

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

[June? 1818]

I promised Ann, to give her a letter, but I do not think My dear Maria, you will have any reason to thank me for my liberal-ity as I am labouring under a stupifying cold _ and have nothing either new or interesting to communicate _ Time was, when I could always get up a letter to you, and think it worth your trouble to peruse _ but my vanity is less voluble now _ tho' it still assures me, you will give a much better reception to my letter than it deserves. and another feeling something allied to self-love but mixed with a noble love for you whis-pers that, I may be rewarded by an answer _ and all my diffidence is shaken by this argument _

I am glad to hear you have been making a little excursion to the country _ the weather here has been so exceptionally warm, for some days that we can scarcely bear to go into the street, but my Sister Hays & her little Girl are sick _ they have moved to a great distance from us _ and I have daily braved the scorching sun to visit her chamber _ they are both recovering now. Rachel is about to move entirely out of my neighbour-hood, so you see I shall not have my circle as compact as formerly and you will have no further occasion to chide me for staying at home.

I have written twice to Bella Ogden, since the death of her Mother, but have received none in return, I know the poor Girl is in great affliction, and that writing would be an exertion, when you see her give my love, what is their situation with David B? I find it is their intention to move into a smaller house the one they reside in, has so often been a scene of sorrow to them, that they would no doubt leave it from choice

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Mrs. Meredith gave me a sad account of bella & Caroline _ but I hope before this they are comforted. she, has great strength of mind _ and finds so many resources within herself that no circumstance of this life can over come her. she has lately composed a book for the use of her children, which is printing by one of the episcopal charity schools. I believe it is intended as easy lessons on the [Gospel] but I do not know the title. Mrs. Hall has likewise been engaged in a similar way. and has produced a very interesting little volume called "Conversations on the Bible." in which a concise & corrected history comprising the whole of the pentateuch is contained, it is told in simple language illustrating the text. and is very well calculated to be useful to children _ as well as an agreeable work for any one, who is fond of bible history _

our Ladies are becoming quite literary, and when they confine themselves to subjects so creditable, we are glad to see them take up the pen.

You will find Ann much thinner than she left you, but she

looks better than she did in the Spring _ and her spirits are better _
she has lately [paid] me two or three charming visits, I do not
know any body more agreeable, her conversation is quite a treat
when she enters with interest on a subject. I hope her visit
will afford you much society such as you so much admire &
she is so capable of giving _ have you brought Julia home?
if you have give my love to her _ I hope you will bring her to
pay me a visit when the heat has a little [subsided], you have
grown such a traveller that I shall be jealous if you do not
sometimes indulge that disposition in my favour. Your children
are too old now to be burthensome on a journey _
[end of page]

let me hear from you soon, my dear Maria, present me
very affectionately to Mr. Hoffman _ and believe me always
with the sincerest Affection Yours RG_

[Address:]
Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
New York

[Courier:]
Mrs. C. J. Nicholas

[Editors' Note: The date of this letter is based on the date of Euphemia M. Ogden's death on June 1818.]