

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

July 27, 1818

Most sincerely my dear Maria, do I sympathise in your anxiety about poor Mary. her situation is indeed lamentable, but I hope not past cure, the presence of her family will raise her spirits _ you must not [suffer] yours to despond _ in her former confinement she was ill and perhaps her present sufferings may yield also to care & good nursing _ It is a hazardous undertaking to set a young and tender family down in a new country _ few can bear the privations & hardships they are exposed to, particularly in so rude a climate as our northern country presents, and under Mary's circumstances they were peculiarly severe. but we may hope her heroic sacrifice to a supposed duty will be rewarded and tho' she may languish for a while, be again restored to health & usefulness. You say my beloved friend, that you are too much of an invalid to be of much service to Mary _ You are not apt to complain of your own health even when others are concerned for you. I fear the state of your mind has something to do with this evil. I hope your additional charge of Anns child does not involve you in too much fatigue. do not dearest Maria do yourself and all who love you. such injustice as to remit the necessary care of your self. let me hear particularly what is the matter with you. has your cough encreased? or has the heat of this extraordinary season over powered you _ I grieve that you are so much alone, and with such a press of care on your mind _ we must make some arrangement to pass a part of Your Husbands absence [end of page]

together. If I come for you, can you not make us a visit? and thus by change of air & scene refresh your spirits & health alittle _ I know too well how desolate we feel in solitude when our hearts are saddened by losses or anticipated sorrows _ but I cannot boast of such a chastened mind as yours. does your Dear Charles's health suffer from the loss of his limb? I have heard Chapman say it frequently produced a contrary effect and that persons labouring under this privation became more robust and healthy. You feel so much anxiety and regret for his misfortune that it would be hard to become reconciled to it. but my dear Maria, if his constitution strengthens. there are so many means of happiness still within his reach. that you should not lament for him. active life is full of dangers from which he will be exempt and his great fortitude of mind will exhibit itself again, as it did when he stood so much in need of it.

You give me much greater praise my friend, than I have deserved respecting the unfortunate strangers who were with me. and tho' I love your praise with all my heart I cannot be so unjust to credit myself with any extraordinary merit in what I have done for them _ they left

