

March 24th 1822

No indeed, My dear Maria, you were not my debtor, nor have been so for two or three months, but your kindness will keep me yours long after I have answered your letter. If you had not said you were interested in my employments I should be ashamed to plead the business of the Asylum, or any other as an extenuation of my neglect to you. This in fact a great deal of occupation has devolved on me in consequence of that unfortunate accident - the Mother has had a severe illness too which obliged me to make a daily visit to her, and what with thanking great & small distant and present donors, providing for the family and legislating about the new Asylum, I have not been a very companionable character, to any one above the rank of poor orphans and their widows. But indeed I have thought a great deal of you, reproached myself for not writing, determined to do so, and for a day or two even thought of making you a visit. But as none of these projects came to any thing more than pleasant day dreams, they might as well have been untold - My brother Hyman expected to have had business in New York ten days ago, and I proposed accompanying him, however his call, depended on the arrival of a vessel from Gibraltar which did not come in season for me to leave home, and now if it does come, I cannot, as the Professor is at hand, be expected to go too, whom it is probable you will see before I shall, in his last letters he

speaks of the probability of coming in the April packet from England, if he can reach there in time for its sailing -

Dr Chapman told me he ^{had} seen you, and tho' he did not give so favorable an account of your appearance as I could desire he assured me you called yourself well. he thought Ann not the least changed, and Matilda a handsome young woman. I have a longing desire to see you all, and while I had such a hope, anticipated it in my dreams, but they were such hurried and unsatisfactory visits that I must petition Morpheus to mend or spare his favors. I congratulate you on the renewed youth & spirits of your husband and ~~was~~ on his return home, with such news of your Brother Perplanché I expected to hear those accounts of him when ever any thing was said. His name occasionally meets my eye in the papers, but I have not seen any of his ~~members~~ reported.

have you received any late accounts from W. Irving? when Mr Strickland left England, he was ill at Liverpool. The death of his brother & sister preyed on his spirits & had produced a severe illness. he told me Washingtons reputation was wonderfully great, & his Sketch book universally read & admired. perhaps his indisposition has protracted the publication of his novel. The Pirate is not as much admired here as the rest of Scotts works. I am told Walsh likes the Spy better, and he is considered orthodox by a class of literate. however I think the comparison unfavorable to our countryman. whose merit is high enough without elevating him to such a dangerous eminence. Ann has the reputation of being the translator of the Recluse, I think you mentioned some other lady. but as I did not know

March 24. 1872

121



Mrs J. B. Hoffman

New York

Rich Knapp

