

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

April 10, 1823

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I am very grateful my dearest Maria, for your kind letter, and thank God for enabling you to give so favorable an account of your self. I sincerely pray your hopes may be realized and that we shall have the happiness of seeing you enjoy the blessing of health once more. I am much surprised at the cold-hearted conduct of Dr. Post. such behaviour to any person who applied to him for professional advice would have been cruel. but to you. who had so long been his patient _ and for whom he ought to have felt an interest nay, an affection sufficient to induce voluntary visits if you had not sent to him _ it appears most strange & unpardonable _ I trust however that the event may not be unfortunate since it has induced you to employ a Physician you think so highly of and his success in your case may be the means of acquiring a reputation for a youthful candidate _

I was so well pleased with the practice of our young Dr., Isaac Hays, that it was quite a mortification to me during my illness last autumn, that his mother insisted on having Chapman consulted. but she was tenacious _ having a double interest at stake. and I was obliged to submit _

There has been a great deal of talk about a duel here, which took place on Saturday between Genl. Cadwallader [end of page]

and Granville S. Pattison in which the former received a wound in his arm, which has been pretty serious, the ball took a direction from the wrist upwards. and lodged among the arteries. they have not been able to extract it yet. and for one or two days apprehended Lock-jaw. but I believe the danger has passed away and he may be brought home in the course of another week _ the occasion of the meeting is the subject of animadversion. after the quarrel between Chapman & Pattison, when Chapman refused fighting on the plea of want of Character in his challenger. and Cadwallader decided the unbecomingness of meeting him as a gentleman. it is certainly inconsistent that he should fight him, himself _ Cadwallader is Manager to the city dancing assembly and was applied to for a ticket of invitation for Mr. Pattison who was on a visit from

Baltimore (and is received in several families here, at Mr. Chews for one, at whose house he dined, and the invitation was requested by Mr. Chew Jr.) this was refusal, deemed an insult _ and the redress honorable demanded _ the parties met in Delaware and Pattison came off victorious! _ not only by wounding his antagonist, but in wiping off the stigma of inability to kill a gentleman, when ever he pleases, Genl. Cadwallader who stands high as umpire in affairs of etiquette, having received his shot _but this my dear friend, is no way interesting to you, and not likely to be approved of no court which sets at defiance the laws of God can receive your sanction _ and as Cadwallader is the father of a family of sons I think his conduct shameful _ since he was not called on by any duty or powerful motive to assume a silly responsibility _ nor to resent a family affront in so serious a manner _ our "city of brotherly-love" has been all in the wrong lately _ the Baltimore Catholicks & Baltimore Professor have been stumbling blocks in the way of our peaceful character _
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My prospect of paying you a visit _ is a strong desire to see you, which has determined me to make a journey for that purpose _ when I heard you were ill, & your husband absent, I was prompted to put it in immediate execution _ but the Passover prevented _ Your delightful letter, has therefore for the present postponed it. My Brother Jo, has not yet returned from Kentucky _ Hyman is on the eve of departure to Pittsburg on a tour of business. and I have not an escort, without taking the only male inhabitant of the household, which would not be proper, unless strongly urged _ I shall therefore wait until Jo's return, who will be going his annual journey to the northern part of your state in the course of the Spring or in June _ in the mean time let me hear frequently from you, My dear Maria, and should your [Physician] think an earlier Spring of advantage you, [could] you not, by easy travelling get on to Phila. we [are?] two or three weeks an advance of your climate?

present me affectionately to your Husband & children _ and accept the tenderest regards of all here _ my brother Simon just came in and desires his love _ he resides entirely at Willington about 2 miles from town _ we are looking for our nephew Benj Etting _ tho' his voyage has been protract'd by the fire in Canton _ Adieu my best beloved, I should not fatigue you by a long letter, but almost forgot my self in the pleasure of writing to you _ pray, pray be careful of your previous self and thereby procure happiness to

your affectionate R Gratz _
Rachel & Ellen send their love _

I hope Emma Seton stays with you _

[Address:]
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