

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

November 13, 1809

Philadelphia Novr. 13th. 1809 _

Your good accounts of your own dear family, my Maria has removed the weight of anxiety from the heart of your friends, and we most sincerely rejoice with you in the fair prospect of little Georges health; Washington dined with us Yesterday and we talked, about you, the last letter which had then been received was written on the morning after Your night of trouble and tho' we hoped for the best _ our fears did not let those hopes lighten the care, [that] the idea of your sufferings gave rise to. I am happy to inform you that my Sister is also much better, tho' she is still confined to her chamber. and in daily expectation of a surgical operation on her Eye. her health is improved _ at least her strength is encreased, by a freer diet than she has been allowed for some time past, but this is only to enable her to endure the pain preparing for her, and the knowledge of this, keeps her from any real enjoyment, we have almost deserted our home, to cheer her solitary hours, which the gloom of confinement made such circumstances you may suffer renders heavy enough. however, as the Dr. assures us the remedy is a very safe one, and withal not very severe, we look forward to it with less apprehension, than the idea of a surgeon's knife might be expected to inspire. and as soon as it is over, I shall let you know, whether [end of page]

we have deceived our [selves] with false hopes, or alarmed ourselves with unnecessary fears, until then I beg you my love, not to interrupt the interval of tranquillity Your darlings recovery has bestowed _ by thinking too much of the concerns of your friends _ If it be possible for you to take a ride to Phila. which in a favourable spell of weather would I am sure be of service to you, you will find that we do not despond, on the contrary that we should be able to enjoy the happiness Your presence always gives us, and that even the Invalid will greet you with smiles _

You may tell Anns old friends that she is by no means considered in bad health here, and that she seems so well satisfied with the portion of that blessing [allot'd] her, that I do not believe she would exchange her present imperfect state, for the brightest bloom that ever glowed on the rosy cheek of Youthful beauty. she has been nursing her sick husband and looks a little pale from confinement. but does not complain, and as Charles is recovering, expect we shall soon see her restored to her good looks again _ Mary appears much better than when she arrived, Mr. H. should not recall her this winter, the Climate of P_ certainly is more favorable to her health than NY _ she is quite satisfied here, and may have every advantage in the way of schools that she could have at home.

I am exceedingly sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs. D B Ogden, our friend M is in great distress about her, I hope she will recover, she is a Young & amiable woman, & has too many ties on life, to lay it down with-out reluctance _ but this is no stay to the hand of Death, and we are very anxious about her _
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I received a letter last week from Rodman, dated August 28th. from London _ he is not much pleased with England _ or the English people and I fear will pass but an uncomfortable time among them. he is not disposed to adopt the customs of the country he is in _ and a stranger with this disposition in such a place as London may expect little else than a free scope to cherish his discontent in _ unless indeed he meets with Americans there to associate with _ he mentions that he shall soon set out for Holland and thence to France. he means to spend the winter in Bordeaux _

Give my best love to Eliza tell her to have her frocks &c made larger in the arm-holes, or she may bring on herself a [ge...l?] than even the biles she has been suffering with, we have [been?] expecting to see her here _ tho' a [rumour?] is gone abroad that creates an apprehension of her old promises, to her old friends, being in great danger—[from of being] broken _ in favor of some new promises to a new friend _ tell Eliza this is not quite just _ so that we hope she does not mean to treat us so _

Sally & Rachel desire You will accept their most affectionate [love?] present mine to Your husband _ embrace Your children for me and believe me Dearest, you are best Beloved by Your
ever faithfully attached RG _

[Address:]
Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
New York _