

Albany March 7th 1816

My dear Mary! / You no doubt are much surprized at my long silence
your kind & affectionate ^{letter} claimed an immediate answer - But at the time
I received my mind was wholly taken up with my dear Parents that I
could seldom leave them - & when I did was obliged to be with my
now only sister M^{rs} Walsh whose situation then required all the time I
could spare - & being in the constant expectation of seeing you here I have
remained doubly in your debt - those apologies will I trust suffice for
my seeming neglect - shall we not soon be gratified with your return
or is New York to be your future residence - I hope not - your Mother
has been very much confined this winter for want of sleighing of which
we never had less - Eliza has been over frequently & looks very well -
I can give you no news nothing of the gay world not partaking of any
amusements - I heard very little of them you know I never was very fond
of them & do not ^{at} all relish them now -

What a loss my dear Mary has your
Aunt & Cousins in the death of your Uncle Cuyler - sincerely do I sympathize
with them in their serious affliction - but what shall we say it becomes
us to lay our heads on our hands & our mouths in the dust & acquiesce
in the will of an unerring & mysterious Providence -

I return you many thanks for the muffin
you sent it is very good but am really uneasy at it being so long unpaid -
Mamma unites with me in affectionate regards to your dear Sister & accept the

Same yourself with every friendly wish for your health & happiness - from

RS

Always remembered me to E. Hoffman

Your true Friend
A. Stevenson