

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

October 25, 1820

Oct. 25th. 1820.

My Dearest Maria

I have been driven out of the lower story of the house completely by some necessary repairs. and have been inhabiting our little Library for almost a fortnight _ which must be my apology for not earlier expressing my interest in your last communicative letter _ indeed my heart most sincerely partook of all your anxieties concerning your Brothers. and I am grateful for their preservation amidst the dangers that surrounded them _ Edward's account is really affecting—we [cannot] but admire the evidence of an Almighty providence, who, thus raises up friends and assistants to the destitute stranger in their hour of need. and among those too, [or] when we have been too apt to consider inferiors _ we had a friend here from Savannah from whom I heard every few days respecting the sick, and was always particular in my enquiries about James. as he has escaped thus long I hope. he will be preserved throughout. Mr. Henry told me James was doing very well _ he is in the Auction business, and has talents well adapted to it. but the situation of Savannah must be deplorable indeed _ the inhabitants driven out by fire & pestilence one would think could hardly have energy enough left to embark in any thing like [...] _ Sam Nicholas and his family removed early in the season to a place of safety this is the first summer they attempted to stay in Georgia, & will hardly venture on another _ I am happy to hear that Ann is well & satisfied to remain at the Lake. since her husbands convenience requires it. Matilda begins to be companionable, and in the solitude [end of page]

of their present situation will be society for her mother. her education must be Ann's chief occupation and amusement

Caty Ogden's account of your health, (a subject on which you never dwell) has given me some uneasiness _ could you not My dear Maria, try what a visit to Phila. would do for you in another week we shall be re-instated in our parlours. and the season will be delightful for a journey. it may be of benefit to you, and will rejoice me _ we have rarely been two years without a meeting. and I feel as if we ought not be so long apart now _ your husbands friendship I always rely on _ yet am flattered by the affectionate expressions of it, and treasure them with grateful acknowledgements. what a delightful letter was your last one, every paragraph spoke of some friend who is dear to me,

it lies before me like their living portraits [of] and presents agreeable representations of each _

I find W. Irving has published a beautiful edition of his Sketch book, dedicated to W. Scott _ and that it has met with great success in England _ I do not think Walsh was the writer of the criticism on the 7th. no. published in his gazette _ I do not know what his disposition toward Washington may be _ but think he would not come out with such a flimsy review _ he has been a good deal galled by the Edinburgh notice of his book. and was silly enough to fill many columns of his paper in replying to it _ but having got thro' that and one or two of his other hobbies. his paper is again an agreeable [miscellany] _ I suppose you have read the Abbot, and felt a renewal of sympathy for poor Queen Mary _ there is a witchery in that character. which presented in what ever portion it may produces an effect on ones heart. no wonder then, that W. Scott should make a lament so deeply interesting _
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Rachel has continued to town; and brought the finest child, with her of 2 months old that she has ever exhibited, she looks quite respectable with her seven children around her _ I spent last evening with Mrs. Meredith, and found her much interested in an affair, that has excited a good deal of concern here _ the Scotch professor Pattison & Chapman. have been at variance for some time _ the subject of dispute, injurious to the character of the former _ he came up from Baltimore a few days ago. and challenged Chapman, who either took no notice of his note or refused to fight _ upon which P. [posted?] him at the Atheaneum & Coffee-house. one of Dr. C's friends, (J. Biddle unknown to him) got possession of the paper and put it into the hands of the Attorney-general, and the poor Scotchman is in apprehension, of being held in "durance vile" for an offence against the laws of the state. this just at the commencement of his honorable career, must be a sad mortification _ he is [...] -ed to chair in the medical College of Baltimore and is to [give?] [...] introductory lecture next week. I hope the affair will [terminate?] favorably _ for I see no good that can arise from making a foreigner the first example, when our own citizens have so often escaped punishment for a like offence _ I have fortunately for you got hold of a broken sheet of paper or might scribble on till I fatigued you.

Ellen has just come home, and begs that I will give her love to dear Mrs. Hoffman. she & Jac have got into an animated conversation, which in these narrow walls is rather loud for me _ she is endeavouring to persuade him to go in search of a wife _ and giving such hints as [may?] ensure his success. Adieu, My dear Maria, present me affectionally to Mr. JO. your dear children. & Eliza R. May God bless you, with health & happiness. ever
yours RG.

[Address:]
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