

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

December 26, 1815

My dear Maria

While we were at dinner Yesterday our good neighbour Dr. Chapman came in with a letter in his hand. which he had just recieved from Dr. Wilson of Charleston, the gentleman to whose medical case he had recommended our dear Eliza, the perusal of which has given me so much pleasure, that I cannot delay one moment to communicate it to you. Dr. Wilson says she recieved no injury from a very disagreeable voyage, that he scarcely never met with so deliberate a pulse under such suspicious symptoms _ that she at present cannot be said to labour under any fever _ her cough by no means troublesome, and her breathing tolerably easy _ he very much approves the regimen [percured?] by Dr. Chapman which he means to continue. "under a conviction that more is to be effected by such a plan than by medicine in the present state of her disease" from all he says, my dear friend, notwithstanding the caution necessary to gentlemen of his character in his profession, he certainly leaves good room to hope for her restoration to health. he further promises, that nothing shall be omitted in the power of himself or family to render Charlston agreeable to her & her husband. he is very much interested for Eliza. who he says implicitly adheres to every recommendation whether dietetic or medicinal. this letter is dated December 10th. which is nine days later than my letter. [end of page]

I have been anxious to hear from her some time, but know she has so many superior claims, that I do not expect to be often gratified. Gill is not very industrious at letter writing _ and I have never had courage to ask such a favor of him,

There has been much talk lately about a marriage, which was to have taken place Yesterday. Dr. Abercrombie to a Miss Mason, a young girl of 22 Yrs of age. his family were in the deepest distress _ and his friends as deep in perplexity. and stratagem to break it off. the Bishops family Mrs. Meredith & some other bodies of equal authority undertook the matter and by representations to the mother of the bride-elect. of the evils likely to result from so disproportionate a match, the injury such an imprudent step was likely to produce to his character as a clergyman &c _ they succeeded. to the endless mortification and disappointment of the enamour'd youth, and adventurous damsel. and the great joy of the poor girls _ Betsy was quite sick for several days. and I believe had it taken place the family would have been almost broken down by it, as his congregation was completely averse to it _ the engagement has been known three months to his family & particular friends but never transpired

till, lately _

I had a letter from Isabella Ogden last week, she tells me she [had] not seen you very lately, but that Euphemia had _ her accounts are not so favourable as I could wish. but I cannot help looking joyfully forward to the renewal of health, now, you are resolved to take good care of your self. shut out from the cold and damp of your pernicious climate _ what a happiness might I have the privilege to cheer some of your solitary days! _ but my beloved friend, you who submit to so many privations will hardly give me credit for [end of page]

fortitude in submitting to this _ embrace the dear children for me _ and beg of your husband a New Years gift for me. a letter to say how you are. if you cannot do so for your self _ present me affectionately to him and accept the united good wishes of all here. who at all seasons keep you in mind. and pray for blessings on you _ tho' in times of festivity & good wishes they more particularly remember your claims to both _ Ann's little girl is better _ I hope to see something of her this week, but bad weather, and a very unseasonable job we undertook last week has prevented my doing so. we have been papering our dining room. which in winter is a serious undertaking _ while we were in the country in September, the house was painted. and since Eliza left us we have been postponing the finishing from time to time until now. so that we are just settling for winter. a month after its arrival Adieu, My dear Friend, I have promised my [nieces] [...] go with them to a milliners this morning, and they are here, [...] my [...] in the choice of a bonnet. an important matter at the age of sixteen _ God Bless you. how happy will you be, to perform the same office for your lovely Julia & Laura.

ever your own RG.

Decr. 26th. 1815

[Address:]

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