

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

July 18, 1811

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My Dear Maria

I have been pleasing my-self with the anticipation of a visit to the sea-shore and Brighton, always in a kind of mental reservation extending my views to your city. and the happiness of passing one day in your Society. but whether we shall accomplish it or not is rather uncertain.

I have been some time expecting to see my Friends the Miss Hays' from Boston, their stay here will be very short, the time of their arrival undetermined. so that the fear of missing them detains me at home. If we could ascertain when they will be in New York, Hyman & I would make our tour through Jersey and meet them there. and I should have the inexpressible satisfaction of embracing you & your Dear little ones again much earlier than I expected when we parted.

I am sorry to hear Anns little daughter is so much indisposed she must be a good deal alarmed; tho in fact she is fortunate in being in the country during this season, Charles talks of making her another visit, tho' he appears much more reconciled to their separation now, than he was at first. which I take to be a most disinterested proof of [attachment]. To be shut up in a city during a summer, seems to me a very unnatural state, when every other spot of creation is smiling in luxurious verdour, and we are disposed by the very air we breathe to repose & indolence _ I perceive you do not much admire your present situation, sans-town sans-country. but you have the advantage of purer air than is to be found in the midst of the city _ Washington is a sad tenant to see you but once a week, I would walk ten miles as often for the reward of such a reception as he is accustomed to receive from you, the Ogdens must be a great treasure to you. they are so cheerful & pleasant and friendly that you should never be lonesome.
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Governour Morris & his wife are here; I have not seen them, but I believe they are a good deal attended to. I am glad to hear you have accounts from Rodman and that he means to return home, our roving Brother keeps us quite ignorant of his intentions, we get charming letters from him, so full of the pleasures he derives from travelling that it seems unkind to wish for his return. but as he tells us in May that [he] shall continue the remainder of that month in England, I think it most probable we shall not see him before October unless his friendship for John Myers induces him, to bear him company in the sad voyage. the unfortunate situation of his brother will oblige him to take as soon as the melancholy circumstance reaches him.

Tell Eliza the [chosiest?] company is just now assembling at the Yellow-Spring and that Sally is preparing to make her visit, so if she does not soon become a matron to head the party, I shall call for her to join it in the less dignified character of an betrothed maiden, if I succeed in executing my projected journey I hope she will accompany me home, and give Mr. V an opportunity of paying

her a visit in Phila. before "the plaistering of his house is dry" which is one of the Philadelphia causes. for postponements of marriages. and may be adopted to satisfy enquiries which no doubt ~~are~~ [not un]frequently made _

I am glad to hear A Bleecker is going to make so good a match. Your old Bachelors are following the example of our old maids. the year before last we had quite a marrying off them _ Mr. (Agent) Moore is also going to give up the title of beau. he is settled here in Mr. Bonds office, and is to be married to Miss Gibbs of New Port, Miss Paynes friend, quite a fine woman of large fortune. The whole family were here, & have just gone on to settle matters for the wedding. Miss G_ bought a fine house in Chesnut Street, which she is furnishing, & will take possession of in the fall _
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I am happy to hear that your children keep well, and hope you also are getting better. it is only from obscure hints we can ascertain the state of your health; take good care of your self and do not expose yourself to fatigue in hot weather

Sally & Rachel send you their best love, make mine acceptable to your Husband & Eliza, embrace the dear Children for me and believe me My dear Maria ever most truly
Your affectionate RG

[Address:]
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