

My dear Maria

I hear Emma goes on Monday and shall get her to take charge of a small bundle of cloths which I mentioned to you last summer, and which forgetfulness has so often prevented my sending you before. I have not seen Emma for a great while and hear from Ann that she thought my behaviour so cool to her when she was last to see me, that she would not come again. This, however is altogether conceit. she felt conscious of having neglected to come so long. that she fancied me indifferent to her visit. but as I know her time has been better employed I am perfectly satisfied it should be so. Her society has wrought a great change in Ann. whose health & spirits are both improved. she has written to Mr Rhinelanders, and I hope he will be prevailed on to accede to the wishes of his friends, and his health be improved by the change.

I am really sorry to hear that you are going to move again. you are so pleasantly situated in all respects, and have such a pretty little garden which you have taken so much pains to beautify, that I could wish you might reap the reward of your labours, and enjoy the fragrance of the flowers you have planted. In days of yore, it was considered a blessing of considerable importance that the husbandman who planted a vineyard should eat of its fruits. but Mr H. seems to be of a different opinion. the charm of novelty is not to be resisted. I hope you will get a house as commodious & agreeable as the one you leave, and as you migrate annually, you had better plant

your garden in boxes that are portable, and carry your sweets along with you. Mr. Beplawke staid two or three days in Phil^a on his way, so we were more fortunate than you thought for, he dined with us twice, and we were much gratified in seeing him.

I have renewed acquaintance with one old friend & school mate Mrs Meade, which is quite an agreeable circumstance to me, and brings many recollections of happier days to my mind. Penelope Parker has been making her annual visit to Phil^a - we accidentally met her & her sister together in the street, and accosted them as their respective conduct required. Mrs M. with civility only P. with our usual intimacy - a few days after, Penelope came to see me, and introduced the subject of our estrangement - and the painful humblity her sister felt on the occasion, she said if her circumstances were different she would make some advance towards a reconciliation. Mrs M. also sent a message by Maria Hays reminding of our school day friendship - which induced Rachel & my-self to call & see her. She has since spent an evening with me, and brought her daughters, who are very charming girls - she told me she saw you at G Kembles last summer. Since her marriage we have never visited before, and I can hardly realize the number of years that have passed away, and the changes they have brought, when I see her so little altered. She is very beautiful and has as much bloom as in her youth -

I was very much shocked to hear of the death of Mrs Dey and sympathize with her poor Mother & family - her loss is an irreparable one to her little girls. She was a most amiable woman & I do not think I ever saw a family more united in affection than they were, or apparently more happy. When you see them remember me to poor Mrs L. & Mr D. and say I sincerely lament

absence - Ellen bids me send her affectionate love to you. we have
been shut up all day by a snow storm, and have only seen the males
of the family. or I should have messages of love from all the houses
for you. Poor Richen has had repeated attacks lately from her little
girl's indisposition. her attacks are very sudden, but happily they do not
last long. she is better again, and we may hope she will continue so
for a month or two, but years may pass away before her constitution
has strength enough to over-come the disease - embrace your child
- run for me, my dear Maria, and believe me always tenderly & truly
your attached Rly

(Feb 14 -) 1833

Mrs. Lydia Hoffman

New York