

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

November 21, 1815

Philadelphia Novr. 21st. 1815

My Dear Maria

I do not know when I have experienced so keen a disappointment as your letter occasioned _ a travelling carriage passed me in the street containing just such a party as I hoped you would have brought. I hastened home, and found that you were not coming _ but whatever my selfish regrets may be at your determination, believe me, my dearest friend, the predominant wish of my heart is, that you should decide according to the best advice for your own health and comfort. and since you have resolved to stay at home, contrary to the opinion of your husband & Physician you will feel doubly obliged to use every possible means of establishing the propriety of your decision, begin therefore, with what would have been immediately adopted here _ an entire sail of Flannel, from your throat to the sole of your feet _ never expose your-self to damp air, or walking on damp ground and in all respects remember how much you owe your friends in preserving what they so much love.

Your excellent Caty arrived safely on Saturday night about ten o'clock and have time to rest herself before they sailed they got off at 9 this morning but I am afraid have not proceeded far, as they have had very little wind _ our dear Eliza has not been more unwell except from the pain of a blister for two or three days. she was better Yesterday. and I have no doubt will recover greatly in a warm climate she always felt the advantage of confinement _ I think her essentially improved _ there are several other ladies, passengers in the Wade Hampton, Eliza has a birth in the state room _ they have a stove in the cabin and as comfortable accommodation as could be expected in so small a [end of page]

vessel _ write to her My Dear Maria, and if you can give her good accounts of your health, it will do more towards making her cheerful than all the gaiety of Charleston _ Catys society will be a great comfort to her _ her services could not be supplied by a stranger _ when every link of home _ & home friends was severed her spirits would desert her _ from the moment she thought of having Caty _ she began to feel the importance of such a friend among strangers, and I assure you one half the pain of parting with her was removed in consigning her to such hands. I cannot tell you how many messages & embraces the affectionate creature charged me with for you and [the] children, she wished she could only have been one day here with them to take them about the city. I promised to be their guide _ your letter did not reach me until they were gone,

you will soon get reconciled to a small family, and as we wish you

to have time to take care of yourself I think there is some advantage in it. I saw Ann this morning she is well, and looks quite satisfied Matilda has grown very handsome, her baby is not very well _ she is cutting teeth, and has taken a little cold, Ann's friends are very happy to see her and will no doubt endeavour to make her time pass agreeably. The acquisition of her society to the family is very desirable, and as they have no man in the house, but Charles, his presence seems almost necessary. I am glad to hear Mary is better _ we shall look forward to the Spring with hopes that it may reward us for the disappointment of to day _ tho I fear I have not borne it with becoming humility _ to be so near (in idea, the happiness of [embracing] you and your darlings _ but I will not repine _ may God prosper with his blessing all your wishes. and make perfect your feeble attempts to preserve the invaluable treasure, he has bestowed _ that your life may be prolonged to glorify his name _ Sally sends you her love and grateful acknowledgements for the interest her recovery excites in your breast. such instances of the mercy of God _ must fill every heart with praise _ embrace the dear children for me, and accept My dear Friend the constant affection of Your RG _

[Address:]
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