

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

May 2, 1808

Philadelphia May 2nd. 1808 _

I will endeavour for the future, to give less credit to common report, and yet my dear friend, you know how difficult it is to moderate ones anxiety when those we love are so much concerned. Your letter delighted me, for I feel that my hopes are easily raised to my wishes, and our dear Harriet has so frequently been [restored] from an almost despairing state of weakness that I hope she may yet be spared to us for many years.

The Drs. account is encouraging _ but tho he gives us every thing to hope _ the utmost care must be taken to preserve her from the frequent changes of weather, to which the climate of Albany & New York are incident, I wish your plan of a voyage to sea could be effected _ I am ashamed to importune you, who are so good and indulgent to all my requests _ but when you have recovered from the fatigue of moving let me hear how you are, for tho' Harriet is an object of more immediate solicitude _ you My Dear Maria occupy many of my anxious thoughts _ Rachel has followed your advice I hope you will soon follow her example _ her boy is weaned _ Dr. Kuhn says there is no time to be lost at this season _ summer is so near [end of page]

therefore do not delay _ It is probable your little Edward will be benefited by it, I hear he is the most beautiful child in the world. Mrs. Ogden is here & the Col., on a visit to their daughter _ they also mentioned Harriets great anxiety to be with you, and the probability of her embracing the first opportunity _

What is Ann about? the world talks of her intimacy with Cooper, I know how little credit is due to scandal on this subject _ at least, on what slight grounds rumour has gone abroad concerning him. and I wish for some authority to contradict what I have heard of ann _ He is a dangerous man for an acquaintance, because he has been so universally admired, and few are able to distinguish, or at least draw the line between [what] is due to the Actor _ and what to the Man _ Ann may be innocently condemned, & I have no doubt is _ but "Ceasars wife must not even be suspected" I have mentioned this to put her on her guard as even a pleasant acquaintance had better be given up than she incur reproach _ excuse the freedom I have used on this subject my dear Maria _ I believe the motive is a sincere regard for Ann _ if her feelings will be wounded by my observations, conceal them from her, and destroy the letter, that no chance may throw them in her way. to you I am accustomed to [write] of whatever dwells

on my mind, & this has given me much concern _

Have your children escaped the Measles? which I am told are as
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prevalent in New York as here _ where almost every family have
them, ours have not taken them yet but they are [of] so mild
a kind that I think it is rather to be wished for than dreaded _
Mrs. Hopkinson unfortunately had her infant inoculated for
the small-pox while it had the infection of the measles but before
any symptoms appeared _ the poor little creature suffered dread-
-fully with both disorders for almost three weeks _ & then
expired _ the [rest] of her family affected only with measles have
all recovered _

Remember me very affectionately to Ann & Matilda _ and
your Husband _ embrace your darling children for me _ [...]
[accept] the best love of my Mother & the girls _

Adieu My Beloved. believe me _

ever most truly your

R. Gratz

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman

New York