

Coldenham October 2<sup>d</sup> 1867

Teaunt let Mary Robinson depart without writing to my beloved father - Your two last letters gave melancholy news of poor Charles - My heart sympathized with you, & you feel not a pang which I do not partake of - Would that I could afford you any consolation, but what in your present situation could be offered? If we "sow in sorrow, we shall reap in joy" - ~~Let~~ Let this my dear father console you - Our present state is very imperfect, calamities prove our friends - They teach us the road to heaven - But my heart feels so much for Charles, to say any thing <sup>much</sup> on the subject - I sit & picture to myself, the whole family drowned in grief perhaps hourly expecting his death, or - more dreadful still that he is already gone - I sometimes wish I were with you to share your griefs - All I love most on earth, to be in affliction - O: that it fell only on me - gladly would I bear it - Much sorrow has been thy portion, my father, but, "blessed be he that mourns, for he shall be comforted" - I feel as if a letter, would now be deemed an intrusion, but I felt that I ought to write, lest you might suppose me wanting in my first duty - Love to you - 'Tis that animated & cheers me, thro' every misfortune -

I thank my dear Matilda, for the trouble she has taken  
with my things - I am now fixed for some time - Give my  
best love to her, & bid her write to me; we were quite disap-  
-pointed she did not accompany Uncle Sandy - You tell  
me to write to Eliza - I feel much for her in her present afflic-  
-tion, & could it, afford her any consolation would gladly do  
it - but what can I say that would mitigate her grief?  
Indeed, I should not know what to say - If I were with her  
willingly would I do any thing that ought to be done -  
but I cannot write to her - however, if you are anxious  
for it, in your next express it, & it shall be done -  
Remember me affectionately to Mamma, she will  
need much attention - I sigh at the thought of  
the unhappiness of my family, my beloved family -  
But, strive against my father, as you value the happi-  
-ness of your child, of your children, & your wife - let  
your next letter be less melancholy, for I cannot bear  
the thought of your woe - Write me soon, altho' I  
dread to hear from you - yet write me all -

Over the same affectionate Child -

Aunt Hoffman

My dear Aunt & ~~Uncle~~ send their love to you - Aunt  
feels much for Charles, for she, as well as all of us,  
became quite attached to him - she could not have paid  
him more attention - & are you not grateful? -

Sosiah Ogden Hoffman Esq

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Paul Dby  
Mr Robinson -

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family -