

I am ashamed to hear My dearest Maria, that you have been to Moses' to enquire about me, when I am your debtor for a charming letter, and have neither the plea of bad health or bad spirits to excuse my remissness. but I have been very busy and very stupid which perhaps would do as much to wear a correspondence tho not so much to excuse it. I was however glad to hear you had been out, for this two fold reason, that it is a proof you are well - and tho' I do not deserve it, that you thought of me. I went down this afternoon to see our old friend Betty Jones, who is come to pass the winter in Phil^a - she is sadly altered from the beautiful blooming girl, who used to be so much admired, and as we see one or changes, in the looks of our contemporaries I feel quite like an old woman this evening. I drank tea at Sister Hays' with Ann & Emma Seton & they have promised to meet here on Thursday Evening. Emma has not been as sociable as I expected, but I am a dull companion & Ellen's absence takes away the only inducement she could have to come frequently here. Maria is not so gay, nor so well acquainted with Emma, but she is a very sensible cheerful companion, and greatly beloved by those who best know her. I am quite charmed with your account of Eliza Rodman, am glad you have such a companion. The letter you read me from her, prepared me to hear a favorable report of her mind and heart, when I recollect how fondly our dear Samuel loved her I rejoice that she has grown up so worthy of her partiality, and that the loss she sustained in her infancy has not maimed the person.

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mise of her tender years. She has no female friend to guide her but
you my dear Maria, and you no doubt feel interested in her situation
What are Mr R's situation & prospects. I believe he had not succeeded
in his expectations abroad;

You can hardly have heard from Edward yet - but I hope you
have become reconciled to your separation from him. It is so natural for
young men to desire to travel, that I think it fortunate when some
object of business can be combined with it. When will I expect to be satisfied
with a winter tour, I find by his letters that he has gotten over the
enthusiastic notion that the western people were all heroes, and the
country a Paradise - But he let the young men crazy after that
territory. but I believe experience will bring them back to their senses
it is not considered healthy, and many who went from here have
returned with much the same feelings. Wittington came back from
London -

We have had a pleasant winter thus far - so pleasant that I almost
think you might venture on a journey and come pass the time you has
banded will be abroad with us. if he goes to Washington this winter you
can accompany him this far. and as two of my brothers talk of going there
also, our two families combined will not be larger than one, when all its
members are at home. I do not offer this as an inducement, tho' perhaps it
arises in the selfish desire to have as much of your company to my self
as possible. I am glad to hear you have been tempted to the Theatre, I think
we should endeavor to conform to the wishes of our friends even when we are
obliged to make a small sacrifice of our own, and as a good wife, you could
not resist your husband's wish. we are not likely to have this phenomenon
here, as she has rejected Mr Woods offer of an engagement, and he has
such good houses without her, that he will not be likely to bribe her higher.
I saw very little of Mary Cooper - I did found her as agreeable and
interesting as usual. they have purchased a house at Bristol and are

to see Washington, where he had never been before - Adieu, my beloved friend,
May the New Year bring you hopes of health and happiness - present
my love & best wishes to all your household - including E. R. and take
the choicest to you self from the heart of your Rly

(Dec 29 - N.D.) *DR*

Mrs. Cyden Hoffman

New York

