

Oct. 25th 1820.

My Dearest Maria

I have been driven out of the lower story of the house completely by some necessary repairs, and have been inhabiting our little library for almost a fortnight. which must be my apology for not earlier expressing my interest in your last communicative letter. indeed my heart most sincerely partook of all your anxieties concerning your Brothers, and I am grateful for their preservation amidst the dangers that surrounded them. Edmund's account is really affecting. we cannot but admire the evidence of an almighty providence, who thus raises up friends and assistants to the destitute stranger in their hour of need, and among them too, ~~or~~ whom we have been too apt to consider inferiors. we had a friend here from Savannah from whom I heard every few days respecting the sick, and was always particular in my enquiries about James. as he has escaped thus long I hope he will be preserved throughout. Mr Henry told me James was doing very well. he is in the Auction business, and his talents well adapted to it. but the situation of Savannah must be deplorable indeed. the inhabitants driven out by fire & pestilence one would think would hardly have energy enough left to embark in any thing like enterprise. Sam Nicholas and his family removed early in the season to a place of safety this is the first summer they attempted to stay in Georgia, & will hardly venture on another. I am happy to hear that Ann is well & satisfied to remain at the Lake. since her husband's convenience requires it. Matilda begins to be companionable, and in the solitude

of their present situation will be society for her mother. Her education must be Ann's chief occupation and amusement.

Cathy Ogden's account of your health, (a subject on which you never dwell) has given me some uneasiness. could you not my dear Maria, try what a visit to Phil^a would do for you in another week we shall be re-instated in our parlour, and the season will be delightful for a journey. it may be of benefit to you, and will rejoice me. we have rarely been two years without a meeting. and I feel as if we ought not to be so long apart now.

Your husband's friendship I always rely on. yet am flattered by the affectionate expressions of it, and treasure them with grate but acknowledgments. What a delightful letter was your last one, every paragraph spoke of some friend who is dear to me, it lies before me like their living portraits of and presents agreeable representations of each.

I find Mr. Irving has published a beautiful edition of his sketch book, dedicated to Mr. Scott. and that it has met with great success in England. I do not think Walsh was the writer of the criticism on the 7th no. published in his Gazette. I do not know what his disposition towards Washington may be, but think he would not come out with such a flimsy review. he has been a good deal galled by the Edinburgh notice of his book, and was silly enough to fill many volumes of his paper in replying to it. but having got this that and one or two of his other hobbies. his paper is again an agreeable miscellany. I suppose you have read the Abbot, and felt a renewal of sympathy for poor Queen Mary. there is a witchery in that character, which presented in what ever position it may produces an effect on ones heart. no wonder then, that Mr. Scott should make a lament so deeply interesting.

OCT 25 1820

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Miss Gatz

Mrs J. C. Hoffman

New York.

