

Philadelphia May 15th - 1812

Your letter my dear So of the 13th April was received with the greatest joy, and as it did not reach us until we imagined you were past the dangers and inconveniences of your voyage - we perused it with the same kind of feelings, a traveller experiences when he looks back on the toilsome journey, and rejoices with an honest pride over the difficulties he has surmounted - when you inform us of your safe arrival at Natchez we shall be happy indeed - tho' above how near a disappointment you will meet there, in the embargo - we hope your stay at New Orleans will be very short, and that next month we shall have the pleasure of welcoming you home again - we are at length fixed in our new home at the corner of Chesnut & 7th and have our dear Cousin Rachel her husband & daughter Catharine with us - she continually laments that you are not at home, and I promise to bring you to Baltimore at some future happy day to return her visits - and I know you will soon learn to love her dearly - If Kate was a few years older and as fine a woman, as she no doubt will be considering what a sweet interesting child she is - I do not think you would desire to continue your search much longer in so unprofitable a way - you have had so much reflecting time as you floated down the river, that I dare say you have moralised, your "situation" into a thousand similes" and I hope come to the resolution not to glide down the stream of time without a kind companion & the fast friend.

The Myers' have just passed through the city on their return home, Louis's trial takes place this month and his friends are extremely anxious about it. he appears sensible of the danger but keeps up his spirits, and if acquitted will leave the country

immediately they both made very friendly enquiries about you, and drank to your health at supper -

At New Orleans, I hope my dear Mother you will remember that we shall be very anxious to hear of you - and that we cannot consent to your entering into any engagements that would detain you beyond the month of June. Mrs. Fossom's sister expects her about that period, and depends on your returning with her.

Our Brothers & Sisters are all well, and send you a deal of love. The children have all had the measles - and had them favorably. My little niece - who has escaped that foe - but expect the vile soon take it also - I have no family news to communicate we have been so taken up with first preparations, & repairs and then moving that I have not been able to write you before, and not late on Tuesday afternoon - can scarcely collect my ideas for the purpose having just heard of an opportunity of sending a letter - Cousin has been here a fortnight - and will leave us on Tuesday next. The L. & M. Etting both desire me to present them affectionately to you - Peabody is much as usual - his spirits not improved would to God, his prospects were brightened. his dear friends seem to have nothing to give him - tho' there are continually openings in offices, which he could fill - Fanny has been a good deal confined with her children - but is well and the other girls enjoy perfect health.

Elisha V. and her husband will be here tomorrow - all circumstances of this kind makes me regret your absence more - you lose changes in the family circle, and our guests would pass a more agreeable time, were you here to enliven the scene. They talk here of nothing but ^{war} war - it serves some for jokes and makes many more serious. a recruiting office, thinly attended, and a few glittering blue Epaullets now & then are seen through

Rebecca Pratt

May 15. 1812

For - 25
25. Joseph Lynch
of Mrs. J. W. Williams

~~For~~
New Orleans

that I have
afternoon -
head of us