

Rebecca Gratz

Philadelphia April 16th
1812

My Dear So

We yesterday had the happiness to hear of your arrival at Lexington in good health, which I assure you was a great relief to our anxiety, and indeed is the only gratification we can now anticipate for you in this long journey - since the embargo will completely defeat the purpose for which you left home - however, such kind of disappointments are so much the fashion in this world, that a man's philosophy must be small indeed that does not forewarn him, before he embarks on a speculation - that such may be the result - we now only hope, that the hindrance which appeared unfortunate to you at Pittsburg, may prove in the end a friendly sore, and secure you from the evil of a heavy loss - You must improve the lesson my dear Brother, and as it is not probable you will increase your fortune much in the present instance, be the more careful not to impair your health, which after all is a thousand times more valuable, than all the gold that has ever been dug out of the bowels of the earth. do not stay longer at New Orleans than is just necessary to accomplish your business & satisfy your curiosity, and tell our friend Mrs. Tonsell we hope she will be ready & willing to accompany you home. present our affectionate remembrance to her, and say we think of her frequently in our wanderings in the country, where we are sometimes accompanied by her sister - and always regret her absence -

we have at length come to a conclusion with Mr Read about his house - his family are moving. and in the course of a fortnight we hope to be settled in it - after which we shall have a succession of friendly visitors from abroad - to fill up the vacancies in the family party - yet believe me, my dear, you & Myra will not cease to be regretted. until you drive away regret by your return.

as one Brother has written to you, I suppose he has communicated all the city news - at least all arrivals &c. to you of course. Know that Sam. Nicholas - Charles Pops & half a dozen others are all safely returned with the riches of the East to our shores - where they are safely to be locked up, until the President & Congress have determined whether to invite the English to come for the spoil or not - you don't know how terrible war like we are here - new officers in their new uniforms parade the streets - and we are frightened out of our wits at the "dreadful notes of preparation" that issue from the war prep at Washington -

I am quite at a loss for something agreeable to communicate to you, and by no means capable of scribbling any thing for your amusement. I have been quite sick with a sore throat & cold - this day is the first of my being out for a fortnight. tho' perfectly recovered I have not regained much elasticity of mind, and returned home so late from Parkers where I spent the afternoon, that you must pardon the stupidity of my night thoughts. ~~that~~ I would rather put your good nature to the test, than leave you to conjecture ill of my constant remembrance and good wishes towards you. Our Family are all well, or as nearly so as is usually the case among such a number. Old Mrs. Kays has had some pretty

 W. Grate

April 15. 1812

Law. D. D.
H. P.

20 May 24

61
MAY 19

Mr. Joseph Grate

Care of J. C. Wilkins Esq

~~Grate~~
New Orleans

