

Philadelphia August 12th - 1814

My dear Betsy

I will not suffer the sun to set, ere I thank
these you for five lines in my sisters letter, which were most welcome
and gratefully received - I want have written to you last week - but
know your fond attention Rachel never omitted a day writing, and
that you could hear from her pen, every thing you wished - indeed so
few hours, in the four and twenty, pass away without my seeing her
that a diary, was one sent, would be little more than a repetition
of passing events, in the literal sense - as no neighbour intervenes,
we are as if, near to each other - and quite as neighbourly - for
her anxiety to be after with Mrs Levy - frequently takes her there -
and she deposits her treasures with me till her return - so
every morning I have the sweet Miriam and Becca for visitors,
which serve to beguile away the hours - and lessen their mothers
anxiety at leaving them - I am often reminded of the observation
you told me, Miss Lyman made, that children were excellent
company, I ever find them so - and delight in their innocent
prattle - the originality of their observations - and endless inquiries,
give real pleasure - that, the more studied eloquence - and flowing
language - which one perhaps adopted to veil the secret feelings
of a depraved mind - ever fail to excite at a mature age -
they often talk of their absent aunts - and wish their return -
we would be pleased to see the improvement in Rachel's
looks - she is rather languid of a morning but exerts herself more
than she did - and appears more cheerful - the complaints of a
heart burn - sometimes - but doubt not its fruits will be hearts ease

one long her boy is quite well - so do not suffer any uneasiness on that score - I wish you could be cheerful and at peace - for that "white bolt" guest" has deserted you for a long time - it was wrong to expect its ~~return~~ return - when approaching the seat of war - yet in the calm serenity of day I was in hopes you would have enjoyed tranquillity - meeting our dear aunt better than you expected to find her was certainly ~~one~~ source of comfort - which most powerfully infused itself in my heart and ^{caused} it to glow with gratitude to Heaven for restoring her - that my loved mother and sister are well and happy - is blessed tidings - and could I only hear you, and dearest Sally were so - what a delightful group could I picture to myself in that charming village - the dear Doctors entwining my father - his niece's amiable vivacity - and the variety of characters the troopers display - would make a medley that would leave much to wish for - to make a few weeks pass agreeably - but there must be dark and light shades in a picture - and in human life how often blended to cheer and depress the mind - yours is so strongly fortified, that the roughest storms have not dared to move its equal tenon and the Supreme Being I trust will yet strengthen you to bear all trials - Miss Myers will be with you in a day or two - from her you will hear all you wish of those she left behind - I only saw her twice for a few minutes - so had no opportunity of cultivating an acquaintance there - I doubt not what great pleasure - I had imagined with her, and our good friend Isabella - you would have had a most delightful time - and yet, hope your health will permit your enjoying yourselves - the salutary effects of the waters in that quarter - I assure much from - but so uncertain from day to day are your movements and the feelings you are actuated by, that a kind of fearful suspense - and wearisome conjecture - fill up the space of time between each letter - and dash in a moment to the ground all airy

Sally M. Cohen

1894

Miss Rebecca Gratz
Troy