saw her yesterday. She enquired very affectionately about you all, whom she said she had not heard from in some time. The two children are well - she has very little of her, but she promises when her husband is fixed to come down often. I believe she does not mistake in fashionable fashions or amusements. This

winter. her husband's time is wholly occupied at the bank. We have a great deal of Mrs Powell & Mrs Mont-gomery. who are the rival belles this winter and the cause of many parties. every one admires the former. Mrs M. has long been a general pet here. If Powell really acts as you say, he does indeed derogate much from the character of a man of feeling. Dignity or honor, and runs great risks of making his wife think so. to say nothing of the danger of her happiness in the sacrifice he demands.

It is a very romantic expectation. that the new conjugal tie is strong enough to burst asunder all those of natural affection. and if it were. I doubt much whether human happiness would be much advanced by it. When we read that a man shall leave his father & his mother, and cleave unto his wife. we do not understand that an abandonment of duties & feelings is required. nor can I believe the solitary elevation of rank can make a woman happy. if the dear companions of her youth. and the sister of her bosom are to be held at a distance. When they ~~are~~ come to Powerton which I understand is their intention early in the spring I suppose they can accommodate her friends in the house is large enough.

I hope our dear Charles is advancing in his recovery. and will be able to partake in the home festivities of the season. and I hope you my dear Maria, will consider

James. has so elevated an opinion of our lot - he would wish
his happiness with an amiable woman - and you friend E. joins of
that nature. Adieu my dear friend. Ellen and all the family unite
in affectionate love to you - your husband & children. let me hear from you
soon and believe me always unalloyably yours J. G.

Dec 21

Agnes Hoffman

New York

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