

I deferred writing to you, my dear Peggy - not because in the days of pleasure & cheerfulness you were forgotten - but with the prudence ascribed to my character, because I knew that I should soon be a bankrupt in all that bore the title, unless I rescued the remembrance of our correspondence for this period -

All our New York & Albany friends left us this morning, and with them, took Rachel & William Etting - we feel deserted & forsaken - poor Sally quite ill of a violent cold - and a dozen other ills calculated to encourage gloomy & unpleasant reflections. Rachel left an affectionate message for you - she did not cease to regret that she was prevented improving an acquaintance with you - from which she promised herself much pleasure -

I received a message from your Brother's letter - that you wanted City news & requested me to write - now Peggy, you must ^{not} suppose I can gratify all your wish by my ready compliance with a post - it was my intention to write - even before I received your invitation for I have lost much of my vanity on that score - in gaining a just estimate of the Good to which it is sacrificed - and those of my friends who are able & willing to exchange Sterling for Currency will find me at least punctual in the payment -

on this day of independence I might certainly gratify your patriotic feelings by an account of honors & festivity with which

the sovereign people are celebrating it, but just as I was going to describe the parade passing my window in which the officers were very busily & actively employed in instructing their men how to keep their guns on their shoulders - without danger to those marching behind - the drummers (I suppose by mistake) began the animating sa-ra-ra - and I closed the shutter that I might not see the disgrace of our splendid colours - to which there is a new one added - very handsomely executed by the famous Miss Julia -

The remainder of the day as usual has passed in riot - horse & donkey - I have seen more men staggering about the street since ten o'clock - than all the watchmen in the city could manage - should they get into any mischief -

We spent yesterday afternoon at Mrs. McEwen's where we had the pleasure of meeting your cousins Miss Sargent & Miss Cox - they have both promised to come to see us. I mention this to you - because it is a circumstance that gives me much pleasure as I admire them both, and never until now had an opportunity of so - acquaintance.

I am sorry to hear that poor Amelia has fever - and hope she will soon recover - give respects to your Emma - who I sincerely hope to benefit from the country.

You should be much obliged to me for - it is worth your thanks for the God def. of dullness has kept her wing in my ink-stone. But for my perseverance - I began it in the morning while my ear was yet stung with deafness - being determined to pass an hour in good company - notwithstanding

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Miss Margaret Ewing
to the care of ~~Dr. John Ewing~~
Easton ~~Pa.~~ ~~Mass.~~

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