

May 2nd

I have not the vanity to presume that my long silence has been any punishment to you - else would I say, you deserved it for the avowal of so much selfishness as you profess to be the motive of your forwarding me occasionally with a letter - a little tinge of conscience, which at the moment I am reproving you, makes me plead guilty of the same sin, insures your pardon - and if this silent monitor were always equally tender, we should spare ourselves and our fellow citizens, a non-despiseful deal of reproach - I am conscious of the same feelings with regard to letter-writing, that you profess - and my aversion to circulating my epistles, at one time, was so great, that I was content to forego the pleasure of receiving, in order to spare myself the pain of writing them - and now I confess myself so much of a morbid that I am stimulated to the caution, by the hope of reward - I am, however, always amply repaid - even tho' it be with a half sheet of paper - When I opened your large letter, and saw the date, I thought you meant to make an April fool me - which would have been an unseasonable attack - but when you civilly told me you had no more paper, I was rather flattered that, in extremities, you should consider me - and comforted myself by thinking of

of the old adage, "that half a loaf is better than no bread" - but my taste so well relished a part, that you must excuse its asking for a whole one, next time -

I am sorry I cannot give you any insight into the origin of a custom that has, I dare to say, excited the curiosity of many of the world then you and me - I have often puzzled myself, but without effect, to understand the mystery why the first of April should be set apart as a day of folly - But so far from thinking it a proof against the improvement of the world, I think it a strong argument in favour of it - By dedicating one day in the year to the goddess of Folly, I don't rightly know whether this deity is male or female, the natural conclusion will be that every other one is appropriated to Wisdom - This without doubt is female - Besides do they not show their policy in the choice of deities - All the world can sacrifice on the altar of the one - but few I fear would be the true notaries attendant on the other - so much for conjecture - I think it a question nice enough to employ the wits of Mr. Oldschool - and if there is a dearth of matter or spirit in the late "Lingers," I advise you to submit it to him for farther elucidation - By the bye, I had almost forgot there was such a thing in being as the post-felis - have any bright geniuses appeared to reform the ladies, since I saw it - every thing like wit and scandal will be new to me when I return - am not I in a strange place - as I have already told you what was not the reason

Mr. Caring

May 2nd

Miss Rebecca Gratz

Philadelphia

Post
paid

Mr. Caring