

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman**

**January 18, 1807**

Philadelphia Jan. 18th.  
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My Dear Maria

When does your husband go to Albany?  
this enquiry I was requested to make by my Brother a week ago, but have been so engaged that I absolutely never thought of it except at such times as it was not in my power to do it \_ and as I expect you will soon send me an answer, I shall take the Opportunity of troubling you with a letter \_ I am in despair of ever regaining Harriet as a correspondent \_ yet do not threaten you with having your number of letters doubled on that account. any more than I would tax your Affection for all I may lose of hers \_ if we ever meet again I hope I shall be able to reinstate myself \_ and in the mean time, you may tell her I shall not abate one atom of the tender affection I bear her, so, as there should not be too great a disparagement between friends I beg she will not take many steps towards forgetfulness or indifference \_

We were Yesterday made happy by the birth of another Son to our Sister Hays. she is (thank God) well. and much gratified at the sex of her new-born \_ She now counts a half dozen, and is not a little pleased to tell she has boys \_ our Mother, who you know [end of page]

is one of the best in the whole world, is still with her, she generally passes the first night in her daughters chamber \_ but this time from some mistake of Mrs. H \_ is obliged to perform the nurses part \_

Have your children entirely recovered? and is their mother at liberty to be as dissipated and as fashionable as she pleases I hear nothing of New York this winter, except now & then a stranger speaking of [Ann] or Matildas beauty \_ Mr. Thomas saw Ann at the assembly, and spoke highly in her praise he also mention'd that she had a bad cold \_

give my affectionate love to her, and tell her I should be rejoiced to receive a letter from her once more \_ I heard the other day that she would accompany Gertrude Kemble on a visit to Phila. in the Spring. if she does tell her we hope she will come to her old home & friends more affectionate welcome, she could not find any where \_

We go bustling through the winter, in what the world calls gaiety \_ that is Tea Parties and Balls three or four evenings in a week but they are not to me what they used to be \_ anticipated with delight for a week \_ and then enjoyed with a zest of true

pleasure, however the fault is in my self \_ novelty is a charm  
which vanishes in youth \_ and those enjoyments which depend  
upon it cannot long survive \_

Sally & Rachel send you their affectionate love the latter is  
well, again, she has been quite ill of a cold \_ for which she was bled  
last week, and confined several days to her room \_

Do you ever see any of the Moses family \_ I believe Mrs. Levy  
[end of page]

is more domestic than ever, I very seldom hear from her \_

Peggy Hamilton is entirely recovered from that dangerous  
illness, she goes out and looks as well as ever \_ Becky secludes  
herself from company \_ that is she refuses invitations to private  
parties \_ or public dances \_ but is very constant in her visits  
at the Theatre, and as gay as usual \_ the present meteors in  
the hemisphere of fashion are two British Officers \_ men of  
noble blood & fortune \_ who have been dazzling the Baltimorers  
a while, and I suppose will proceed on to astonish you. their titles  
Col: [..ke] & Major Tucker \_

[Tell] my dear Eliza I have a thousand times [thought] [of?]  
[writing] to her, but have been deterr'd from the fear that she [would?]  
reject so dull a correspondent \_ if she is willing to undertake it, let  
her tell me so under her own hand & seal \_ and I engage to do  
my best \_ my love to her & Matilda, and to your excellent  
Husband, tell him on Wednesday Evening I helped one of his old  
friends to praise him, beyond all rule or measure \_ Mrs. Bronson  
formerly Miss White \_ and our Admired Mrs. Colden came in  
for her share \_

Remember me to your Sister Mrs. Seton \_ kiss my Sweet Eliza &  
Charles for me \_ and believe me always my very dear Girl  
your most sincere & Affectionate friend  
Rebecca Gratz

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