

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

July 12, 1819

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I wrote to let you know I was going to Baltimore, My dear Maria, and must now inform you of my return, lest I should be longer deprived of the pleasure of hearing from you _ My visit was productive of much domestic pleasure, my Cousins family were in the country, and I passed a fortnight exclusively with them, only riding in occasionally to see my friend Mrs. Horne, who is at her sisters in the city. her health was not so desperate as I had been led to expect. she was visited by a young physician who discovered the disease of which she was suffering most, was in her stomach, and gave her some medicine which greatly relieved her _ she rode out every day and gained strength, still I fear she has the seeds of a fatal disorder _ but her life is unexpectedly prolonged and I hope may yet be blessed with the comfort of seeing her husband return, he has been unfortunate in his business abroad _ has never heard from her, since her return to America, and not knowing the state of her health, will probably continue abroad to repair his losses. and now my dear friend, let me enquire [end of page]

into your concerns, I have not heard a word about your health, or situation for many weeks _ the last view I had of you, you were just resting from the labour of moving _ not in very great admiration of your house _ was fixing Julia at school _ had welcomed Ann, and was too busy to bestow a word or thought on your-self _ I have been variously engaged also _ but am returned to my old occupations and associations and long again to recognize your hand writing & affectionate welcome _ which my heart never misses but with regret, nor hails without joy _ I found here Mr. Irvings beautiful little sketch-book and am charmed to see him once more indulging his love of home, and sending such a polished little memorial to announce him among his friends, have you had any letters from him? James P. and his wife are again in N.Y. I did not see them, James has twice passed thro' Phila., without calling to see me, so I may conclude that I shall share the same fate of being forgotten by him that some of his old friends in N.Y. complain of _ he will find materials in your city for the Salmagundi, but I fear its revival will not afford the same entertainment its first appearance did _ he says the times are changed but he is not _ I should want

credit in any ones assertion, or in my own experience, on that subject. few people are so gifted as to resist the ravages of time _ and I think in the pages that this remark appears, the eye of the reader may discover some change _

do you hear from Ann? is she pleased with the lake _ and does she & her children enjoy health,? how is Mr. Rhinelander? you see Maria, questions multiply when you are long silent _
[end of page]

Ann perhaps told you, we had a little skirmish previously to her leaving home, but it ended as such things should do among friends, (at least on my part _) by an encrease of kind feelings it arose out of misrepresentation, and ended in explanation _ Maria Nicholas is expected here soon _ it will probably be her last annual visit _ as the death of her mother takes off her strong est inducement, and Marys going with her will give her always a friend in her new residence _ I am sorry to find Mrs. Millers circum-stances are very straightened. this seems very hard, as her father, was the rich one of the family and she is the only survivor, not provided with a protector and a competency _ she is however, very economical, prudent & humble, so that I dare say she will be able to limit her wants within her income _ and she is too excellent a woman not to have many friends if she should need them. I suppose you have heard that the [Yellow fever?] has made its appearance here _ I hope nothing more will come of [...]
I believe, [it] has been only in one house, on Market Street wharf and such immediate measures were taken to prevent its communicating that there is every reason to hope they will be effective. for two days the alarm has been subsiding _ it frequently happens that one or two victims fall sacrifices to the celebration of the 4th. when patriotism offers a plea to excess _ the day was so cool this year that we heard less of ac-cidents or sufferings than usual. but it is not yet ascertained whe-ther the fever alluded to arose from this cause or not, as is general on such occasions than has been a variety of reports _ all however tending to the same result. that three or four persons have been ill of a malignant fever, and some of them have died _ it would be lamentable indeed if pestilence were added to the evils of the times _ such a catalogue of troubles & vices as are heaped on the people of all our cities and Baltimore particularly are enough to appal one to hear _but should this calamity fall on us _ it would [leave] many defenseless whose means are already too far exhausted to admit of further expense _ embrace Your dear children for me & present me to your husband.

accept for yourself my

warm affection and believe me, Dr. Maria Yours RG.

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
New York