

It would be unjust, my dear Maria, to allow you to bear all
 the blame of this long suspension when the fault has been mutual.
 I shall therefore confess myself to have been equally remiss and quite as
 severely punished as the fault deserved. It is not becoming such old
 friends to be punctilious respecting the last letter, and among the privileges
 matrimony confers that of taking rank in old such cases is dropped, there-
 fore you are less to be censured for omission than I. Tho I assure you the
 unsettled state of both my internal & external establishment has prevented
 my doing any thing with my usual regularity. I hope we are now getting to rights
 again, we begin to feel at home in the new house. Sally & Rachel are better
 and I trust we shall get along without any just cause of complaint -
 we have given over for the present one visit to Aunt Schuyler which is
 a great disappointment to us, but might perhaps be attended with greater
 difficulties than we are authorised to hazard - Rachel is extremely averse
 to our leaving her in her present situation and Sally's spirits are too much
 weakened to bear such a shock as they would receive in seeing my Aunt in her
 changed state. I have therefore opposed the plan tho in doing so, feel it a
 great sacrifice. our duties sometimes seem to oppose each other but in this
 instance I believe it right to give up a gratification that might be attend-
 ed with evil consequences. I thank you, my dear friend for your kind
 invitation, your house ever appears like a home to me, and when ever
 I could make it so without inconvenience to you it would be my choice
 but in the present size of your family it would be unkind to burden
 you, and if we had visited New-York, we should refuse to lodge there tho
 at all other seasons with you. You will miss our dear Eliza very much
 indeed, tho you cannot be much in want of society with such a household

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I hope Ann is cheerful, and disposed to give you her company she is a delightful companion, present my love to her.

We have removed into a very good neighbourhood, which you know is a rare thing in Phil^a and for persons so long habituated to retirement quite a new one. Mrs. Newbold is our next door neighbour. Mrs. San Raulo & Mrs. Chapman nearly opposite and our sisters Fanny & Rachel so near that no day passes without bringing us frequently together. every house in the squares will bring more formal visitors the more is agreeable as those I have mentioned - It is probable we shall take a short ride in lieu of the journey to Troy, but when or where is uncertain - I wish you could meet us somewhere in a beautiful, pleasant country either in Jersey or Penn^a. Say Bethlehem or Easton - or Schoddy - and appoint the time in this month that will suit your husbands or your own convenience.

You do not mention either of the changes among the marrying belles I hope they will be induced to follow George's wise example - present my affectionate congratulations to George, and say I wish all happiness to him & his bride. I suppose he will make a tour immediately according to the prevailing fashion, and exhibit the object of his choice, he ought to bring her to Phil^a and benefit his old associates by his example, perhaps the change of air would be of use to his own health.

I have a bottle of worm-oil for you, which ~~suits~~ ^{gives} an opportunity to send you, it is so long since you ordered it that I suppose you despaired of ever getting possession, but I hope soon to meet with some obliging hawker who will be willing to take charge of it -

The Woodlands has fallen to James Hamilton among the rest of his father's property - if Poor Bucky could not have it - I do not think it could have been better bestowed in the family - they will all reside there during the summer - never did people put on the semblance of mourning with more joyful hearts -



H. v. Sgden Hoffma

Broadway
New York