

Most sincerely my dear Maria, do I sympathize in your
 anxiety about poor Mary. her situation is indeed lamentable, but
 I hope not past cure. the presence of her family will raise her
 spirits. you must not ^{allow} yours to despond. in her former confinement
 she was ill, and perhaps her present sufferings may yield also
 to ease & good nursing. It is a hazardous undertaking to sit a
 young and tender family down in a new country. few can bear the
 privations & hardships they are exposed to, particularly in so rude
 a climate as our northern country presents, and under Mary's circum-
 stances they were peculiarly severe. but we may hope her heroic
 sacrifice to a supposed duty will be rewarded, and tho' she may lan-
 guish for a while, be again restored to health & usefulness. You say
 my beloved friend, that you are too much of an invalid to be of much
 service to Mary. you are not apt to complain of your own health
 even when others are concerned for you. I fear the state of your
 mind has something to do with this evil. I hope your additional charge
 of Ann's child does not involve you in too much fatigue. do not
 dear Maria do yourself and all who love you, such injustice as
 to neglect the necessary care of your self. let me hear particularly
 what is the matter with you. has your cough increased? or has the heat
 of this extraordinary season overpowered you - I grieve that you are so
 much alone, and with such a press of care on your mind. we must
 make some arrangement to supply a part of your husband's absence

together. If I come for you, can you not make us a visit? and thus by change of air & scene refresh your spirits & health a little. I know too well how desolate we feel in solitude when our hearts are saddened by losses or anticipated sorrows. but I cannot boast of such a chastened mind as yours. does your Dear Charles's health suffer from the loss of his limb? I have heard Chapman say it frequently produced a contrary effect. and that persons labouring under this privation became more robust and healthy. You feel so much anxiety and regret for his misfortune that it would be hard to become reconciled to it. but my dear Maria, if his constitution strengthens, there are so many means of happiness still within his reach. that you should not lament for him. active life is full of dangers from which he will be exempt and his great fortitude of mind will exhibit itself again, as it did when he stood so much in need of it.

You give me much greater praise my friend, than I have deserved respecting the unfortunate strangers who were with me. and tho' I love your praise with all my heart. I cannot be so unjust to credit myself with any extraordinary merit in what I have done for them. they left us yesterday on their return home. and we are filled with regret at the little probability of meeting them again. they are both amiable, interesting women. the mother is a dignified well-bred lady. who has encountered many trials which she bears with great meekness. she is devotedly attached to her children, and felt most keenly the bereavement of that daughter she had quitted her home ^{to} save. poor Maria was wounded still more deeply. her companion, & sister & friend. was taken from her in a land of strangers and she seemed quite overwhelmed. brought up in the country in the midst of an affectionate family. all her strong affections were centred at home. and this widowed sister who was only a few years older than herself and really a very lovely woman could not fail to be very dear to her.

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Mrs Ogden Hoffman

New York

