

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

April 11, 1813

Sunday April 11th. 1813

I regret my dear Maria that your anxiety has been excited on my account as I assure you my health has not in the least suffered by the unusual calls that have been made upon me. we have never had so much sickness in our family that I remember in so short a period. little Rosa has recovered _ but her mother, who was very weak from her former indisposition, is overcome by the fatigue of nursing and a cold taken by being up at night. she was quite sick again for several days. but I hope as the spring advances its influence may be salutary to them all. perpetual care is certainly a mortal foe to good looks and good spirits so you will most likely have very sad accounts of me, whenever a travelling report reaches you on the subject _ Yet indeed I have no claim to the [tittle?] of an invalid, and if Sallys health makes a journey necessary I shall only go in capacity of her companion. tho' in truth my present solicitude is more for Rachel. whose spirits have never recovered the shock they sustain'd at the circumstances & death of her infant _ she is again in a situation to make her present depression of more consequence, and more difficult to remove _ and she has been necessarily so much alone, that she has nursed it in solitude instead of struggling to overcome it, or banish it in society. we shall move in a few weeks in her neighbourhood and hope to succeed better in drawing her out. we have taken the house the McCalls live in nearly opposite to Rachels
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I congratulate you on your husbands return, who I hear surprised you on Friday. and thus deprived you of two days anticipation _ may all good things come to you thus even before you expect them _ you have had an alarm again from the Enemy I hear _ we are surrounded by the reports of war. and hear nothing talked of but captures _ bombardments and preparations _ the little town of [Delawa] Lewis in Delaware has been attack'd _ a landing was attempted but repell'd by the militia _ it stood a bombardment of 22 hours but did not receive much injury a few houses were burnt _ the British then left the town and went to take possession of a pond of water about three miles from Lewistown, to which the military were repairing when the dispatch left Wilmington thus says the paper of the 8th. this Russian Mediation seems to have little effect at present it was a bubble that kept up the hopes of the people for a few days _ but whether any thing is to be expected from it seems very doubtful _ our friends have return'd to Norfolk but they live in a state of constant apprehension & alarm _ the Myers in the interior and the blockading squadron before them is rather an uncomfortable prospect for Virginia

I am rejoiced to hear such charming accounts of your dear children how happy they all are now, in their Father's return _ I hear Charles Nicholas

is to settle in New York _ I only saw him for a moment when here _ but was told by some of his friends that he was going to have some concern in the steam-boats _ has he a good prospect of business in that or any other way? _ It was quite a triumph to me, that your husband is Recorder after all I hope every thing will turn out as it should do, and both public and private good result from it _ remember me very affectionately to my dear Eliza, I hope her health will be improved before the warm weather
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or that she will make her boy a little more independent _ since you escape the trouble of moving this year at home will you not come and see how we manage those things here. or my dear Friend why not hasten your visit _? this month is almost as agreeable as May. our foliage already wears a most inviting livery _ the willows are in leaf already our honey suckle & Lilacs look beautiful _ and in a few days the trees will be full of blossoms I believe this is the very time a journey might be useful to you. and if you can live with us through the hard week of the Passover you may be assured of every other comfort friendship can prepare for your reception tell the dear children I long to embrace them _
give my love to Ann & the Marys. Miss Patterson brought Mary Hoffmans conquest to see us (Mr. Bradish) he enquired very earnestly [respec?] -ting your health _ but I suppose he has seen you in church [since] his return _ we had Mr. Rodmans marriage announced in the [newspaper] some time ago, but I conclud'd then t'was a mistake, the Bride was Mrs. [Be...?], a person I never heard him mention _

Adieu My dear Maria, banish every uneasy sensation your kindness for me has engendered, believe me I am well, quite well _ and perhaps as happy as I deserve to be _ certainly, I shall endeavour to think so _ and pray that I may have strength of mind & body to sustain what ever burthens it may please God to lay on me in the sequel of my sojournment here. that I have loved you sincerely since the blessing of your friendship was shed on the bright morning of my life _ has gilded its meredian _ and will in the lengthing shadows of its evening still afford [...] to its final close _

God Bless you _ believe me as ever most
faithfully your RG _
Sally sends you her best Love.

[Address:]
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