

Philadelphia June 29th

Since you commended my punctuality My Dear Mother, I feel strongly urged to preserve it, conscious that there is as little worthy of praise in me, as a correspondent, that it is my interest to neglect nothing, that is likely to produce me the pleasure of hearing from you. particularly when I can, as in your last, recognize the cheerful smile of contentment, which has ever had so great charms for me, in your communications. I hope when you become settled in your little Cottage those importunate interruptions will not occur which has twice robbed me of the treasures you were about entrusting to me. If your chaise within the last week has resembled ours a removal to free country air is "devoutly to be wished for." were it not for refreshing showers with which the day closes, we should be quite suffocated by the heat, particularly as we are still greatly confined in Mrs. Elting's chamber. who is however much better than when I last wrote. We are in daily expectation of the arrival of our Dear Minnie's little Orphans. their Father is bringing them on to see us, I should have let you know of their being in New York but that they are in the whooping cough, and I thought there would be some risk of your sweet George taking the disorder. They arrived in New York from Georgetown last Saturday & left it yesterday. Poor Babies they are young travelers! and fared once too, that early bereaved of a

mother's tender cares. happily they are insensible of their own misfortune. and if any consolation can arise out of so severe an evil, it is that they can never feel the misery of parting.

I am a good deal surprised to hear that Ann is so soon going to leave you. Charles kept the secret so well that we did not suspect any thing of the kind. I conclude that she would have devoted this summer to her Father, who must need the consolations of all his children. and to the memory of Walter, lamented Mahler.

but happy are they, who can employ the short term allotted to human existence. in the pursuit of such attainments as makes life a blessing.

I doubt not poor Ann, must have had many hours of sadness - and many of struggles, as she could consent - and probably has sacrificed her own wishes, to promote the happiness of him, she has promised to love & leave.

You interest me extremely for Washington. I always thought him worthy the pure attachment, of the purest heart, that ever adorned the breast of a mortal! and felt almost a romantic solicitude on that subject. but a richer reward, than any that world could bestow, is given to the angelic being, who here appeared so bright in virtue, and he will I trust be comforted by reflecting that her happiness is complete. and that all she felt of earth-born attachment was his own - I am glad he is going to the country with you, you will cheer each other. his melancholy will yield, to his desire of chasing away every thing like gloom from your retirement. and he will find that the verdant season is full of lessons. He teaching gratitude & sublimity. in the country where Nature's face is full of joy, and the fields & woods

June 24th —

1899(?)

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman

New York —