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I thank you My dear Maria, for your letter, which I have been looking for with ~~some~~ anxiety for some time, as I heard from Ann that both you, and her father were in her debt also. I hope your Eyes grow stronger, and beg you will indulge them until they gain their perfect state of health, it is so rarely you give them a holiday when they are well, that you should remember their faithful past services in their favour, and treat them with all the care due to any other invaluable servant. every other part of your letter gave me great pleasure. the arrival of your Brother Beplank & his residence with you - your dear Charles' restored health - and your own release from confinement and anxiety, with the favorable accounts of the B. family - Ephraim is a good girl, and much attached to you, which is not among the least of her perfections in my eyes. the eccentricity of Mrs M's conduct to me, would puzzle one much more ingenious than I am at solving riddles. She is very affectionate when we meet in Rachel's chamber, which is the only place I have seen her this winter, one day in the autumn she stepped into the parsonage just as Mrs Thays & my self were going to take an afternoon walk. She was going to call on a lady from the country and could not stay a minute, but would come down after her and pass the evening with me, if I really wished it - She did not come however, nor have

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I ever saw her here since - tho' she says she has called sometimes of a morning when I was not at home - notwithstanding this, I am sure her friendship has not abated, and were I to ask any proof of kindness she would not withhold it. but the habit of depending on her is so much broken, that I no longer expect to see her, or think of her society among the pleasures within my reach - such a companion would have been a balm to my broken spirits during the last year. however I have no reason to complain - our family party is large enough, and never were sisters more kind than mine are to me.

Mary Cooper called to see me on Tuesday, she looks very well and retains all her agreeable conversation powers. she has promised to give me as much of her company as she can, and as she is at private lodgings in Sanson Street. I hope to see a good deal of her, the distance is so convenient. Ann went to see her, she has been very little out this winter and except Mrs Townsend & her sister has few intimates. small parties are made for Phillips & her husband being munical, induces her to accept invitations, which I suspect are not so much to her taste as those she has persisted in refusing. her spirits are not high - nor her partiality to Phil - increased by her present mode of life. but I think she looks much better than on her arrival here.

John Hubbard is going to pass some time in Albany. Mr Beplank will I hope render ~~you~~ ^{him} ~~at~~ ^{at} Albany during his absence. To bid me mention that he had sent some papers to Dr Hoffman two or three days ago by a Mr Isaac's which he hopes have been received.

Rachel has got out again, and her little daughter

Jan 22. —

Qm



Mrs Ogden Hoffman

New York.