

Boston July 12th 1803

Yes dear Rebecca, joy is ever acceptable, but with me
~~ever~~ brings its concomitant evil in the fear of losing it; no sooner
could I realize again meeting a precious sister beholding a rising generation
of smiling cherubs addressing me by the venerable name of Aunt - then
I remembered how fleeting were my pleasures and that each passing
moment bore on its wings a ~~small~~ part of the happiness resulting
from their presence, already do I begin to feel the pangs of separation,
will more than overpoise the joy of meeting and sigh to regret that ~~their~~
visiting has been granted us. you will think me a repining spirit - but
I have ever thought it was better never to possess a good, than submit
to a deprivation of it. - your congratulations are still my good friend
very grateful to me and calls forth my best thanks one who loves
their friends as you do must be sincere in their kind wishes and
I heartily regard you for entering into my good fortune - my
little nieces under the tender care of their parents tho very young -
seem already to have their characters formed, the admirable system
Mr Myers has adopted with them cannot even ^{be} excelled by the plan
you once heard their sagacious Aunt arrange - the cry here is
we, that is Catharine and myself, will certainly spoil them -
your Brother Ben is a deserter, but as you describe him to be
at that singular period of life, wherein he is neither sensible to the

Admonitions of friendship or the charms of beauty, I cannot lament losing
one who from your account must be incorrigible; your advice in regard
to selecting a Husband is excellent and one I highly approve - and as soon
as you discover a new world, new characters from those I have generally
met with among the enlightened sons of Israel I promise most faithfully
to follow the example I believe you will then be induced to set me -
it has been my misfortune hitherto to be situated among a sect of people
whose however inclination might compel me to attach myself to principles
of religion alone would prevent my indulging, again among those our long
privileges allow. but very very few have appeared that I would like to
trust my future happiness with. the reputation of ones husband is too
tenderly connected with ones own to make us neglectful of any one
trait in the character of the man we intend devoting ourselves and from whom
we expect to derive our happiness -

I had written thus far yesterday near Rebecca when I was alarmed
by hearing my Christiana was ill. - I flew over to learn what
her indisposition was. and found in a short time she would become a
mother. my letter was put aside and all my plans for the day
destroyed. we were all engaged to dine in a party at Mrs Amorys at
Dorchester, I suffered the rest of the family to proceed without me and
remained in no very enviable state of agitation till nine in the
evening when my beloved friend presented her son with a fine Boy.
I have been with her this morning and found her charmingly, so you
see Rebecca the world goes on alike every where - sons and daughters
flourish. and another little nephew has popped upon me to divide

Offers you their best regards present her with esteem to each individual
of your own. When you write Rachel speak of my regards for her and
believe me with much sincerity your friend Rowey -

9 May 1

July 12th - 1807



Miss Rebecca Gratz

N^o 258 High Street

Philadelphia -

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Rowey

Rowey