

July 12th 1814

I wrote to let you know I was going to Baltimore, My dear Maria, and must now inform you of my return, lest I should be longer deprived of the pleasure of hearing from you. My visit was productive of much domestic pleasure, my cousins family were in the country, and I passed a fortnight exclusively with them, only riding in occasionally to see my friend Mrs Horne, who is at her sisters in the city. her health was not so despicable as I had been led to expect. she was visited by a young physician who discovered the disease of which she was suffering most, was in her stomach, and gave her some medicine which greatly relieved her. she rode out every day and gained strength. While I fear she has the seeds of a fatal disorder, but her life is unexpectedly prolonged and I hope may yet be blessed with the comfort of seeing her husband return, he has been unfortunate in his business abroad. has never heard from him, since her return to America, and not knowing the state of her health, will probably continue abroad to repair his losses. and now my dear friend, let me engage

into your concerns, I have not heard a word about your
health, or situation for many weeks. the last view I had of
you, you were just resting from the labour of moving. not in
my great admiration of your house - was fixing Julia at school
and welcomed Ann, and was too busy to bestow a word or thought
on your-self - I have been vainly engaged also - but am re-
turned to my old occupations and associations, and long again
to recognize your hand writing & affectionate welcome - which
my heart never misses but with regret, nor hails without
joy - I found here Mr. Irving's beautiful little sketch-book
and am charmed to see him once more indulging his love of
home, and sending such a polished little memorial to announce
him among his friends, have you had any letters from him?
James P. and his wife are again in N. Y. I did not see them, James
has twice passed this "Phil" without calling to see me, so I may con-
clude that I shall share the same fate of being forgotten by him
that some of his old friends in N. Y. complain of - he will find ma-
terials in your city for the "Salmagundi", but I fear its revival will
not afford the same entertainment its first appearance did -
he says the times are changed but he is not - I should want
credit in any ones opinion, or in my own experience, on that
subject. few people are so gifted as to resist the ravages of time -
and I think in the pages ^{that} this remark appears, the eye of the
reader may discover some change -

do you hear from Ann? is she pleased with the lake - and
does she & her children enjoy health? how is Mr Rhinelanders?
you see Maria, questions multiply when you are long silent -



X 30
July 12. 1819
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(1814?)

Mrs Cydce Hoffman

New York