

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

November 1, 1816

I received your letter Yesterday my Dear Maria, and regret extremely the continued debility of your husband. after so severe an attack it is not unusual, and we are apt to think a patient worse in the first stages of convalescence than when they have the artificial strength fever produces. his nerves will soon regain their proper tone. and if this fine weather continues a little longer I hope you will both be able to take the benefit of it.

Our city has been quite in an agitation since Monday when the election of Bank Directors commenced _ there has been caucusing and quarreling and changing of tickets, _ politics personal interest and all the stronger passions have been engaged in the contest _ which will all subside this morning. or be hidden from public view in the bosoms of the disappointed parties. there has been great numbers of strangers attending. and of course the Ladies have commenced their winter course of tea parties. our friend Mrs. Meredith had one on Wednesday, which had she known the situation of her Uncle would have been omitted.

I hope Charles Nicholas will obtain his wishes in the Bank my brother thinks he will. great interest has been made for him and I suppose the minor offices of this great machine may be managed with less difficulty. when once the Direction is fixed _ your account of Eliza is the best we have received in a long time I hope they will adopt your plan of going to Italy. if they can not be with their children this winter, they might as well be in Europe [end of page]

as in Charleston on their account, and much better on Elizas.

When you are able to think of your self I hope you will adopt a regular system of prudential measures for the preservation of your health, this long confinement will make you very susceptible of cold when you are released from your husbands chamber. particularly as the season is changing to greater severity. but you have been so well instructed, so laden'd with medical admonitions _ that I suppose you to be all-in-all prepared to consider what a precious thing is intrusted to your care. and how many of your best beloved friends are concerned in your success _ our Dear Sally is better _ she is not so frequently attacked by head achs. and I think her nerves begin to resume their steadiness. if she attains to the same degree of health & cheerfulness she enjoyed during the summer. I shall again realize a greater portion of happiness than is usually my lot. since you left us. I have been contenting with perpetual anxiety on her account. tho she has not been sick.

Tell your husband his pretty favorite Miss Law is engaged to be married. Lloyd Rogers, brother to Mrs. John Murray is the happy man _

she waited a reasonable time for the performance of Mr. Hoffman's promise but no suitor appearing was apprehensive the Young Gentleman declined she has gone to Washington again. and perhaps will return to us no more _

I suppose Mr. Morriss illness detains our friends Bella & Euphemia Ogden _ what an awful lesson his present situation presents _ so great a man, abandon'd on his death bed to strangers, and a worth-less woman who has worked his down fall _ he has refused to see his Sister I hear, and has dismissed David B. this must be a great aggravation to their feelings. & a triumph to his wife _

Give my love to Ann & Emma, I hope to see Ann established here according to her own wishes. present me affectionately to your
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husband also, and embrace the dear children for me. our little girls are constantly making some clothes for Julias doll. which they have no opportunity of sending _ what does Ann mean to call her daughter? _ the girls & boys alias all my sisters & brothers send abundance of love to you _ you have gained all their hearts anew, and I believe will hold them on a lease for ever _ with no other condition than to come from time to time and let them see you. Adieu My dear Friend, May God Bless you, with the recovery of your excellent husband. and preserve you both in health & happiness

ever your affectionate RG _

Novr. 1st. 1816

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
New York