

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

March 7, 1808

Philadelphia March 7th. 1808 _

You must not imagine My dear Maria from the irregularity of my letters that there is any deviation in my feelings. knowing it would be impossible intentionally to neglect you, I am sometimes careless of the appearance of it _ and really the length of time your last letter remained unanswered was frequently a reproach to my conscience. altho I feel truly grateful for the kindness which breathed thro' every line _ Jo entertained us with many anecdotes of your sweet children, and from Bella Ogden I have also heard of you, she has become quite charmed with Eliza and from her intimacy with her, I suppose has gained something of E-s favor. which I expected would be the case if ever you had an opportunity of knowing her well _ Mrs. Meredith is one of my best friends, and my intimacy at her house has introduced me to most of her family. who all possess great goodness & worth, Caroline is a charming, unaffected girl she has been spending the winter here _ and has continued to make herself so universally a favorite in our house, that I believe we are as unwilling to part with her as even her sister _ Mrs. M frequently reverts to the period of her fondness for you, and as we both love you indulge many an hours chat together, on a subject so interesting to both. Mr. Abercrombie too adds his [testimony], and on some occasions has produced your letters when he thought they would do you more justice, than his own praise _ I wish we could once again have you among us _ let me know when next you write, if such an [end of page]

exertion might not be made, when your husband returns from Albany. and before the summer commences.

I see Harriet still courts the muse, a few days ago we got some beautiful lines from an Albany paper [of] her writing. and as it is a great while since has written. they seemed to stand in the place of a letter. and assure me of her health _ but you have I suppose much later information. does Mr. Rodman mean to continue in Albany? the times will effectually prevent his renewing the scheme of leaving America _ our Merchants begin to experience the fatal effects of the political state of the country, on their fortunes & pursuits _ yet I do not find that it has made any difference in the fashionable world _ parties & balls are as frequent as ever, and the Theatre well attended _

we lament the [decease?] of the Salmagundi how came you to let it die, when it appeared to have attained new vigour? _ it is a pity so excellent a paper should be given up _ when our

literature has so little to boast of _ the PortFolio grows languid
its correspondents are small in number compared with what it
has had _ and Mr. Dennie, himself not very industrious _ but
I believe you will not feel much interest in this communication
and I have nothing new _ but I promised to write, and after
so long a delinquency. I [am?] resolved to show, that my promises
are still held sacred _ present me affectionately to the dear Girls
I hope they sometimes remember their old friend
_ tho I never hear from
[end of page]

either of them. Eliza has not much to occupy her time _ and might
now & then bestow an hour on me _ tho' really I have become
a stupid correspondent and quite unfit to divide the attention
of the happy & gay.

embrace your sweet children for me _ my little nephew Horatio
is the image of your Eliza, and about the age she was when here _
he constantly reminds me of her _ being as fond of mischief _ and
as diverting _ as she used to be _

My Mother Sally & Rachel desire me to say how much they
love you _ believing you require no such assurance from me _ I
shall only pray for your Happiness _ and subscribe My [...]

My dear Maria's most sincere & affectionate
Rebecca

[Address:]
Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
Broad Way
New York