

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

December 21, 1817

Decr. 21st. 1817

My dear Maria

I have great pleasure in informing you that our dear Rachel is safely over her trouble and has a fine daughter. the child was born at nine oclock yesterday morning and both are well. she had been so long expecting this event. that she became very apprehensive of it. and suffered a good deal by anticipation but when the time came, she was wonderfully supported and I believe never had less cause of alarm or less suffering on the like occasion _ she is so fortunate as to get her own nurse too. notwithstanding her great mistake in calculation. the Lady who was to succeed her on the nurses list, came before her _ and thus left a months' [spare?] on the good woman's book by which we profit _ I saw Ann Yesterday. she enquired very affectionately about you all, whom she said she had not heard from in some time. she & her children are well _ we see very little of her, but she promises when her nursery is fixed to come down oftener _ I believe she does not partake in fashionable parties or amusements this [end of page]

winter. her husbands time is wholly occupied at the bank _

We have a great deal of Mrs. Powel & Mrs. Montgomery. who are the rival belles this winter and the cause of many parties. every one admires the former. Mrs. M_ has long been a general pet here. if Powel really acts as you say, he does indeed derogate much from the character of a man of feeling. dignity or honour _ and runs great risks of making his wife think so. to say nothing of the danger of her happiness in the sacrifice he demands _ It is a very romantic expectation. that the new conjugal-tie is strong enough to burst asunder all those of natural affection _ And if it were. I doubt much whether human happiness would be much advanced by it. when we read that a man shall leave his father & his mother, and cleave unto his wife. we do not understand that an abandonment of dutious feelings is required _ nor can I believe the solitary elevation of rank can make a woman happy if the dear companions of her youth _ and the sister of her bosom are

to be held at a distance _ when they move to Powelton
which I understand is their intention early in the Spring
I suppose. they can accommodate her friends as the house
is large enough _

I hope our dear Charles is advancing in his reco
-very. and will be able to partake in the home festivities
of the season. and I hope you My dear Maria, will consider
[end of page]

that your only sphere of action also _ such very severe weather
it would be very imprudent in you to attempt going abroad
even to worship _ you have too just an idea of Religion
to believe you fulfil its behest. when you endanger your
health. to perform an external act of devotion. you once [pledd?]
the importance of your example _ as a reason for going to church
when you knew it was safer to stay at home. but my friend, I believe
even there you were wrong _ knowing, as all your household do, how
much you love to attend public worship _ would they not be more
instructed by seeing you practice the self-denial of staying at home
during the winter season, for the important duty of preserving
your health. than that you should attend church constantly and
incur the evil consequence? depend upon it. God and your friends
most approve of that course. from which your own good will
and the devotion of your pure heart. will assend as [directly]
from your own chamber. to the Throne of Grace. as it could do
from the consecrated temple. in the midst of thousands chaunting
praise. let me entreat, my dear Maria, that you consider this matter
endeavour to put your self out of the question. and decide as you would
do were you consulted for another person. who had been so long in a de-
-licate health as you have. and had as strong claims on them as
you have. to desire long life and vigorous health.
have you seen Pauldings book? we have had it a day or two. and
are much delighted with it. his style is very captivating _ and
he uses “a deep [incision] pen” to the absurdities & fashions of the
day. I hope the work will be profitable to him _ whether it be
a stepping stone or not to his matrimonial elevation _ Brevoort
said last Spring. that no man who wished to be distinguished should
marry. but he soon changed his opinion. or [...] his ambition
[end of page]

James has so elevated an opinion of our Sex tho _ he should seek
his happiness with an amiable woman _ and your friend G. seems of
that nature. Adieu my dear friend _ Ellen. and all the family unite
in Affectionate love to you _ your Husband & Children _ let me hear from you
soon and believe me always unalterably yours RG _

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
New York