

Saturday Night 26th Jan'y 1868

I am sorry my dear Maria you have heard such exaggerated accounts of me - or have felt the least anxiety on my account. I assure you I am by no means worthy of such care, and tho far less happy than you have known me - am still too sensible of the blessings I possess to mourn with an undue sensibility for the losses I have sustained. It is true my friend, that every day is now freighted with fatal remembrances of the last season, and that I am more than usual ly depressed in retracing the anniversary of days that so materially affected my happiness. I have so many precious records of memory that I cannot efface, because some local circumstance or other has fixed them particularly. But I assure you I do not reject consolations such as you my pious friend would suggest - and am even cheerful sometimes - and always resigned - It is not so easy when the elasticity of youth is gone, to change impressions. I have been miserable and happy in former years. in half the time it now takes to become reconciled to a misfortune. Yet my Beloved Maria, I do not believe, at any time, I have been so

parted with the companion & darling of my infant years
the sharer of every after scene of my life, and the faithful
sympathiser of all my cares, with greater fortitude than
I have done now - When you recollect how we have lived
together - that for some years her state of health made her

so entirely the object of my thoughts - that sleeping
or waking we were never parted - and that now every
object recalls to me all she suffered. and presents to
me her empty place - you will not wonder that the
impression may sometimes be perceived on my countenance.
Yet again I assure you I exert all my reason
and all the strength of my mind to resist depression.

I walk out almost every day when the weather will
permit, and always employ myself when at home -
you could not wish me to go into company with every
feeling adverse to society - except indeed ^{that} of my friends
but in our large family I am seldom left alone - and when
it does so happen I always read or write in order to lose
the solitary feeling which by contrast immediately would recall
the past. I am ashamed to have written so much about
myself but your affectionate solitude has induced it, and
you must pardon me. I wish the season would admit of my
passing part of the period of your husband's absence with you
I was disappointed that I could not see you in the Autumn
but now cannot undertake the journey. Mr Cooper & Ann Neal
Thursday evening with me, both were in good spirits & very
agreeable. Their husbands were here also. I hope the increase of

24 I believe she could make much more important sacrifices with a
better grace than to live in the very retired way Mrs H. & Mary do.

I am sorry to hear Emma Seton has been so sick, but did not know
how seriously indisposed she was, Mrs Barry in a very unbecoming time
and manner across the room at a tea party informed her of it. but
was seemed more struck with the awkwardness & ill breeding of the
lady who thus attracted the attention of strangers than of any thing else
and supposed it only a trifle as she had not heard from the family -

Poor Becky Hamilton! how has she fallen - how unfortunate it is that
there is so little energy in her family - they might surely make some
attempt to withdraw her from such a disgraceful situation, I cannot doubt
her willingness to return were proper means used - in some American
village she might hide her shame, and repent of her guilt, and yet
be admitted to the consolations of religion - before the destroyer comes
and cuts her off from repentance and mercy. I heard she was reduced
to the most abject want, ere she yielded to disgrace - this should open the
gates of ~~charity~~ to her, and induce her family to rescue her from misery.

If ~~she~~ had the common feeling of human nature within
him, ~~he~~ would not abandon her - or leave the country without
trying to bring her with him - You must have been much gratified
to hear from Mr Irving. is it true that he is engaged in the Edinburgh
review? I have no doubt his talents and amiable character will gain
him friends among the learned & good in what ever country he travels.
You have an excellent companion in Mr Beplaw. H. Cooper says
he is very much improved by his travels, and has acquired the only
thing he wanted before - a desire to indulge in conversation - present
my regards to him, and ~~his~~ ^{his} husband is not gone, may my

the aid of society to keep her in spirits - and either from economy
or whim her husband & his mother objected to her going out. one
of his friends remonstrated with him about it & I believe now
they mean to occasionally accept invitations which will have the
good effect of reconciling her to P. and making her home more
comfortable. There is no reasoning you know on matters of taste

best wishes attend his journey. You are such a heart on such occasions
that I shall not offer you condolence. This I know. how you prize
his society - may he prosper in all his undertakings - to reward you both
for these sacrifices. embrace your dear children for me. I rejoice in dear
Charles' recovery. Two long letters in so short a time my dear Maria
will be a tax on your patience. but I am too grateful for the interest
you express to forbear saying how dear to my heart your counsel
is - and how much I shall endeavor to approve my self your obliged
and faithful friend Rly
Ellen Sevier her best love

Jan 24 . 18 18



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Mrs Ogden Hoffman

New York