

Thanks for your letter. My dear Mamma, and the kind wishes it expresses. Our dear Sally is indeed much better than I expected, and a few days will no doubt terminate her confinement. I am sorry I cannot give as good an account of Rachel. Her late affliction preys on her mind, I fear to the injury of her health. She came down to see Sally last evening, but scarcely spoke a word and appeared bowed down with sorrow. I have no doubt however, that a little time will enable her to make those reflections that must not only reconcile, but make her thankful for the removal of her babe. The physicians now say, it would have been a living grief to its parents had it survived, as the natural defect would have deprived it of the power of speech. I most fervently thank God for his infinite mercy in so soon recalling the pure spirit of this blessed child and hope its Mother's heart will soon be healed.

This day the good citizens are to be feasted at a public dinner in honor to the Commodore. I wished the ladies to partake of a private one with us but they decline. I suppose they are willing to see all the bustle of preparation, it is given at the Mansion House where they stay. Mary & Jane called to see us yesterday together and appear to have buried the hatchet. They arrived in town on Sunday evening.

I am delighted to hear my dear little friends talk of me, and that you all are not glad to miss me. I assure you my regrets at the loss of those pleasant, quiet hours we passed together cannot be ^{had} ~~lost~~ among

the more active senses of a busy house keeper to which I am called -
I am almost spoiled in the indulgence I experienced at your mansion
notwithstanding the frequent reproofs for mending the fire as you used to
give. I renewed my cold on the journey and have really felt miserable
since my return. but whether it be indisposition of body or mind - or
a little of both, I cannot tell - but I shall certainly be much happier
when I hear of your husband's arrival - you are so well yet so
uncertain of health. that I am continually fancying the probability
of your committing some little imprudence that may endanger your
safety. That menys sake do not justify my fears - the delightful society
of your interesting little nursery, and the books you have piled beside
you, with pen & paper may afford very tolerable amusement. to say
nothing of your ingenious shuttle & work-box, or if you wish
to diversify occupation. I wish you would sketch a tale of cuts
for the story of Red-riding Hood & the Wolf King which I shall
send by Mrs Cooper. I have applied to a printer to publish it in the
Hale of the Old Woman & Pedlar. Mary Cooper & Stephen Price in their
travelling dress would be good models for the principal characters -
I propose setting myself in my dressing costume for the Grand mamma.

Thinking of the difficulty you experienced while I was with you
of getting good flour. My Brother tells me that Mr Ben Rogers
constantly kept a supply of the best Richmond flour so that you
may obtain it if you can find out his store - I wish I could send
you some of our Brother, and come take one sociable supper meal
in your chamber together - Keep the children in mind of their
Phil^a visit - and do tell me what your husband says about it

(K64-) N.D.

10/2



Mr Ogden Hoffman

New York

