

No 4.

Philadelphia March 31st
Saturday night

Again My Dear So. I chuse the period when your thoughts are turned homeward, to address you - tho' I can only repeat how long the time appears since you left us, and how we continue to repeat to each other the loss we each feel in your absence. Three weeks have you been toying upon the waves! what would we not give to know how you bear it? where you are - and when you are likely to reap terra firma again. I have often wished for some of the fairy gifts bestowed on the personages of the Arabian fables, but never with such good cause as since your departure, for that magical mirror, which with a rub would reflect the condition of an absent friend - tho' perhaps like the prince, I might sometimes see you in situations that would fill my heart with pain & apprehension - It is weak to lament the imperfect command we have in this world - perhaps were our wishes all gratified we should not enjoy half the good we now possess, and were we to apply ourselves more diligently to the correction of unreasonable expectations might arrive ^{at} the goal to which all our labours point.

We are told that you will have a delightful voyage. the winds are favorable, the season fine, and the prospects prosperous. you have besides the prayers of the pious, and the good wishes of many gentle friends for

* your safety & success - our dear Father takes an extra glass of wine to drink your health in every later day. he is quite well. and our sisters who were invalids when you left us are recovered. Fanny talks of making a journey to Baltimore in May. her eye gains strength, and she grows fat when the weather becomes settled she will go abroad again. and then will consider herself well -

I know you will be most anxious about domestic communication and therefore need not fear you will think a letter insipid which contains only a detail of such events as daily occur about the fire side of home, could I transport the amusing gambols of the children even they would be interesting to you - for they would form a striking contrast to the scenes in which you are engaged. and it will be a long time I fear before you will again have your heart interested in such innocent play things - but if you are debased of this, you will have more important objects of attention, and I trust will derive as much pleasure as profit from your travels - It is probable you will meet many of our American friends in Europe. Charles Brock & John Myers talk of embarking this spring the latter is here on a visit - and from letters received by the family suppose you will find J. Munsie at Hamburgh -

I remember your request about letters, and when in my power will comply. at present the opportunities are so numerous and occur in such inconvenient numbers. that all you receive will be nearly the same

March 31. 1810

Mr. Joseph Gault
Hamburg

