

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

March 23, 1812

March 23rd. 1812.

My Dear Maria

"The glad tidings" of Anns safety and the birth of her son has no doubt already reached you, I did not hear of it yesterday until too late to communicate by the mail, but I suppose Charles did not neglect to make you acquainted with his happiness. she spent Saturday evening at Mrs. Ewings sent for her Dr. at three in the morning and had a very good time, the child was born I believe at Eight _ They are both well _ or to use Mrs. Mullens expression comfortable _ she has been fortunate enough to obtain the above mentioned celebrated & excellent nurse and I hope will do well but as this lady is a great stickler for etiquette we shall not be permitted to see her until the third day. I have heard from her this morning, that she had a good nights rest and that her son & heir is in as flourishing condition as any little gentleman of his age need be _

And now My Dear Friend let me thank you a thousand times for your charming letter of the 16th. which I assure you gave me the most heart felt pleasure _ I am delighted to hear so good an account of your dear little family _ and as the Bankbill has passed hope you will soon be restored to the enjoyment of your husbands society _ we are enduring great [privations] in our family Circle Hyman has followed Jo to Kentucky. and we do not expect to see either of them for three months _ I was in hopes Eliza would have so soon taken their place that we should have been less sensible of the loss. but as she is establishing her own house we must wait patiently a little longer. but do not discourage her from making the attempt. when the spring is more advanced _ she will either get over, or become accustomed to her present difficulties and then the journey will do her no injury _ and I hope afford them both some pleasure. I wrote her a long [end of page]

letter last week, but the gentleman who was to have taken it, neglected to call for it, and from your account of her present feelings, I thought it better not to send it at all, as she might have thought herself obliged to make some exertion to entertain him, had he been recommended to her attention. so you may give my best love to her instead of the letter and tell her she is neither neglected or forgotten, but from pure kindness in this instance withheld from what was really her due.

I am very much gratified at Rodmans recollection of me in a foreign land _ and shall greatly value the testimony of his friendship, with which you are charged _ present me affectionately to him and tell him I shall wear our Dear Harriets hair [intermix'd] with his, not only as sacred to her cherished memory _

but in [commemoration] of the happiness I have enjoyed in their society united. I am much better pleased that the hair is blended, than if I only owed him the kindness of having the bracelets made for me _

I am sorry to hear New York is so sickly, our city is not so healthy as is usual at this season, but I have not heard of any fatal diseases, sore throat & colds seem very prevalent but only in a slight degree _ Sam Nicholas has arrived from Canton. and brought the distressing news of your old friend George Biddle's death. the family have been very anxious for the arrival of the spring ships and were anticipating the happiness of getting letters from him. a gratification they only enjoyed once a year _ when lo the sad tidings of his dissolution arrived. they are in great affliction _ his misfortunes would have long held him in banishment from his country _ yet the visitation of death in a distant country. were no friend or tender relative could soothe by their attentions the last parting scene of existence leaves a more awful & melan-choly impression. than any other circumstance on the bereaved heart _
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Rachel & Richea has again been threaten'd with the Ogden disease and have been keeping close for several days. they are better and I hope will escape _ you may tell Eliza she will have so much good company in the family. that she need feel no embarrasment on the score of Corsetts. and beg her to write me soon _ Sally begs you will accept her best love and so do all the remnant of our family that is left _ present me most truly & affectionately to your little darlings & Eliza _ & your husband when you write _ and also to Mary [...] Ogden. why do you never mention Washington? he is not surely among the deserters of your house. if so he is losing his taste too: and I only regret the more that I did not give my young friend a [pass...?] you as he would have made up the loss _ as his soul is cast in [...] [...] would well have suited [you], but it is now too late. [...] soon leave New York _

Adieu My Beloved. may every blessing [...] which
God rewards be best be bestow'd on you
prays Your RG _

[Address:]
Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
New York