

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

February 2, 1817

That your conscience, My Dear Maria, may be perfectly easy under the unusual circumstance of your having written so soon after the receipt of a letter, I hasten to participate your fault and shall send this written three days after your most welcome epistle by your Husband, who arrived safely with no other inconvenience from his journey than one of his usual head aches he looked very well. and was in excellent Spirits _ paid us several visits during the day (Friday) dined at Mr. Charles Hares with his friend David B _ and left town yesterday morning with him for Washington he told us your cough had been rather worse lately. but does not seem to think your health materially injured by it, and as he has confided so precious a change to your own keeping. I know you will exercise all your prudence to prove how well you merit the trust.

My heart sympathizes in your tender regrets My Dearest friend, I know they are not indulged without [recurring?] to your consolations & I pray that the God who has visited you with afflictions may sanctify them to you. and turn to you in mercy with seven fold blessings

Our dear Sally has been quite indisposed for some days. sleepless nights threaten her with many evils. we have called in Chapman who has begun a depleting system pretty rapidly _ she was very full. looked remarkably well. and has been enjoying her usual spirits. but we shall be obliged to reduce her again. to restore her rest _ she has been twice bled since Wednesday _ is dieted and physicked [end of page]

she is aware of the necessity of this regimen, and anxious to persevere it until it produces the effect. the rest of the family are all well _ Gratz Etting just recovered from a nervous attack of three months confinement _ I shall be very happy to receive the letter you promise but not my Dear Maria that I agree with you as to their value to me they are inestimable _ and might each count double _ nay twice double the worth of the best I could ever send in return _ humility is an attribute of superior worth I will not quarrel with it in you _ because I love all that is admirable in your character _

Give my love to Ann, her attention to you is very amiable, and I have no doubt makes her happy. a recuperation of kindness' always carries its own reward. I have no news to tell you _ the city has been very dull this winter. the Death of Mr. Dallas. for a time cast a gloom on the whole fashionable circle _ the effect is now wearing off, but I do not expect much gaiety _ the Cotillion parties are not well attended & private Dances seldom occur. I have been to but one party this

winter, and hardly think I shall go to another _

I suppose you heard of the engagement of Miss Bordley & Mr. Gibson I believe twenty years ago it would not have created so much surprise but I think it very appropriate. their characters assimilate, and tho' past the period when the temple of Hymen is decorated by the gay visions of hope & the arrows of Cupid, they may still be in time for much rational domestic happiness _

It is reported that Hare Powel & Elizabeth Phillips are to be engaged they will be a most brilliant pair _ well, if I have told you no news you see I have at least entered into the talk of the day. you must
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give me credit for an attempt to amuse you _ I must now
return to Sally. and dispatch my letter before the mail closes
embrace your dear Children for me, accept Sallys & Rachels
& Sally Cohens love _ and believe me always My own dear Maria
most fervently & faithfully your attached

RG

Feb. 2nd. 1817

[Address:]
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