

**Rebecca Gratz to Josiah Ogden Hoffman and Maria Fenno Hoffman**

**April 28, [1809]**

April 28th.

The fatal news has just reached us \_ and our tears  
mingle with yours over the early grave of our Beloved Matilda \_  
the disappointment of a fond parent's heart, must be great indeed \_  
and can only be mitigated by the reflection that the stroke was  
given by an unerring hand. She was a Blessing only but for a short  
mortal period. bearing from her birth, indications that the fragile  
form would soon yeild to the power of death. While the perfection  
of her heavenly soul; scarcely tainted by its earthly [thraldom]  
was [prefeerd] [to reached?] the glory. \_ to which all our hopes point \_

To You my dear Friend who have ever cherished her with  
such fondness & delight \_ the consolation of having fulfilled every  
duty is sufficient, with your due reverence to the will of God \_  
to reconcile you \_ and with the affection of your remaining  
children, and the support of your Beloved Wife, I trust you will  
soon regain that portion of happiness which may yet await  
you \_

[end of page]

My Beloved Maria, schooled in Affliction! what can your  
poor friend say to comfort you \_ I fear, dear sufferer! you [would]  
think the attempt presumptuous \_ accept then, my sympathy  
my love, my flowing tears as a tribute, and let me in return  
hear how you, now, as ever, rise superior to my weakness \_

My Sister, tho' still ill, is better than she was yesterday  
and our alarm is some what subsided \_

May God, pour the balm of consolation  
on your Afflictions, My dearest Friends prays your  
sincere & affectionate R Gratz

[Address:]

Josiah Ogden Hoffman Esqr.  
New York \_

[Editors' Note: The year of this letter is based on the death date of Sarah Matilda Hoffman in 18