

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Gratz

February 26, 1809

Philadelphia Feb: 26th. 1809

What you conjectured on a former occasion, has indeed come to pass _ and, "what can be the reason we do not hear from Maria?" is reiterated twenty times a day _ in the tones of disappointment, anxiety, or impatience _ since your husband's return we have never heard a word about you, except from report and I have began my dear Friend to feel quite deserted, If I were not conscious that my letters now are dull & uninteresting, I should have impo-rtuned you many times during this long interval. but hoping daily to receive a letter, I have daily postponed to write _ until the fear of being quite forgot has overcome my reluctance to complain,

William Nicholas arrived last week from Albany, and brought me a letter from Rodman he writes in a friendly, agreeable manner, except on one subject. that of the miniature now in my possession, he tells me, he has heard of some observation made by Mr. Moses respecting it, which is very wounding to his feelings, and requires me to forward it _ I am extremely grieved at this circumstance, as it will sooner deprive me of this precious loan. and as it regards his feelings _ I do not know what the observation is, to which he alludes, or where he heard it. You know Mr. M. has long wished to possess this picture, but I never heard that he had [end of page]

expressed this wish to any one but our selves, The copies that have been made of it, by different painters, has given him great offence and I think it probable, he may have said something on that subject which, reaching Rodman's ear, has occasioned the uneasiness he expresses in his letter. If you heard him speak about it while he was in New York, I wish you would let me know what observation he alludes to, and also what impression it made upon him _

I am sorry he values the picture so highly, for he makes me guilty of breaking the tenth commandment. I cannot help covetting him the possession of it _ It is a delightful resemblance of Rachel, as she was in the days of her youth & gaiety, and it brings so many happy recollections to my mind, that it is really a treasure to me. she is now so thin, care-worn, & melancholy. that, (like my own feelings) she retains but little of the spirits of former times.

My poor friend Peggy Ewing is again reduced to the brink of the grave. I believe, I mentioned having received a very affectionate letter of condolence from her some time ago. her health was then in a declining, languid state. but with her usual cheerfulness she seemed to defy the encroachment of pain, to rob her of her [equanimity]

of spirits _ she is again attacked with chills & fever _ night sweats & raising of blood _ and I fear will ere long fall a victim, sweet interesting patient sufferer! her path has been thickly strewn with thorns in this world. disappointment & death have torn from her the friends & relations most dear to her heart. and the chill hand of adversity & dependence, robed her of those fair prospects which bloomed
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on her youth _

Sally & Rachel beg you will accept their most affectionate love the latter is as thin as you were when you nursed Charles _ she is not well, but within a day or two has taken to drinking porter which I hope will have a good effect. her little girl is very beautiful, she grows finely, and retains her resemblance to you.

Tell the Dr. Girls I love them very affectionately _ and wish they would sometimes think of me, and tell me their thoughts _ from Charles we sometimes hear of Ann _ when I last saw him, he told me she should be journeying Eastward in about ten days. remember me to Washington, and James P _ Jo is in Washington city by this time _ and I expect will be absent a month. the rest of my brothers desire you will accept their affectionate [...]

[...] embrace your dear children forme, give [...]

your husband _ and accept dearest Maria, [...] & sincere

affection of Your faithful

RGratz

Do let me hear from you soon.

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman

WallStreet

New York