

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman**

**January 11, 1807**

Philadelphia January 11th. 1807

How joyfully did I again recognize my dear Friend in her affectionate letter, and gratefully my love, does my heart reciprocate all your good. kind wishes \_ You are happy \_ and to pray that heaven may continue to you the blessings you possess, is all that your friends need ask, and that the [fruition?] of years may still keep pace with the realization of your hopes & wishes respecting your beloved children is perhaps all that an affectionate heart [could] add, this and all other happiness I ardently wish Maria, and yet think not I ask for one enjoyment more than she merits, (even weighing in the rigid scales [that] in which poor mortality is scann'd ) her [desects?] \_

I had really begun to feel quite restless under your long silence \_ but am sorry to find you had such good reason for it \_ hope your children are entirely recovered \_ I am delighted to hear your sweet Eliza inherits your whim of loving Betty Gutz encourage the little innocent in imitating her mother in every respect \_ and it will not be difficult to make her, the very thing you wish her to be by & bye \_

we have been entertaining to-day a charming girl \_ from Mrs. Grelands boarding school. Miss Caton who with C Nicholas joined our family party. the latter seems affected by a sympathetic sadness I never saw him look more gloomy than within the last week \_ which however he attributes to the feverish effects of a cold \_ Sister Hays for the first time this winter passed the day with us \_ her children and her self have constantly been sick \_ but I now hope her short respite [end of page]

will be less fatiguing \_ next month she expects to pass in her chamber our city is not so gay as yours, we have not had one private dance yet \_ but tea parties without number \_ we have been at three within the last week, but not such as used to give such a terrible name to Phil\_ tea-parties \_ they are more sociable & of course more pleasant \_ our theatre too is much improved \_ we have admirable singers, and it has become the most fashionable & agreeable place of amusement \_ you will scoff at the tardiness of our gentlemen when I tell you they have just called their first meeting & chosen managers for the City assembly \_ but such things are not of so much importance to me, as they used to be, and unless to accompany some stranger or other, I do not think I shall go to an assembly this winter \_ the Cotilion parties are much better suited to my taste \_

I am much obliged to Miss Ogden for her distinguished

remembrance of me, and I beg you will request Eliza to assure her of my very grateful acknowledgment \_ to be thought well of by Miss O \_ I consider a high compliment and shall be very happy on some future occasion to endeavour to deserve it \_ but my dear Maria do not think my vanity can keep pace with the extravagance of your New York beau who e'er he may be \_ that seems to have been conning over fine speeches \_ which perhaps common sense told him could not be offered directly to any Ladys ear without danger of offending her \_ and there fore (rather than lose them quite) took the opportunity you mention, of saying them for me, \_ tho it may be \_ he scarcely knows me \_ for if he did \_ his sincerity would have blushed at it \_

the kind things you say \_ are still more flattering, but all women love to be flattered, in some way or other \_ and such words  
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from you, are sweeter than honey \_ [even than] the honey comb \_ " it is what Moore calls \_ "a smile from the heart, that is dearly our own." I wrote lately to my dear Harriet, but I fear she will not tell me I was welcome to do so \_ she will however accept my affectionate love, at least she ought to, for it is sincerely hers \_ tell dear Eliza Ann & Matilda, we talk of them every day \_ and love them most cordially \_ I hope Ann will recover her bloom \_ and cheerfulness and be as happy as she is lovely \_

What is the matter with your favorite Washington? I [hear?] he was dejected and in bad health \_ "does he pine in [secret] & let the green & yellow melancholy prey on his cheek"? or is [the] fell & lurking enemy \_ which is said to make such [dessendence?] in your climate undermining his constitution, I should [be?] among his lamenting friends if any serious calamity [...] but as report \_ generally makes bad, worse \_ I hope it has [...] so in this instance \_

Poor Malbones Death, has also been rumour'd [here] I pray it [may] not be true \_ but his long illness, gives such a colour to it that I fear to enquire, lest it be confirmed beyond doubt \_ what a loss, such talents so [early cropt?] would [be?] to his country \_ to his family \_ his private worth was above all estimation \_ \_ yet as it is the general doom \_ all must submit \_

My Mother Sally & Rachel send you their affections \_ & love, in which all my brothers unite \_ to write their messages separately would take all my paper \_ we all wish to see you here again; when does your husbands business give him the opportunity of bringing you here? he talked of a Baltimore jaunt I wish he would hasten it \_ give my love to him \_ and I pray you My dear Maria, write more frequently to one who is always most truly & fondly yours

RebeccaG

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman  
No. 68 Greenwich Street  
New York