

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman**

**October 28, 1812**

Oct 28th. 1812\_

We were very agreeably surprised this morning by a visit from our friend Washington. who is making but the stay of a single day in our city, he brought me a message from you, that had you known his intention you would have written \_ he likewise told me he would call again for a letter \_ we have lately become such bad correspondents my dear Friend, that I feel unwilling to let so good an opportunity slip of thanking you for the above mentioned intention tho' alas, I profit little by it except in the idea that you much oftener think of me than tell me so \_ and I hope you sometimes resort to the same consolation respecting your once more attentive friend \_ I believe all the affairs of life are liable to their ebbs & flows, and in matters of this kind we are obliged sometimes to yeild to the caprices of feeling \_

I had scarcely time to learn any thing of your family from Washington but that they were well. our dear Eliza very happy in the maternal character and her Husband very proud of his son. George too is going to be married \_ you will really form quite a respectable family circle \_ you will feel quite matronly when these children of your care, all settled around you \_

we begin to look for the return of our Brother Hyman, the only pleasant change we anticipate in our family. I am always upbraiding my bachelor Brothers for their continuing in a single state. a bad example in the eldest seems to infect them all, and I fear we shall all grow old together in the family mansion \_

Isabella O. informs me you are about weaning  
[end of page]

your daughter. I hope you will become fat & healthy again. and enjoy the approaching season of gaiety. your Husbonds absence will make some exertion necessary & I do not know why you should not let society profit something by it \_ Ann being with you will make the effort more necessary and much easier. I suppose you introduce Mary in society this winter too \_ what a [Busy] Lady you will be in the fashionable world \_ I hear too, that you never looked better, or were more likely to make the belles jealous by purloining a share of their right to admiration \_

Rachel is still abroad, but cannot continue so long \_ she is in excellent health. Sister Hays devoted to her infant we shall have two nurseries to retire to for the winter, rather an unusual occupation for old maids, do you not think we are greatly indebted to our sisters \_ we shall never lose the agreeable & interesting solicitude that keeps the female head gentle and tender. while they continue to introduce young infants to our care \_

Our friend Mrs. Horne of Baltimore, is here under the care of Dr. Rush, her health is extremely precarious, a consumption is apprehended and I fear it will exceed his skill to avert it. she is much weaker since her arrival \_ a voyage to the West Indias is the wish of her Husband but The Dr. discourages it lest at this troubled period. they might be captured. or otherwise exposed to inconveniences & dangers beyond her strength to bear \_ she is a charming woman \_ and bears her situation with a degree of fortitude, even cheerfulness. beyond any one I ever saw, she has one child \_ a son of twelve years old \_

Sally has gone with the Miss Ettings to pass the day with Mrs. Hays. or she would send some kind message to you \_ Remember me affectionately to Ann & Mary. and your Husband. also to dear Eliza \_ and family \_ embrace your darlings for me and believe me dearest Maria, ever faithfully and affectionately your friend RG.

[Address:]  
Mrs. Ogden Hoffman  
New York

W. Irving Esqr.