

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

January 22, [1818]

I thank you My dear Maria, for your letter, which I had been looking for ~~with~~ some anxiety for some time, as I heard from Ann that both you, and her father were in her debt also _ I hope your eyes grow stronger. and beg you will indulge them until they gain their perfect state of health, it is so rarely you give them a holiday when they are well, that you should remember their faithful past services in their favour. and treat them with all the care due to any other invalid servant. every other part of your letter gave me great pleasure _ the arrival of Your Brother Verplanck & his residence with you _ Your dear Charles' restored health _ and your own release from confinement and anxiety, with the favorable accounts of the O_ family _ Euphemia is a good girl, and much attached to you, which is not among the least of her perfections in my eyes _ the eccentricity of Mrs. M's conduct to me, would puzzle one much more ingenious than I am at solving riddles _ she is very affectionate when we meet in Rachels chamber, which is the only place I have seen her this winter, one day in the Autumn she stepp'd into the parlour just as Mrs. Hays & my self were going to take an afternoon walk _ she was going to call on a lady from the country and could not stay a minute, but would come down after Tea and pass the evening with me, if I really wished it _ she did not come however, nor have [end of page]

I ever seen her here since _ tho' she says she has called sometimes of a morning when I was not at home _ notwithstanding this, I am sure her friendship has not abated; and were I to ask any proof of kindness she would not withhold it. but the habit of depending on her is so much broken, that I no longer expect to see her, or think of her society among the pleasures within my reach _ such a companion would have been a solace to my broken Spirits during the last year _ however I have not reason to complain _ our family party is large enough. and never were Sisters more kind than mine are to me _

Mary Cooper called to see me on Tuesday, she looks very well and retains all her agreeable conversation powers _ she has promised to give me as much of her company as she can. and as she is at private lodgings in Sansom Street. I hope to see a good deal of her, the distance is so convenient, Ann went to see her, she has been very little out this winter and except Mrs. Tousard & her Sister has few intimates. small parties are made for Phillips & [Anns] Husband being musical, induces her to accept

invitations, which I suspect are not so much to her taste as those she has persisted in refusing. her spirits are not high _ nor her partiality to Phila. encreased by her present mode of life. but I think she looks much better than on her arrival here _

Your Husband is going to pass some time in Albany _ Mr. Verplanck will I hope render you [less] solitary during his absence _ Jo bid me mention that he had sent some papers to Mr. Hoffman two or three days ago by a Mr. Isaac's which he hopes have been received _

Rachel has got out again, and her little daughter
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is almost as great a beauty as your babys all are _ she has given her the name of Sarah Gratz _

our city has for several days been in great dole for Dr. Wistar whose life is despaired of _ he has the Typhus fever to a most dangerous degree _ There is a [great] deal of that disease in our prison & Alms house. which has been very fatal. tho' we have not heard of any instance elsewhere in the city Dr. W_ would be a very great loss to us _ particularly to the college of Physicians _ and as a citizen he had given up practice for some time _ as much as he could _ but was continually engaged [in] consultations _

Sister Hays just entered and desires me to give her love to [you], and then bid you adieu as she wants me to [accompany] her in a walk. which I am the more [willing] to do [...?] think My dear Maria, you must be tired of this stupid letter _ God Bless you, embrace your children for me, present me Affectionately to Mr. Hoffman & Mr. Verplanck. and believe me unalterably

Your own RG.

Jan'y 22nd.

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
New York.

[Editors' Note: The year of this letter is based on the date of Caspar Wistar's death on January 2 1818.]