

we have been trying my dear Maria, which could hold out the longest, and without any merit in the contest. for each I believe has been long tired of the others perseverance. I am almost, nay quite, ashamed to look back on two months silence, and hope to awaken your attention to me, if it is even to a chiding - indeed my own heart has anticipated yours and I fully acknowledge my fault, which has been its own punishment. I met Anna a few days ago in the street with her friend Mrs Gillaspie, and she told me she had lately heard from you, that you had given her all the New York news and what was most acceptable to me that you and all your family were well. I had for sometime before this been tired of our separation, and daily had it in my mind to write but the spirit of laziness was strong upon me, and I felt such a blank of intellect that on the score of justice or charity I had no right to intrude - and so I went on sinning against my own content, till the present movement which has brought me to this confession, and I hope will produce me the happiness of a letter from you in due season -

well, you will ask, and what have you been doing all this time? indeed my friend, nothing that ought to have interfered with your claims upon me. I have been "chewing the cud of sweet and bitter fancy" at home. most generally - have been sometimes engaged with my sisters families - and sometimes trying to be useful among the Aphiims, and have added a new employment to

my usual occupations, in the study of the Hebrew language
A Young Gentileman of good education in the sacred language, lately
arrived here who was desirous of opening a school in the acqui-
sition & applied to my brothers on the subject. There are many
children in our family whose parents wished to have taught
and I proposed an afternoon class at our house, and myself
as a scholar. Elkalah Cohen, Meir & Ellen Hays, and the little
ones to the number of eleven joined us and we have been for
the last month declining persons &c. with as much zeal as
ourselves. our teacher is a Georgian and not sufficiently acquainted
with the English to conduct a large school with facility. but
I expect we shall make out very well, if he continues here
long enough to take us thro' the grammar. he published in Rich-
mond last year a little tract, which you may perhaps have seen
as they were sold ~~for~~ ^{at} some of the book stores in N.Y. called "Elements
of the Jewish faith." if you have not, I will send you a copy when
an opportunity offers. as I think you will be pleased with the
explanations of the Decalogue - and it contains nothing that could
be offensive to you -

What has become of my friend Pella Ogden? she has I fear
quite forgotten me! I have not written to her lately I confess, but she
has been my debtor these six weeks at least - and considering her
usual punctuality this is an alarming symptom - we have been in
great anxiety about our Dear Sue for some days. by the arrival
of a ship from Canton we heard from him, that his health had not
been good, and tho' better when he wrote it was evident he was still
indisposed - some few weeks must still elapse before we can
expect him home - and under these circumstances they appear
more heavy to me than the whole period of his absence -

Rachel bids me send affectionate remembrance to you, she

March 9 1818 / Dr -



Mrs Cydora Hoffman

New York.

