

Philadelphia Sept 19th 1808

I have just finished a game of checkers with Hyman who after dogging me all round the board, caught me at last when I thought I had very dectiously eluded him. I hope I shall not have such a fighting, buffetting game to play with his namesake, or a checker-board will probably be one common walk, on which as every move, is from one black spot to another presents rather a gloomy prospect. but we will not take this for an emblem, though it is direct opposition, ~~pushing~~ pushing forward to the very last "till they have got a crown of authority to go which ever way they please - it does really appear a tract some have trodden, but as there are white squares too on the board I dare say another plan might be invented, that would be quite as pleasant, and differ from the other, to suit the contrast on which they are performed -

Your last letter gave me very great pleasure - and if we had not determined, to discard all civility to each other, I should not forbeare such commendations as are really its due. but you already give me credit for more compliments than I ever intended you, and so shall not increase the number, that your letters are more agreeable than your company, and that I would be charitable enough to stay at home and receive them, was an awkward compliment to us both, but I do not remember to have written either, so I pray you look over the letter

again and if it really stands so - attribute it to my want of experience
in the art of making fine speeches - and as little girls generally
say to every new correspondent - "excuse my first attempt" -

I am rejoiced you are again to be our neighbours - and shall look
forward to winter with much pleasure, as the season that will afford us
the society of our friends again - for I fear the period that will intervene
will be solitary and afflictive - the fever is said to increase, we are
situated in so pleasant and healthy a place that we do not think
there is any risk in continuing - but do not go into the lower streets
and should it spread more generally, will remove - Aunt Chens family
have left this street, Sally stays with us - part of them have gone to Lan-
caster, and part to Sister Nays in Greenmantown, the girls write that
L is very gay - they generally are so, on such occasions - it was the first
scene of our acquaintance - I might say friendship for they commenced
together, I often think of that period with pleasure, a sick room is
an admirable place to discover characters - we might have met at
every party given that whole season for our amusement and not
have known each other so well, as four and twenty hours ^{passed} in your
Chamber made us -

I began to write to you last Thursday, but was interrupted, and
obliged to lay down my pen - last night again my candle left me
before I was aware of its being so near its end - and this morning
Adam has brought me some peaches to preserve so with all
my best intentions for a long letter, you are likely to be put off
with a fragment - but even that received before you begin
to charge me with laziness is better than a whole one at a
later period - besides you know what I have said is the
great inducement for writing - and you will perceive I have

Miss Margaret Ewing
Care of John Hall Esq
Lamberton



met at
at and not
baptized
in your

1803
Albany