

Philadelphia Feb 4 19th 1805.

My dear father,

It is an age since I have heard from you, I begin almost to despair of hearing at all - The greater distance you are from me, the more is my anxiety to see you - How I long for the time when I shall embrace you - I believe I repeat this sentence in every letter I write, yet can I say it too often? Each time I write my anxiety to see you increases - & I am sorry to say school grows every day more irksome to me - I ought to acquire the french language perfectly, to repay me for the many doleful nights & days I have spent within the walls of Mr Greenland's school - I do not wish for any other accomplishment for I only learn much besides that I improve very much in - But, I will tell you, & Mr Thowson the french master says I may give him as authority, that I speak

I speak with quite as much ease as I do English ^{at five o'clock} - This is my days work, & whether I sleep
I mean, very, as well. My pronunciation is improv- here or not it is the same thing for I do nothing
-ed, & I find no difficulty at all in speaking it - more - I have no lessons to learn, & of an evening
I have ~~none~~ of the shame I used to have about I sit & gaze, I cannot read, for the little girls
it - last night I was out (for the first time this fortnight) are round the table studying their lessons, & they
at a ball at Mrs Michling, I spoke nothing but make too much noise - Mrs Greland is giving lessons
French Almost the whole evening - Madame Bro- at the piano - I derive no advantage from speak-
rean was there & entertained every body ^{any} her dancing the little girls are busily studying - we used to
I have a request to make to you my ^{dear} father, ^{which} ^{when} we lived in the other house sit down stairs
I hope you will grant - It is to stay with the girls of an evening but that Mrs Greland will not
& be day - scholars here from the first of March allow - I go to bed every night ^{at nine} with a heavy
Do not be startled at the request, when I tell you heart, & if I were with the girls, I might read as
the reasons I have for making it - we are here very they do or converse with Bechy, & derive some
early, ~~on~~ ~~every~~ French school is not in till nine ment - I would improve quite as much at
o'clock, & between the hour of rising & nine I as I do now, I should speak French all day from
do nothing, I do not learn English, & therefore have nine till five, & then go home & spend a whole
no lessons - the French master stays from nine out too much the girls go out very little, they
till twelve, at twelve the English master comes have been sent to one private party yet - I should
& stays till two - During that time I practice be able then to cultivate some pleasant acquain-
my music - which you ^{are} the two things I tances here, which at present I am not able
learn French music, we dine at two after dinner to do, for as soon as I meet with a pleasant
- never I take my music lesson - I sit & gaze till person one evening, I perhaps don't see her again
for two or three weeks - Mrs Robinson is inclined

to be very kind to me - but it is impossible for me
 to get acquainted with her, I have only dreamt
 her there once as I am only out Saturday -
 she has asked me to stay with her, which if
 I was day boarder, I might for a week or two
 & then again with the girls - Mr. ~~Robert~~ ^{William} ~~Union~~
 is a very sensible man, & ~~is~~ ^{reads} all the
 'Literati' constantly at his house - Do you not

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 Josiah Ogden Hoffman Esq^r
 Care of Mr. Manwaring
 Post Office
 Albany

from Hoffman
 February 19th 1848

think my dear father, ^{I should much have better} in such company, than
 sitting alone of an evening here & do answer me quickly?
 If you consent, write to Mr. Greenland, I am sure he
 will not be at all offended - It is different with men like
 as the clever English & French - If you ref me, just write to
 me, & I will e'en sit & gaze till the hour I shall embrace you
 Ever & forever yours child - Alice Ann Hoffman