

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

March 14, [1807]

Sunday Eve _ March 14th.

If I come my Maria, I shall come to you _ and spend a few happy days in your hospitality _ but it is yet uncertain _ My dear Rachels' situation makes me sometimes hesitate, when she is well _ my resolution grows strong. and I begin to anticipate a thousand pleasures to be derived from you. but if she rises languid _ she is sure to tumble down all my air drawn Castles _ however there is another week before us _ and I hope if it does not terminate our anxiety, it will at least give me courage to take a peek on you for a few days _

Your New Yorkers have really given us a treat _ I do not think if you had purposely made the selection to do honor to your City. the choice could have fallen on more worthy heads we shall no longer boast of superiority _ Paulding _ Washington & Brevoort _ rank high with our literati _ and take off the stigma which the flocks of butterflies that usually crowd from new York had placed on your Islanders _ we spent last Evening in company with them at Mrs. Griffiths in quite a sociable way. Washington says he has written to you, by which I hope you have [end of page]

heard that he passes his time pleasantly _ we see him every day. and he has of course become a favorite with the whole family _ Brevoort is also greatly admired and with our old friend Mr. Livingston make a charming trio. Miss Astor I have only seen once in the street, but like Falstaff she causes much wit in others, tho' not possessed of an abundant share herself _ and thus we are also indebted for her visit to Philadelphia _

You certainly exceed us in the character and Style of your Amusements last winter a masquerade _ and this an Italian [fete?] _ while the ideas' of our dull citizens never aspire higher than Tea & Cards _ [or] Dancing & Supper parties _ through which they mechanically drag themselves every night in the week _ and are comfortably set dozing of a Sunday at Made. Rivardi's Sacred Concert.

Aunt Cohen & Sally leave us on Tuesday and make their home at Mrs. Levys _ the M_family contemplate passing great part of the Summer at Ballston, and Rachel will become a resident at the Mount during their absence, but we hope to have her back in the Autumn, Yet the separation I feel disposed to repine at and think we could have better spared her when first she was married _ If you pass the next summer at Harmony Hall

she will not feel so solitary as I fear the period will seem to her _
as Ann & Eliza are fond of strolling _
[end of page]

W Irving gives fine accounts of your dear little Eliza
& Charles _ the former he calls the most beautiful child he
ever saw, altho he has seen Rosa, so you may expect her to
be a great belle, as we have hitherto considered ~~Rosa~~ Rosa [not unri...]
unrival'd,

Sister Hays begs me to present her best love _ she is
in excellent health, and spirits _ My Mother drank Your
health (her favorite toast) at dinner to day _ and unites, with
Sally & Rachel in affectionate remembrance to you & the
girls to which you must add mine _ with love to dear Harriet

I have been labouring very hard with the stump of
an old pen, and hope you will my dear Maria [with]
-out much difficulty [be] able to make out to read [...?]

If your husband has return'd, remember me to
him, and accept my dear friend the best wishes [from?]

Your Rebecca _

[Address:]

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mentions Eliza and Charles, Eliza was still alive in early 1808.

letter must have been written after February 1806 when Charles was born and before fall 1808
Rebecca's mother died.

March 1808 Maria lived on Broadway

in all likelihood it is 1807

Levy, Mary Pearce, 1762-1850

Rosa= Hays, Elizabeth Rosa, 1803-1855

Born, Maria von, 1766-1830

in debtors prison in March 1815, left for europe after her release in July 1815.

Ran French school for girls in Phila since 1802.