

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman**

**December 15, 1815**

Philadelphia Decr. 15th. 1815

I thank you, my Dear Maria, a thousand times for the kind letter recieved this morning. if it does not relieve my anxiety respecting your health. it over comes the dreadful uncertainty & suspense your long silence occasion'd, and bids me hope for success to the remedies applied \_ I do hope my Beloved friend \_ the skill of [Dr. Port/Post], his knowledge of your constitution and the confidence you place on his prescription, are powerful agents in the hands of Providence \_ oh, how joyfully shall I hail the Spring if it realizes the long promised happiness of bringing you to us. and how grateful I feel at the intelligence that you are trying to take care of yourself [throu] the winter. Dr. Chapman said some time ago, from what he could learn, by the representations we were continually making of your symptoms, that you ought be confined to your own room, and keep it, in a summer temperature. Dr. P\_ has no doubt ordered the same and from the success of that system, in Mrs. Horne's case. I am doubly anxious you should try it. make a business of nursing yourself this winter \_ and your excellent heart will be amply rewarded by the happiness you bestow on your friends and the comfort you will experience in resuming the charge of your family.

you have no doubt heard from Eliza ere this. and would, much sooner had she not been under the impression of your being here to read her letter to me. which was dated 2nd. Decr. they arrived the 1st. after a very rough, disagreeable voyage, they were 4 days getting down the Delaware. had a severe gale off Cape Hatteras. and were five days at Sea \_ Eliza was moderately sick but has not been troubled with her cough since she first got to sea \_ she was in expectation of getting comfortable private lodgings with a relation of Mrs. Hollingshead, who was a passenger in the Wade Hampton \_  
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and writes in high hopes of recieving all the benefit expected from the voyage. she says the gardens are full of flowers \_ and fruits, and the tress still clothed in summer foliage. Mrs. Winthrope of New York was at the same boarding house with Eliza, and already so much better as to encourage her friends with a prospect of her recovery. Eliza is extremely anxious to hear from you. and applies to me for information, she did not know of our disappointment. you must write to her my dear Maria, if you can punctually. but if writing is any injury, do not write, either to her or me \_ but get Mr. Hoffman to satisfy Eliza. and I will endeavour to get Bella Ogden to let me know how you are when she writes. this is apparently making a great sacrifice, as you know how I value your letters \_ but it is not disinterested for you know too how much more I value you. it is only postponing a pleasure to make it more complete.

how I love your dear little children. and long to see your rosy namesake.

your occupation of school-mistress is excellent, if you are like me, you will never tire of it \_ children are very good society. I am never more entertain'd than in Rachels nursery. or when Sister Hays's little girls are with us in the country they pass weeks at our house and their reading exercises are quite as improving to me, as to them. Sarah-Ann is a very intelligent child and her ideas on every thing new presented to her mind were expressed with so much freedom & in so natural a manner that we were never tired of her remarks \_ Julia will be this pleasure to you. Geo. is a little wag. and \_ will keep you in laugh \_ but I hope you will be moderate even in these indulgences. and not suffer them to fatigue you.

Ann's little girl was better when I saw her last. but think it probable she will continue delicate. Ann is not a very good nurse \_ and her baby not fond of being nursed. which no doubt keeps her cross \_ we do not see them very often \_ as we keep at home a good deal, and Ann has been confined with the child. I heard the other day, that  
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Charles' friends were making exertions to save him, and I hope they will succeed in getting something for him to do, some regular occupation that would bring in a moderate support would make them much happier and if obtained in Phila. might make his Mother more comfortable. as both her other sons are established at a distance from her. and the encreasing infirmities of old age renders [both] her & her Mary more dependent on the services of their male friends. Mary would be very forlorn when Maria goes to Savannah if Charles & Ann were away \_

I am very happy to hear James & Edward are connected in business and have such a prospect of success \_ they have been abundantly blest in the most valuable gifts of nature, and I fervently hope, that God who has been a Father to them, & conducted them safely through the thorny path of youth, may continue their shield. thro' the [...] -tions of life, Edward has first the qualities I should [...] his manners are simple & manly \_ his principles honourable [...] [feelings] noble. we all love him very much \_ and I believe James to be quite as good. tho' I do not know him so well \_ Edwards [deference] to his opinion gave me a great idea of his judgement & discretion \_ you My beloved Maria, have been the founder of their characters. and I wish you joy of the pleasure & comfort you must daily feel in contemplating your good work. with regard to them. May your own sons be thus \_ and the evening of your life be brightnd by their virtues. while your smiling daughters return you two fold for all your cares \_

Sally & Rachel & Richea send you their best love \_ and so do our brothers & Mrs. Etting \_ Take care of your self as you would requite our love \_ God Bless you, my dearest Friend \_ embrace your children for me \_ present me affectionately to Mr. Hoffman & the boys \_ and always assure yourself of the attachment of your devoted RG\_

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman  
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