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Margaret Marshall to Mrs. Armstrong, March 28, 1793

Margaret Marshall

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March 1793.
Mrs Armstrong

Thursday ^{the} 28 of March 1793.

I return many thanks to my dear friend for her very great regret at my leaving her I have often since wished that it had been in my power to have stay'd longer with her be assured that I did very great violence to my feelings when I was oblig'd to bid you adieu though I am delighted at the idea that one Month is elapsed of the time that you flatter'd me that I should see you early in May —

Mrs Rickles has left New York I think her health is quite establish'd she look'd as well as I ever saw her I saw her often while she was in Town I wish you would change your style of dress and powder your hair and lay that plain cap aside you know I often took the liberty to tell you that it disfigur'd you for a little Peggy Beard make some thing smart and tasty for you I know with her charming obliging inclination to please she will do it with pleasure give my best love to her and tell her I beg she will join in my request to you that you will dress a little more in the becoming your age and

and not like a Lady of Mr. Yards age your Sister was surpris'd
when I described your mode of dress the black handkerchief and
the shawny shoes in particular commanded her attention.
All your friends are well except Betsy the poor Girl
has been confined to her bed for this ten days past with
a most violent head ach so ill with it that she could not bear
the least light in her Room or the most trifling noise affect'd
her head, she is some thing better, tho' still confin'd to her Room
We have mit with a very great loss in the death of poor Mrs. ^{De}
Heavens health was so short and her death so sudden that
it makes her loss the more lamentable to her friends
she was taken on Saturday with the scarlet fever and the
violence of it brought on her Labour the next morning she
sent for Mrs. Macomb and in about an hour after she had a
daughter a six Months child with out a pain. The moment
after all her friends were alarm'd for her she became so impatient
it and so very restless and her fever increas'd so rapid that her
Doctors lost all hopes and she expired the next day to the grief
of all her friends her afflicted husband is truly to be pitied
he poor ^{man} has mit with an irreparable loss so good and so affectionate a wife

and so amiable Woman the most affectionate Mother she caught
her illness by her too great attention to her little Son who was
very ill with that complaint and she would not leave him for
a moment the most anxious Mother I ever saw excepting your
self her favourite daughter a child of about three year of
age was taken ill the day she was buried and died the next
day I sat there and found the old Gentleman drowned in grief
that two of his children was ill and that he da'd not go up
to see them as he was afraid to take the complaint that
had been so very fatal to his family to lose a Wife and two
Children in three days is almost too much for nature to
support she was six and thirty. I never met a stranger so general-
ly lamented as she is - or in so short a time made so many friends
she was one of those friends to me that I can never can forget -

I have sent you several pattern of black silk, which ever you may
fix on I will take a pleasure to get it for you, or any thing else
that you should think off ~~as~~ to fashions we have nothing
new as the Spring Dresses are not yet arriv'd. I have seen nothing
new but the Colage bonnet and I think they are very odd
indeed I never saw a fashion that I thought so little off I would
have sent you one but I know you would not wear it if it is the exact

make an shape of a col. scuttle the most unbecoming of all
fashions if any thing handsome should arrive that I think will
suit you I will purchase it and send it to you - Miss Peggy
Byard all her family are well Mr. Bouslen and one of her other
Sisters was here yesterday afternoon and Miss Horland with
them I suppose sh^e is quite satisfied with Philadelphia - if not
tell her I shall think she wants for lack in the way
I wish you would remember me to Miss Mead and all that
family as sh^e is quite obligate to them for the many attentions
I reciev'd from them Mr. Cogenhoe told me you had taken care
of Mr. Meads house I was quite delighted that you was to conti-
nue in the neighbourhood that is so very pleasing to you I think
Mr. Mead is one of the best of neighbours - who are you to have
near to you - did I mention to you that Mr. Jackson had a fine
daughter about a fortnight ago Mr. and Mrs. Macombe and all
our family beg to be remembered to you and Mr. Hean you
did not mention in your last letter how Mr. Hean's health was
though I flatter myself he is better my best love to him give
Peter a dozen of your affectionate kisses for me and say
how much I love him - oh I wish you wou'd pay Mr. Pugg a
shilling for I forgot it as I also did to send the money by Mr. Arnold
for the beads - my best wishes for your health & happiness from your affectionate
M. Marshall