

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

July 15, 1810

Philadelphia July 15th. 1810

I have been so much more accustomed to see you encountering the evils, than yeilding to the frailties of human nature that I assure you My dear Friend, your silence did not betray me into a suspicion of your having forgotten your promise, tho' I longed anxiously to receive a letter. your poor little delicate Boy presented him self to my mind as a most probable cause of your not writing. I trust his constitution will strengthen, he is the sweetest cherub I ever saw, but too [slender] for your comfort _ however, we must not always judge from appearances, the slightest reed frequently outlives the storm, that lays prostrait the lordly oak _ and many in the full tide of health are cut down, while the hand of Providence sustains those, who, appear to us sinking into the grave _

we have been, and continue to be in great anxiety about our Brother Simon from whom we have not received the least intelligence since you left us. a silence so unusual as to throw us into the most distressing apprehensions for his safety. as there are port towns all along the route he meant to take and he is always very punctual in writing. If Tuesday fails to bring us intelligence of him. we shall not know what to think _ our only hope is that his letters have miscarried _ otherwise he must be ill _ or have suffered some accident _ God, in whom he has [end of page]

ever trusted, be his guardian & shield! we ~~have every~~ [have ever] reliance on his providence, and know that the fate of all his creatures are in his hands _ this is our comfort _ but suspense & anxiety are severe trials and beget such frightful phantoms. that they almost drive reason from her seat _

I am glad to hear your dear Charles is recovered, he really seemed to be quite home-sick, does sweet Julia grow, and retain her health? and does her mother, with a full view of all her duties present & to come before her still see a prospect of continuing her nurse? or in other words My dear Maria, will your health permit you to nurse through the summer you so carefully avoid mentioning self. that on this subject alone your letters are unsatisfactory _ and pardon me, this is the most important on which I would be satisfied _ so you must learn to write better letters. tho' do not let it be known such a thing is required of you _ or I shall by all the world of taste & judgment be condemned not only as a stranger to them, but a most unreasonable being besides _

I saw our dear Ann yesterday, she is quite well, and impatient to be with you, her daughter is likewise well. and has improved greatly in her complexion, tho' not much increased in size, however she is large

enough to do her Mother credit, and I am told has a most noble appetite. Mrs. Hartwell will not deviate from her usual prudence, or I believe Ann would forgo the privilege of being nursed any longer [end of page]

they have however promised us to pass a day with us as soon as the month is out _ Charles shewed us a charming letter from Washington. he speaks with such affection of our dear departed Matilda that I could not restrain my tears _ I believe Maria, I should love him quite as well as you do, did I know him as well _ present him my affectionate regards. we have had letters from Jo _ [an excellent] journal of his voyage with an account of several little excursions which contrary winds enabled him to make _ he passed two days at Elsinour which was particularly agreeable to him. on all such occasions he deplores the want of a friends society. poor fellow! he was never before separated from all he loves, and scarcely knows how to enjoy a pleasure [...] [participated?]. he sends most warm remembrances to all [...] the girls are all gone to ride this afternoon, they [...] many messages of love for you all _ present mine to your household _ that is [if] it consists of the party you mentioned in your letter, tell my dear Eliza I hope to hear from her soon, embrace the dear children for me. and assure your husband of my sincere friendship _

Adieu My best Beloved, you are always
remembered in the prayer of your attached friend
RG

[Address:]
Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
New York