

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

June 3, 1818

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I am very much perplexed, My dear Maria, how to answer your simple question, why you have not heard from me? yet I do assure you it was not new to my thoughts, I have asked myself the question every day for a month, and each time determined to answer it as it should have been done long before _ but lassitude of body and mind occasioned by some latent indisposition _ and the occupation of my time which Rachels bad spirits & the indisposition of Richeas little girl has given me _ kept me from you and all my more distant friends. but all these painful things are I hope passing away _ and then, you know, how naturally my [attention] will turn to you, who have always such a strong hold on my heart.

I am much grieved at the situation of Mrs. Ogden, the poor Girls will meet with their severest affliction in her loss, the last year of their life has been full of care and trouble _ but all will appear light when compared with their present bereavement _ Mrs. M_s presence will be a support to them. but we know how little human aid can do to lighten such a stroke.

As you do not mention your own health, I hope you have nothing to complain of that score, the domestic difficulties you name, are too common in our country. I believe it is an evil growing out of our own indifference to the moral conduct of servants if we [requited?] those who behaved improperly to their former employers. the fear of not obtaining service would keep them much more faithful to their engagements. and more anxious to obtain a good character by deserving it _ but we need not expect to reform [end of page]

the age. until the community agree on some general plan to that effect

Ann's health has been very feeble indeed this Spring. but I think she begins to look better, tho she tells me her appetite has [~~has~~] not improved. the tooth ach has added greatly to her other complains she has lately been with a dentist, who has extracted three, and relieved her from much pain & more apprehension. your observations are very judicious. and I should rejoice to see your wishes realized in her, but I believe her habits are too confirmed to be changed _ had she a disposition to be contented with her lot, I think she would now be so. her husbands salary in a very comfortable support for them, she has recieved attentions in P_ that should be, not only satisfactory but flattering to her, the best society _ and on the best

