

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

July 24, 1808

Philadelphia July 24th. 1808 _

I am indeed, my Dear Maria, rejoiced to hear that you have received a letter from Rodman, and tho' I most sincerely sympathize in his sorrows, the account you give is much more gratifying, (as a proof of his sensibility _) than had it represented him happier. Poor Fellow! he has indeed cause to mourn! every day, & every year of his future life, will but make him more sensible of his loss. for in this world there is no other Harriet! the cares of the world might have pressed heavy on him, but while she was there, despondency could never enter his bosom _ If there is a place of rest yet left for him, it must be in your society. you will cherish each other, for the sake of her who loved you both so well, and if we may presume, that her sainted spirit, still, has a concern in the things passing below _ it will make his bliss more perfect, to see you living in fraternal harmony together. when you write again present me affectionately to him. I am glad to hear that I possess his esteem _

In my last letter I mentioned that I had not seen any of the Hamiltons & expressed some degree of mortification at their apparent neglect. This was judging, as we are too apt to do from appearances, without any consideration for the private feelings or circumstances that might influence them
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Yesterday Peggy came to town on her way to the Shore, and as from what we had heard they were in some trouble, Sally & I went to see her, she is a mere shadow of her former-self, her spirits sunken with her strength, and so wasted, that you would scarcely recognize her; she gave us a sad account of poor Becky whose long engagement was last week dissolved _ we know not why, or how _ she communicated it to her family without assigning any cause, & I fear will fall a victim, to disappointed affections. she neither sleeps, nor eats, is at private lodgings in the country, with no companion but her maid, and refuses every other, alledging that her greatest wish is to be alone.

Mr. Powel has, I suspect, acted a villains part. he saw that she loved him, that her whole dependence for happiness in this world rested [in] him. and satiated by a conquest so completely won; his ~~light~~ [fancy] love declined _ his neglect has long been a topic of public conversation, but her confidence in former professions of ever-lasting faith kept her blind to this unwelcome truth. the charm is now broken, and

with it I fear all her hopes of happiness on earth! _

A few years retrospection, My dear Maria, and what a lesson for human pride, does the picture of this unfortunate girls life present, _ see her entering on her career, with all the high hopes and elevated station, fine understanding accomplishments, the admiration of the world, and a constant flow of spirits, with a benevolent heart, could
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command _ a few years of unsubstantial pleasure has glided away, and left her a poor wreck, of what was once so lovely. with more misery in her heart, than she has strength to bear _ of all disappointments, this is the most severe death of friends is an evil, which nature inflicts, and nature sustains us through, but the treachery of a lover, after so long an attachment. is a shock which I think she never can recover from. his death would have been less [severe];

I was just interrupted by a visit from William Blodget who made many enquiries about you, he has just returned from a two years voyage, much thinner than he used to be, and with a southern complexion, instead of the rosy cheeks and fair forehead he took away. but he is still handsome, has [fin...?] and a manly, honest countenance, which can never [fade?]

let me hear soon again from you, while your dear Boys are unwell, I shall be anxious to know more about you, so you must make up your mind to bear with my unreasonable desires, you have allowed me a sisters claim on you, and my heart can not withdraw its tender interest from any of your concerns _ Sally & Rachel are sitting by _ and send you their most cordial love. my mother bids me give you hers _ and I beg my dear Eliza & Matilda to accept mine, Is Ann at Rockaway? Adieu my Beloved, may God Bless you, and all that is yours, prays most sincerely

Your Affectionate RG

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let me again entreat you to write soon, I do not expect now to go to the shore, and shall try to regain my strength by changing the city for that of Germantown _ Keep a good heart my love, for your protégés there is a sweet little cherub, will make them its care _ Adieu

God Bless you _

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Monday

My Brothers Hyman & Ben will be the bearers of this to New York but I fear will not see you, my Dear Friend they are on a long & pleasant jaunt, to Boston, the Springs, and most probably the Lakes. indeed I should not be surprised to hear they had extended their journey as far as the

Falls of Niagara _ this is a tour I should have liked to join their party in, but, as woman seems so great an incumbrance that I would not speak my wishes, and indeed I believe, if it was not for the above objection I should rather have spoken in behalf of Sally, who has been so much more at home, than my self _

[Address:]
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Mr. H. Gratz