

New York Nov 20, 1829

My dear Sister/

I admit that I have been very negligent, & that my long silence would justify a charge of want of affection. But indeed this is not the case - I have long intended to write, but "So many - and so many have to write in," that each new day has found me sorry for the ommissions of the past, & full of good determinations for the future - I often think of you, & of Matilda & Emma & I sincerely wish, that it were in my power to show you, by acts rather than by professions, that distance & separation have not weakened those ties by which nature has bound me to you, & there -

It is true, that I have friends - and while I thank you for your kind opinions of her, whom I have chosen,

I may say, at least, to you, that, "our justice
qui fecit", she deserves all that you say of
her, and I am sure, that her character
& amiability would, when you knew her,
commend her to your love & respect.
She is strange, and is a strong proof of
my past prognoses, that the first
letter, which I am writing to you, since
my marriage, should inform you of a
birth of a little Boy. - He is, now, three
months old. - & is, by common consent, a
fine, fat, & remarkable Boy. - He has
blue eyes. light hair. high forehead
& large nose. - or in other words, is the
image of me, & my other children. - He
shuts his eyes when he laughs, & opens
his mouth when he cries. - cries when
he is in pain, & is contented when he
is pleased, & upon the whole is the
opinion of his mother & grand father,
is a wonderful child.

You have heard, of course, of the death of
poor little Rhineland. - He was truly an
afflicting event, & many suffered much
from the shock. - Virginia saw her, yester-
day, & was rejoiced to find her so
perpetual & composed. - The Reverend Father,
as a sister, in his last moments, and
left to her, you already know, all the
property he held in his own right.

The two days, I have, again, with
wife & child, for Washington. - We are
to leave, I fear, a stormy season. - Parties
will be so nearly divided, that the
choice of a speaker may depend upon
the mere jury members, whom each are
contending, and violence is apprehended
by many. - I trust, & believe, without
cause. - But, be that as it may, at
all events, each side will be so in-

= for Kent, that no Member saw her long
absent, and the Capitol will be very
Pison hour, for the next seven months.
If, during the Session, or at any time, I
can be of service, in any way, to the
Whitman do not let him hesitate in
calling my attention to his wishes.
Let me assure him, that he enjoys my
sincere respect & regards, and that it
will, always, afford me great pleasure
to see my little influence in his favor.

Remember me kindly to him - and
give my love to Matilda & Emma. Bid
the children for me, & believe me, my
dear sister, whether I write or not - am

Your affectionate Brother

J. Hoffman

I forgot, in thinking so much of you,
& nothing of myself, to tell you, that Obed

is very well. He is now in the Senior
class in our college, & will graduate
next year. He is boarding in a French
family, & if he would have more in-
dustry, I think, will make a fine
& a distinguished man. Charles is
at home with General Pickham
& is a fine engaging boy. -

Benjamin insists upon thanking you,
much, for your kind remembrance of
him, & I again bid you Good Night

Affectly yours

Wm. H. Offens

My dear Mr. Nicholas,

I cannot permit Ogden to
close his letter, without thanking you, for your kind
and affectionate mention of me, in your last letter.
I wish, for his sake, that I could lay claim to
even a small part of the praise, which my fan-
tasy ^{friend} has bestowed upon me. but a boundance of love
must atone for all other deficiencies, and I beg

you to believe that that love embraces all who
are dear to him. And none are often mentioned
or with more affection, than yourself and those
around you. Present me kindly to them, and
accept my dear Madam, the assurance of a sister's
love, and the hope, that before long, my anticipa-
tions of seeing and knowing you, may all be real-
ized. - Yours most truly,

A. L. Hoffman.

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$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ 20 \\ \hline 300 \end{array}$$

2

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ 20 \\ \hline 200 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ 20 \\ \hline 260 \\ 41 \\ \hline 1040 \end{array}$$

13

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ 20 \\ \hline 240 \\ 4 \\ \hline 960 \end{array}$$