

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman**

**February 14, [1819]**

My dear Maria

I hear Emma goes on Monday and shall get her to take charge of a small bundle of cloths which I mentioned to you last summer, and which forgetfulness has so often prevented my sending you before, I have not seen Emma for a great while and hear from Ann that she thought my behaviour so cool to her when she was last to see me, that she would not come again, this, however is altogether conceit, she felt conscious of having neglected to come so long. that she fancied me indifferent to her visit. but as I knew her time has been better employed I am perfectly satisfied it should be so. her society has wrought a great change in Ann. whose health & spirits are both improved. she has written to Mr. Rhineland, and I hope he will be prevailed on to accede to the wishes of his friends. and his health be improved by the change.

I am really sorry to hear that you are going to move again, you are so pleasantly situated in all respects. and have such a pretty little garden which you have taken so much pains to beautify, that I could wish you might reap the reward of your labour. and enjoy the fragrance of the flowers you have planted In days of yore, it was [considered] a blessing of considerable importance that the husbandman who planted a vine yard should eat of its fruits \_ but Mr. H. seems to be of a different opinion \_ the charm of novelty is not to be resisted \_ I hope you will get a house as commodious & agreeable as the one you leave, and as you migrate annually you had better plant  
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your garden in boxes that are portable, and carry your sweets along with you \_ Mr. Verplanck [staid] two or three days in Phila. on his way, so we were more fortunate than you thought for, he dined with us twice, and we were much gratified in seeing him.

I have renewed acquaintance with our old friend & school mate Mrs. Meade, which is quite an agreeable circumstance to me, and brings many recollections of happier days to my mind \_ Penelope Parker has been making her annual visit to Phila. we accidentally met her & her sister together in the street, and accosted them as their respective conduct required. Mrs. M. with civility only P. with our usual intimacy \_ a few days after, Penelope came to see me, and introduced the subject of our estrangement \_ and the painful sensibility her sister felt on the occasion, she said if her circumstances were different she would make some advance towards a reconciliation \_ Mrs. M. also sent a message by Maria Hays

reminding of our schoolday friendship \_ which induced Rachel & my-self to call & see her \_ she has since spent an evening with me and brought her daughters, who are very charming girls \_ she told me she saw you at G Kembles last summer \_ since her Marriage we have never visited before \_ and I can hardly realize the number of years that have passed away. and the changes they have wrought, when I see her so little altered \_ she is very beautiful and has as much bloom as in her youth \_

I was very much shocked to hear of the death of Mrs. Dey and sympathize with her poor Mother & family \_ her loss is an irreparable one to her little girls \_ she was a most amiable woman & I do not think I ever saw a family more united in affection than they were, or apparently more happy \_ when you see them remember me to poor Mrs. L. & Mr. D. and say I sincerely lament  
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their affliction \_

when do you expect your husband home? I hope he will return recorder, Ann told me there was very little doubt of his success this time, but the tricks of Office are so uncertain, that I should not feel secure until he is in actual possession, but I believe the politicks of your state are better understood than ours, at least you can calculate with more certainty respecting the offices & their candidates \_

I received a very entertaining account of our friend B's correspondence with the Mayor the other day from herself. she seems to allow nothing for the dignity of your first city magis trait \_ we should sin in the same way more innocently for the distinction paid to your Mayor is entirely unknown to us \_ and I doubt not if such an apprehension were necessary here the Mayor would call on us & execute any papers at our [h...?] Mr. C. I hear is reappointed which must be very [agreeable] to his wife \_

I hope before this you have heard from Edward, pray let me know soon if you have, for tho' I hope there is no cause for anxiety, I shall be very glad to be satisfied that he is safe and well \_ James has not participated in the misfortunes of his employers has he? he has seen so much of the fluctuations of fortune for one so young. but I never saw a man of his years so well calculated to buffet with the world as he is, and I hope he may work him self in favor. with fortune yet \_ Edward is differently constituted, and must fall in her way by fewer shifts & turns \_ or his spirits would sink in the contest. Ben is by this time I expect in Indiana \_ perhaps he & Edward may meet, before we see either of them \_ I do not know what course he will take \_ or when he will return \_ he has been much longer in Kentucky than I expected. which I fear will lengthen his  
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absence \_ Ellen bids me send her affectionate love to you \_ we have been shut up all day by a snow storm, and have only seen the males of the family. or I should have messages of love from all the houses for you \_ Poor Richea has had repeated alarms lately from her little girls indisposition \_ her attacks are very sudden, but happily they do not last long. she is better again. and we may hope she will continue so for a month or two, but years may pass away before her constitution has strength enough to over-come the disease \_ embrace your children for me, My dear Maria \_ and believe me always tenderly & truly  
your attached RG\_

[Address:]  
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