

Philadelphia July 22nd

Affliction, my dear Maria, draws us nearer to the hearts of our friends, and I claim the privilege of sympathizing in all yours. Mrs Meredith informs me she found you at the death-bed of your venerable parent and also that the good old lady was closing her pious life in peace and trusting to the reward of righteousness in the world of spirits. to you who have so often witnessed the departure of innocent and beloved objects, a death scene has no terrors. and when this excellent woman lays down the burden of life, which she has borne so meekly, however affection may grieve, reason & religion must rejoice that her warfare is over, and her triumph complete. I hope she had the consolation of bestowing on her darling grand daughter her parting blessing, and that Anna's presence may console her father for this deprivation.

I saw by the paper that your brother Edward had arrived from New Orleans. My man came about a week after him, and Ben brought his wife and son nearly at the same time. so I have quite a family gathering, and have only to regret the absence of Jo, who sailed about the 1st of July for Gibraltar. I wish my dear friend I could introduce you to my new sister, because I am sure she is a woman you would esteem & admire. she has a fine mind highly cultivated, and her manners the natural overflowings of good feelings & good sense. many of our friends think she resembles our dear Harriet, but I can perceive no other similarity, than delicacy of complexion & softness

in the expression of her eyes - she appears to be perfectly happy
and to make my brother so, and she is gaining the hearts of all
his friends. I was gratified to hear my brother confirm the good
accounts you gave of Edwards' success in business and as he has conquered
the difficulties of climate hope his residence may be as pleasant as it
is profitable, James' society will add to his comfort. I heard some
time ago that William McCole had been there with some intention
of moving his family to N. Orleans. you knew his wife as the beautiful
Harriet Fitzgrees they have resided in Easton. ~~first~~ fine farming
a slow way of getting rich they have a large family too Mrs McCole
is very delicate, and has lost her beauty. I should not have recog-
nized her again, had I not seen her with some of the family.

It is a bad plan to take a city belle into the country - they make
out badly in the roughness of a farm house - and lose the graces
without acquiring an equivalent. but the lady in question has
always been a most exemplary wife - submitting to fortune's buffets
and retaining all her sweetness of character.

I am really rejoiced that Ann is coming back into the world.
I hope she may be happy with you, until she journeys south.
Charles has been reveling in the favors of the Richmond circle -
and is quite a fashionable man - and Ann's arrival greatly brim-
ing the reputation of her agreeable talents has procured her
which she will no doubt justify & extend. his long residence
there without her, is a subject of much wonder & animadversion -
the dear little girls must be quite companions for their mother.
I shall be delighted to see them all - I have always loved Ann
sincerely, tho' she did not always believe it.

as my wishes & feelings respecting Eliza Rodman are similar
to those you express for her & yourself I hope it will not be long before
they are realized. you must bring her to Phil^a when you make
me so happy as to bring yourself - or I shall claim her friendship
should fortune first appoint our meeting in New York. I have so

July 22 — (1892)

Miss Grady

Mrs. J. C. Hoffman

New York

