

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman**

**[November? 1817]**

I have expected daily to have news to tell you  
My dear Maria, and have put off writing so long. that I begin  
to feel the bad effects of it my self. for I want sadly to hear  
from you and dear Charles. tho' I have not deserved it and  
could not expect it. If I could have foreseen that Rachel  
would have been all this time well & walking about. I should  
certainly have passed the week Jo was at Albany with  
you. and I can not tell you how much I have regretted  
that so good an opportunity has passed away unimproved.

I am much gratified at the accounts Jo gave of  
Charles' improvement, and hope the period of his sufferings  
is almost past. and that his privation will be less keenly  
felt than we apprehended. he has borne his misfortune  
with such heroism. that we may expect the same triumph  
will accompany him throughout and I know my dear  
friend you will bear, and teach him to bear every visitation  
in the best manner a mortal can do.

I saw Ann last week. she is well and I think looks  
better than I have seen her in a long time. she is more  
delicate than usual, but this is becoming to her. she is cheer  
-ful. and her society will no doubt make her husband so \_  
[end of page]

I have seen very little of her since her return, but she  
has promised to spend a day with me, and then she will find  
that it is charity to visit me, without waiting for return  
visits or particular invitations \_ I have been a good deal engaged  
lately with the business of our Orphan Society. providing for winter  
purchasing clothing &c. and now we are preparing the children  
for their annual exhibition. Betsy Abercrombie is my fellow  
-labourer, and I am glad to find she has resumed her cheerful  
ness. the family appear to live happily to gether. Mrs. A \_ behaves  
kindly to the girls & they are seen walking together constantly  
with great apparent good will. the Parson retains his station  
in the Church. is giving public Lectures. and we hear no more  
of his private affairs.

Are you not looking out for Verplanck this season?  
there is great expectation among his literary friends of some thing  
very entertaining from his travels. the Gentlemen of this place  
who met him in Europe. say he will bring more than a common  
travellers journal home. Washington Irving they say is going to  
become an Edinburgh Reviewer \_ so you will lose him altogether.  
there is quite a dispersion of that society of Young men

from N. York. these changes are imperceptable to a daily spectator but one who is a few years about from a place. returns almost a stranger to their former home. James P. expressed great feeling on the effect it had produced on him. [he] has been writing a book which will soon be published here \_  
[end of page]

you mentioned in your last. that your Brother James would be in Phila. we have been enquiring for him, of every body who would be likely to know him. I hope he has not been in the city & left it, without coming to see me \_ tell him when ever he comes to Phila. I shall expect he will come to us. as his friends \_ Edward was here a long time before we heard of him, or saw him, but he was good enough afterwards to atone for his fault. and we should not easily pardon him for a repetition of it. or James either.

Give my love to dear little Julia, I hear she is improving very fast. and is learning French, she & Miriam Moses will be able to talk together in that language when they [...] again \_ our children talk of her very often and of George [...]

Sally Cohen just stepped in & bid me present her love to you. the girls have gone to see Wests picture this morning \_ it is greatly criticised here \_ and opinions are so various that as yet its reputation is not decided \_ some compare it with Alstons \_ others are offended that it should be levelled to that standard. and again some thinks it loses by the comparison \_ I hear Sully thinks it a wonderful production.

It is the resort of all strangers & citizens \_ and will produce a large revenue to the institution.

Give my love to Mr. Hoffman. dear Charles & the rest of your family. and believe me always my dear friend yours RG.

[Address:]  
Mrs. Ogden Hoffman  
New York

[Courier:]  
Mr. D. Moses.

[Editors' Note: This letter was written after Charles Hoffman's accident which was reported in the *New York Evening Post* on October 25, 1817, and before Rachel Gratz Moses gave birth to her daughter Sarah on December 20, 1817.]