

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

October 31, 1819

As you are no friend to apologies My dear Maria, I shall not trouble you with any for my long silence, particularly as you know I have within the short space of a month received, and parted again with my dear Brother Ben _ parted with him, for I know not how long and under circumstances that involves his future destiny. he is going to be married to Miss Gist _ the young lady whom you may recollect hearing of last summer. she & her mother were here, [and] staid with me a fortnight _ they are very amiable, and were in deep affliction when I knew them. Ben renewed his acquaintance with them in Kentucky. and it has terminated in an engagement.

I do not know whether [you], my dearest friend can comprehend my feelings on this subject _ Yet you know my opinions and have witnessed their influence on my conduct thro' life _ I hope mine is not a narrow creed _ my most cherished friends, and the companions of my choice have generally been worshipers of a different faith from mine _ and I have not loved them less on that account. but in a family connection I have always thought conformity of religious opinions essential. and therefore could not approve my Brothers election, in other respects Miss Gist is a woman any family might be proud to receive _ [and] as they have resolved to blend their fate. I most sincerely hope, they may find the means to worship God faithfully. and without offence to each other. Your Brother Edward too is pursuing his fortunes at a distance from you. his extended town will delay [end of page]

his arrival at New Orleans until the season of danger is past I hope he will not find so long a residence there necessary. Ben & he will properly meet in Kentucky. they are travelling in the same manner. and as Edward has never been thro' the western country before. he will probably be induced to stop at the [principal] towns _ which may give Ben an opportunity of overtaking him _

The Ogdens have I suppose got home by this time. I saw very little of them during their visit here. as they were a good deal engaged. and I was very busy preparing Ben for his journey. yesterday morning Mrs. Meredith had an operation, performed on her little son Morris's throat by Dr. Physick. the child is doing very well and was able to play about today. he had suffered very much from lumps in his throat. that prevented respiration whilst he slept _ you could hear him breathe in an adjoining room like a child in the croupe when ever he slept. and the difficulty was so great as to deprive him of rest so that he fell a way and looked as

if he was in a consumption. the girls were alarmed about him and his mother determined to have the lumps extracted _

I see by the papers that your citizens are invited to return home. you have just had frost enough to make it severe, and now the mild weather has returned. which is a great blessing to the poor who have habitations to seek after their exile.

Has your husband returned from the Lake? and what accounts does he bring from Ann? do you think she can be happy there all winter _ it will be so solitary, when all communication with the cities is cut off by ice and bad roads _ is Mr. Rhine-landers health restored? Ellen met Mr. Nicholas at a small party last week. and says he was well & in good spirits. his brother Sam has been confined almost all summer with rheumatism. and his wife has given him another son. so that they
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are neither in a condition to travel _ and there are some doubts entertained of their getting back this winter _

The Os said you have some expectation of moving this autumn. I hope you will not attempt it _ in your husbands absence. as a cold at this season would be a sad thing for you _ and you generally pay that penalty in the transition _

I rejoice to hear your children enjoy good health. and hope their constitutions become more hardy as they grow older tell Julia, Miriam & Becky have re-commenced their school studies, and have begun with music, on trial. Miriam has grown quite a big girl during the summer _ they were in the country until the beginning of this month _

You find my dear Maria, I have not been collecting thing amusing, in my long silence. this has been a [...] of considerable trials to me, and tho' I have much [cause to?] be grateful. and a due sense of it _ I do not feel the same elasticity of spirits, which formerly made my brothers light _ however, I am always cheered by the reflection of your friendship _ and [the] benefitted by the influence of your example _ continue to love me My dear Maria

and assure your self of the constant
affection of your faithful

RG

Oct. 31st. 1819

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
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