

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

October 7, 1813

My Dear Maria

Rachel was Yesterday made the happy mother of a fine Boy, and they are both very well. this you may believe has rejoiced us all very much. particularly as her mind had been very sorrowfully impressed with apprehensions lest the calamity her last babe experienced should be visited on this _ he is how-ever in all respects what she wished and her gratitude and joy is proportion'd to the depression she felt previous to his birth. Ladies are allowed to be fantastical on some occasions, but when they indulge an "evil imagination" to distrust their repose; they are to be pitied as well as blamed. I know you are not subject to weakness of that nature. but if any of your delicate friends should be, you may afford them the benefit of this instance. and tell them besides that she fell down stairs a few months ago with as little injury as the lightest form imaginable could have hoped for _ I hope Anne & You, in due season may pass through the trying hour as safely and I beg you will take good care of Your self during your probation _ avoid getting cold at this season, and do not fatigue Your-self over much in preparations for the winter, if you were as prudent
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in that particular as you are perfect in other virtues _ your friends would be too happy in the idea of always being [blest] with your society & example _ but you continually make them sensible that the best of human affairs are frail, and liable to change. sickness & sorrow is the common lot _ to incur the first, you make us heirs to the latter _

I am vexed to hear M. H. behaved so whimsically to you they speak of your kindness in terms to make one suppose they felt it, and yet recieved it so ungraciously. Peggy would have acted differently, she is quite unchanged, she passed a morning with us since the partys return, and related how hospitably you & Ann behaved to them.

James & Andrew also call'd here the other day, the latter is more affected, more weak _ and more childish in his manners than ever. I wonder we could ever have willingly spent so much time in his company _ even Peggy seems wean'd from Becky. she spoke of the death of one of her children as a fortunate occurrence, without the least pity for the feelings of a mother on such an event, and without adverting to the forlorn state in which she must have been during that season of affliction _ Destitute of the consolations of friendship in a land of strangers _ they never hear from her except through Mrs. Johnson, who inform'd them of her loss _

Poor Mrs. Moore expired on Sunday morning _ her Mother & Sisters, notwithstanding her long illness, were unprepared for the event

and are greatly afflicted, they have written for her Husband and expect him and Ruth Gibbs tomorrow or Saturday. she will not be [end of page]

interred until their arrival _

has Eliza returned home yet? if she has present my affectionate love to her, and tell her I beg she will return good for evil and write as soon as she can spare an half hour from her household matters, I wish much to know something about her again _ and trust I shall become a better correspondent as I am getting tired of living in such solitary ignorance of all my interesting absent friends _ Sally is in better health than she has been since my return from New York last winter _ Rachel has lightened my cares, and I begin to feel all my old charities revive again _ you must accept the affectionate remembrance [...] and of all the rest of your friends here _ to designate [e...] be to run over the names of all the household. give my love to your husband _ [and] Ann, the Marys and all your dear children. and believe me ever my Dear Maria, most truly

Your attached friend

RG _

October 7th. 1813 _

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
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New York