

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Fenno Hoffman

[April 6?, 1805]

My Dearest Maria

This will be handed you, by your Matilda who is so happy in the idea of seeing you again, that I suppose she will scarce be sensible of any fatigue or difficulties which travelling at their ever changing season may subject her to, _ I am writing in Sister Hays's chamber at midnight her illness which I mentioned to you in my last _ obstinately baffles the exertions of her physician it is occasioned by a violent cold, which in her debilitated state _ almost over powers her strength _ she is now in a sleep produced by Laudanum, and which I hope will benefit her. the cough is some what abated and we anxiously expect that a few days will make a favorable change _ there is a dreadful tumult in the streets and cry of fire _ but I feel so much more interested in other calamities that I do not quit my pen _ at a sound which last night filled me with terror _

It seems that I have nothing but bad news to communicate and I know you will partake in the general sorrow for an accident which took place on Thursday night _ and which deprives an amiable & interesting family of their protector and best friend _ Mr. Geo Plumsted in going up stairs in a state of intoxication fell over the banisters and was killed by the fall _ his wife you were acquainted with
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and from the sensibility of her character may form some idea of her present state of wretchedness _ the funeral was to have taken place this after noon _ but upon examining the body _ a little warmth about the heart induced them to use means for his revival _ but I believe it was but encouraging a false hope _ for from the nature of the hurt _ (which was intirely in his head) _ it is not possible he could recover _

I never heard of a circumstance so replete with [horror] _ the situation from which he was called in to the Awfull presence of his God! seems shocking _ and the embarrassed state of his affairs may create for his afflicted wife _ difficulties of another nature _

Rachel received a letter from Eliza last week _ but it contains no flattering account of dear Caroline's situation but we must submit to the will of Heaven! and with grateful acknowledgements receive the Mercy _ that spares the dear Girl a [painful] sense of her danger _ and the acute sufferings she endured in the first season of her illness _

I have not been able to see Matilda today _ but

hope I shall _ before she sets out in the Morning _ I intended
to have gone home after Sister went to bed _ but the rain pre-
vented me _ you will excuse this intolerable writing as
I have my paper in my lap and nothing to support
it _ besides a very bad pen _
[end of page]

give my best love to your dear Husband and embrace
your sweet cherub for me _ would I see you all! _

God bless you my dear Maria
your affection is my most invaluable treasure
and is locked in the heart of your
unalterable Friend

RG _

[Address:]

Mrs. Ogden Hoffman
New York

[Courier:]

Miss S. M. Hoffman _

[Editors' Note: Our dating of this letter is based on the death and burial dates of George Plumstead.]