

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman**

**June 1, 1809**

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I am really glad my friend, once again to see your handwriting I did not cease to trust, that your thoughts sometimes wandered in their long accustomed course and I knew, that they continued kind. but this is not sufficient to satisfy my ardent feeling \_ and you would have been interrupted ere this by my murmurs had not a severe return of my dear Sister Ettings illness, so occupied my mind & time, that I had no leisure to tell you how much I missed yr letters and grieved at your desertion \_ to day my sister is better, she has not been able to leave her bed since Sunday Morning. and her frequent relapses has diminished her strength to a very great degree. The Dr. has now determined to keep open a blister until the disease is entirely irradicated, and I hope this will be more successful than any thing we have yet tried \_

Poor Washington! I have often thought of him; and compassionated his sorrow. The disappointment of fond hopes formed in the spring of life, casts a shade over every future scene \_ and the heart [looses] those innumerable, nameless sensibilities which belong to the refinement of early attachment, and makes up its bliss \_ If any thing can console him your letters, and your sympathy will have that effect \_

I am sorry to find you are determined not to  
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visit us this summer, next to the pleasure of a "long talk" with you I value a long letter; and in some of those long mornings or afternoons (which after the business of whitewashing is over) will [frequently] have you at leisure in your nursery. I wish you would make a sheet of paper the tablet of your thoughts \_ let it be the journal of a week, or as long a period as you please but let me hear some thing of you \_ and if possible, let me see you as you always are in conversation \_

I am sorry you heard of B. Hs visit to New York, she came to see us the morning she left home, that she might, she said, tell you so. and on her return surprised me by saying she had not been at your house. her stay was short, and she left town before she intended, and at the very time she had proposed calling. this was her account, I reproached her for her neglect, and perhaps you would admit her apology, were you fully acquainted with the circumstances under which she acted. It is difficult to understand some minds without a constant study. Becky is one of those beings, who ~~se~~blend the weakness & frailty with virtues of superior excellence, that tho she is constantly liable to censure for violating small duties and attentions \_ she has the talent of making amends \_ If she does not love you a thousand times more

than the lady at whose house she passed her time in new York \_ her heart is not worth possessing \_ and she takes more pains to hold up the appearance of friendship for you, than you would require to convince you of her sincerity, she makes constant enquiries about you from us \_

Andrew, does you more honor in his neglect than he could confer by attention \_ the folly of youth may be excused, but time produces  
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no change in his mind or manners, and he still exhibits the trifling, insensible gaiety of a vacant mind \_ tho' [boyhood] the only reason befitting such conduct has given place to gray hairs \_

give my affectionate love to Eliza, and Your Dear Husband and to Ann when you write \_ we hear of her now & then from Charles, embrace your beloved children for me \_ and accept the united love & best wishes of all this family \_

I have received many lectures for not writing to you before because the girls said, if I wrote they certainly should soon have the pleasure of seeing your answer \_

Adieu, God Bless you prays your  
ever true & affectionate

[RG]

give my love to Rodman

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman  
New York