

Albany June 13. 1860

My dear Child

I wrote you a long letter a few days since, which I hope you have received, and that it may afford you some pleasure. As I expect to leave home tomorrow for some time and thereby prevented from again writing, for a week or two, I thus hasten to address you. I am very sure, if you read my letters, with half the pleasure, it gives me to write them, that you will feel much obliged, by this kind of my paternal remembrance. Perhaps, my dear Child, there is no prospect of my future life, more interesting to me, than your welfare, and in this, I write the fondest expectations of seeing you excel in those attainments, which shall attract the esteem and gain the love of all your friends. While you endeavor to improve and cultivate your Mind, forget not the Graces of your Person. They are essential to the well-being of a female Character, and the finest Understanding loses ⁴⁴⁴ its value, unless thus embellished. Avoid bad habits, of which you have often written, and it cannot be too frequently repeated. You know to what I allude, and I entreat to the life in perfect. Strive to correct but of your person, which are more or less neglected.

strict attention, aided by unceasing perseverance, will soon
 overcome - I particularly allude to your manner of walk-
 -ing - It must be corrected, and I hope your dancing Mas-
 -ter considers it part of his task, to instruct you therein -
 -But for all let me remind you, and I cannot say it
 too often, that your improvement must chiefly depend
 on yourself - Miss Hay may in vain direct you to the
 means of rendering yourself, what I so ardently wish you
 unless her instructions and advice, are seconded by your
 own efforts - not merely, while you are under the im-
 -mediate eye of herself, and then, far away, select to af-
 -fect her, but at all times, even in your hours of play and
 amusement - At your age, the person is to be formed -
 and its defects lessened - if not perfectly cured - Every year
 you now advance in life, you will find the task
 more and more difficult - improve therefore the pre-
 -sent moment, and what, at first, will feel awkward
 and troublesome to you, by habit will soon become
 natural and perfectly easy - Few women walk well,

I hope you will hereafter be ranked among the
 accomplished extremely ornamental
 a Lady; and hope, I have said enough

to call forth your Endeavours, to correct your present flimsy
mode of moving your feet. at the same time, recollect
that the carriage of your Shoulders, is essential to give to
walking its true Grace -

I am very anxious to hear from you, and to know, how you are pleased with your new situation - If there is any thing omitted, of the Articles furnished by your Mamma, which you think will add to your comfort or pleasure, mention it; for it is my wish to gratify you, in every reasonable indulgence. I shall be in New-York about the middle of next Month and before my return, will certainly be home for my desire to embrace you, unless very day - and often, very often ^{you} are the subject of my conversation, with your Brother and Sisters - They all abound in Affections towards you, and have several times requested, when I write, not to forget their Love; and so also says your Mamma & Betty - With respectful compliments Miss Hay, believe, my dear Child, that in me, you'll find a most indulgent and affectionate Aunt

For: Rogers to Miss Hoffman -

Miss Alice Ann Hoffman

New Brunswick