

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

March 7, 1809

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My Dear Maria

We are greatly distressed at the accounts of our dear Matildas illness. I have thought of nothing but her, since I heard of it, your letter alarmed me. but I was quite indisposed my self and not able to write yesterday. Mr. Hoffman's letter has however put all my pains & weakness to flight, in the consideration of the greater evils which impend over my Beloved Friends, God in his Mercy will I trust spare the dear Girl to You, for a Blessing _ she has ever been deservedly your darling. and my heart is cheered with the hope that her existance will be preserved to fulfil, the promise which her early virtues hold out to her affectionate parent. The mail arrived so late to day that I had not time to tell you how sincerely I partake your sorrow. or how earnestly I hope & pray for her recovery. I sent immediately to inform Charles N_ and expect he will be the bearer of this, his presence may be consoling to Mr. Hoffman, tho' I trust he will be relieved before he arrives. her Youth, and patient disposition are greatly in her favor, and the affectionate attendance she receives will keep her mind from despondency. who are her physicians?

I know my Dear, you cannot avoid a large share of fatigue, your feelings & inclination will keep you at her bedside
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but I beg for your infant's sake that you will endeavour to keep up an appetite, and a tolerable share of composure, which you know are indispensable as a nurse _

Wednesday

Mr. Hoffman's letter My beloved Maria, has brightened my hopes. God is merciful! and will listen to the prayers of the afflicted May our Dear Matilda soon be restored to reward the anxious sufferings of her tender Parent. I am quite grieved at her Fathers misery. but hope tomorrows letter will be written in greater confidence

Charles I find does not leave town until Tomorrow. I will not trouble you with a longer letter _ my heart is with you,

and my prayers meet yours at the mercy seat of God
for the boon of health to our mutually Beloved Matilda _
Adieu my Dearest Friend, ever yours

RGratz

[Address:]
Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
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