

Lancaster August 19th - 1802

Accept my dearest Becky my warmest congratulations on the propitious nuptials of your amiable friend - that she is united to a worthy and respectable man - our loved aunt affirms who she doubts not will render her perfectly happy - and strew her path of life with roses - too long has thorns arase to obscure her once bright prospects - I well know what your sensations were - when apprised of her marriage - and can pardon a silence which proceeded from - a source of so much joy - her tender friendship for my Becky was truly conspicuous in debating - such a moment to her - when her heart must have been divided - and perplexed by a thousand nameless emotions - I hope you may not be disappointed in the expected visit from her - aunt Shinnah intends writing to you from her you will receive every information of the husband of your friend - I had a letter from my dear Sally Seixas a few days ago they were all well - she begged me to congratulate you on Maria's marriage - she says Mr Hoffman - is a man of sense and talents - from my dearest Eliza I have had no letter since I have been here - tho S. Seixas says she is in health and would write soon - she adds her spirits are bad - which makes me very unhappy about her - Heaven grant no new source of trouble has happened to cast a gloom over her prospects of bliss - for in the last letter she said they were bright - from her acute sensibility I have much to dread - and her last favorite aunt is in a decline which threatens my loved friend - with a deprivation of her maternal

counsels - for in her earliest days deprived of parents - her aunt Rebecca fully
supplied the place of a mother - Heaven avert the stroke so much dreaded -

I feel rather in a pensive style to day - I can account for it in some
measure - for I have heard nothing but the mournful - last evening
poor Henry Ripple expired - after only one weeks illness - and left his inconsolable
wife in the most melancholy situation possible - hourly expecting
to usher into the world a second pledge of the affection - of her departed
husband - Her friends dread the consequence of her violent grief and fear
it will prove fatal - indeed they already think her infant dead - Did you
ever my Betty hear of a more deplorable event - every person here
appears interested - and have prevailed on her - if possible to bear the
removal - to stay during her confinement at her mother's - to remove
from a habitation that was wont to be cheered by the presence of her good
partner - must cast her among a gang - I have scarcely been able to
think of any thing else all day - and indeed feel unfit for writing -
Still reflect ^{with} pleasure on your all being happy - and delighted with
your charming retreat - which you can now enjoy whilst the alarming
accounts of our desolated city cease - and your minds are no longer
tormented by a agonising fears for the safety of those you love -

I wish much to hear how my dear cousin Mary and her
lovely children are - none one of you have mentioned them
in your letters - in you need say every thing about them -

My dear Rachel's letter was handed me this afternoon - thank
her for it - and will reply to it soon - was rejoiced to hear
you all prospered health - and that my loved cousin Richard
and Mr Hays talked of paying us a visit - I hope they will come
and not fancy obstacles to prevent them - we shall all be happy
to welcome them here - I sent a letter to that loved woman to day -

Miss Rebecca Goetz

Landowne