

(5)
Albany January 3^d 1861

My dear Ann -

I have once more returned to my own home, and am again surrounded, by those, who with yours, are most dear to me - Affection from my Children press to teach me, how much they are beloved - They often prove a source of anxiety, but from the prospect and hope of their future well-being and happiness, I derive the most heart-felt delight - Can they ever, by any misconduct, or ungrateful behavior, destroy the flattering reputation of a Parent, who devotes almost every thought and action, to their benefit -

I found your Brother and Sister all well - They were eager in their inquiries about you - and asked a thousand questions, about our fair down, your amusements in New York, and the like; all showing how much they think of you - Matilda's health is better, but she continues very, very thin -

-She has again commenced, as far as her strength
will permit, her studies, under my care, and for as
attention, as I could wish - You have removed yours
with much greater advantage, and trust, with more
than equal zeal - You are fast approaching to a
period of life, when great things will be expected
of you - Remember, that as a child, you are thought
to be well advanced in your mental acquirements.
- You have therefore already some character to lose
for your own sake, and to verify the praises of others,
yet it incumbent on you, to pursue the road of improve-
-ment with undiminished zeal - If you are not
superior in your attainments, to most other young
Ladies, you will be considered, as inferior - for you will
be estimated by the present reputations of your friends.
- To realize therefore such expectations, ought to be
an object of great ambition with you - Such ambition
will be laudable, and will incite you to assiduity
not only in the attainment of intellectual, but personal
improvements -

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I hope long ere this you have received all your
things, and that they may please you - For the Ex-
-per you ought to write a letter of thanks to your
Aunt Maria, and do not forget, that it is high
time, I should receive a letter from you -

Offer my best respects to Miss Hay and her
Sister - The amount of your last quarter will be sent
by this Mail to Mr. Walker - Through mere forgetfulness
- we, I left New York without paying it +

This is the commencement of a New Year -
and in the opinion of some, of a New Century.
Be it either, or both - May it prove to you a
happy one - and a year of great improvement, for
the next year will find you "Miss in her teens."
We all unite in the most cordial wishes for
your health and happiness - and most tenderly
are both prayed for, by, my beloved Child your
ever indulgent Parent -

Jos. Ogden Hoffman

