

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

July 10, 1809

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Yes, My Dear Maria your sorrows have indeed a home in my bosom; witness the pangs which at this moment rend it _ I weep over your affecting little letter, till I can no longer discern a sentence in it _ and while I almost adore your virtuous exertions, and pious resignation, My soul is raised in devotion to that Almighty Being, who has made you so perfect. and has tried you with so many afflictions. How rich My love, must your reward be in a better world, for all your submissions here, but I trust there is much reserved for you, yet, in this state to make many future years a blessing to you. that your example, in happiness as well as affliction, may benefit the world _ .

I wrote you Saturday night, when my mind was in a tortured state of anxiety & suspense. It was my wish to have started immediately and endeavour to soothe your sorrows by my presence _ all your friends here advised [your] removal from N York as a much better plan. and the situation of my Sisters rendered my leaving home extremely difficult. My Brother proposed writing to Mr. H_ and I sat down to make the same request to you. If it is possible dear Maria, do comply with our wishes _ bring all your family. your husband is really in need of some change as well as your self _ if you go to the country, he will confine himself to business _ you will retire to muse on past grief _ and let consuming sorrow prey on your valued health _ here, Mr. Hoffman would be amused by [end of page]

change of scene _ and comforted by the society of Ann in her new sphere of life _ you shall have all the consolations friendship can bestow _ your feelings shall not be violated by the intrusion of strangers _ your children shall be attended with the greatest care _ we will pass every hot day in the country _ every thing affection can do to heal your [wound] shall be administered, and we shall be a thousand times your debtor for the trust.

I will meet you any where you please between this & New York to assist in taking care of the dear boys on the journey and we will together, look forward to better days here _ and brighter scenes, when our days are done _

This morning we parted with Poor Miriam's little orphans, and really felt grieved to spare them. Mr. M is a very interesting man, and the affectionate care he bestows on his children is the best proof of his attachment to their mother. whose loss he mourns with great sensibility, we all esteem him greatly _ he will spend the remainder of the summer in Baltimore and return here to pass a month before he returns home in the autumn.

Give my best love to your dear Husband & Eliza. I cannot resign the hope of embracing them soon, how is your poor Caty?

The girls desire their most affectionate love to you; Sally & I can talk nor think of anything but you _ May God Bless, and comfort you, my dearest Girl
prays, most fervently your ever faithful

RGratz

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman

New York