

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

January 15, 1809

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You must think me a most unconscionable being, my Dear Maria, not to be satisfied with such letters as you send me. Your apologies, make me ashamed to apologize for the returns I am obliged to make _ and were it not for the kindness with which I know you view every thing of mine I should not know how to improve such dull replies to your sweet letters as my dull senses can alone dictate.

Rodman spent last Evening with us, and told us he should leave town to day. his presence brings such a crowd of painful recollections of past pleasures that I know not whether happiness or misery were the most [predominated] sensations his friendly visits excited. the weather will probably detain him in town to day. but it will likewise prevent our seeing him again _ he gave me those little pictures, the last effort of our Beloved Harriets taste, which tho' I value very highly _ I [shall] hardly have resolution to open. he saw Mrs. Wheaton and was much gratified by her attention, from the accounts he gives her husband has greatly reformed in his conduct towards her. but you
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will probably see him as soon as you get this, and he will tell you all about it. which will no doubt induce you to write to her _

we received a letter yesterday from Aunt Schuyler, which has made us very uneasy, her health she says is quite gone she has been five weeks confined to her bed, her spirits are likewise very bad and the distance which separates us seems to make it impossible, under present circumstances that we should have it in our power to mitigate her suffering. if she was with us we might perhaps by [...?] & good nursing restore her. but we seem doomed to suffer, in those most dear to us _ God Grant she may recover! _

I hope all your dear children are well. I hear little George is not to be surpassed in beauty, Rachels daughter is thought to look like you. and her mother is not a little proud of the resemblance. she is a sweet little girl, but does not yet attempt to rival Isaac _

Give my best love to the Girls, I have not seen Charles N for six week, he seems to have forgotten us. Is there any period fixed for his becoming one of your family? I think with great pleasure on the prospect of Anns being a resident of Phila. _

Your old friend Kitty Clifton is going to be married, to a Mr.

Prevost. a young man of great respectability.
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the girls beg me to present their best love to you. Rachel is daily becoming more delicate, she has been quite unwell for some time. and is still a patient of Dr. Kuhns _ her disorder arises from weakness of the stomach, brought on, by loss of appetite & nursing, and is attended with a good deal of pain _

What kind of a nurse are You? I hope my love, you will be attentive to your own & your child's good in that particular if you are unable to afford him sufficient nourishment, I pray you, get a woman to assist you _ it is necessary to establish a strong constitution for your boy. this is a mother's [first?] important duty.

I have no talent for letter writing this morning but my heart's best love awaits you, excuse the style in behalf of the sincerity with which I am ever My
Beloved friend. Your
RGratz

Mr. Etting received a letter a few days ago from F [Johannett?] mentioning the death of Poor Sally Williams she was married to a second husband, I believe happily _ she died of the fever, after ten days illness _ poor Girl! her short life was full of trials vicissitudes & privations. but she is early promoted [beyond] the reach of sorrows _ you will lament her departure, as one of your early friends _ adieu _

[Address:]
Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
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