

116
Phil^a February 28th - 1812

we were rejoiced my Dear to ~~with~~ your early compliance with
our request - and indeed require such kindness ^{to} reconcile us to your
absence. the haste in which you concluded on, & executed this journey hardly
gave us time to think on the subject. but we are full most sensibly your
loss, and daily lament the necessity, which is ever, in this ill managed state
of things separating those who love and would live happily together. while
our populous cities are filled with persons who jostle each other in their daily
walks unheeding & unheeded. and care not whether they ever meet again.

Yet the same providence rules ^{over} every clime and under this protecting
care, you cannot fail to prosper & be happy - always remember my dear
Brother, that it is your duty to preserve the blessing of health with you
utmost care, and that in strange climates it may cost you more
trouble, or at least different treatment -

Our interesting Friend Mayors left us on Thursday for New York where
I believe he means to wear away the term that yet remains of his exile -
John continues here, admired among the gay and enjoying every amusement
our city offers. Yesterday was distinguished by all the honours, patriotism
epicureanism, and dancing could confer on it. a patriotic oration & military
parade in the morning - great feasting at dinners & a most brilliant assembly
at night. were performed in honour of Washington - some gentlemen dined
with us today who were partakers, and seemed highly gratified. I fear this
change of weather will make your travelling very irksome tho the protection
of the stage will prevent your suffering any other inconvenience. from Pillsbury
we shall hear your plans. be particular in your communications that we may
accompany you in our thoughts. do not embark without some company

and take advice of those who have descended the river, respecting such things as are necessary to your comfort during the voyage. Let us know what credit is due to what we heard respecting the obstruction in the navigation of the river, and if so dreadful a shock of an earthquake was really experienced. if there is greater danger or difficulties to be encountered, lifted before you embark, whether the purpose of your expedition, be worth the hazard it were better to forgo an uncertain good, than to plunge into a certain evil, and as fair a field of honorable exertion may open, where life danger threatens.

We are all perfectly well, but not quite so happy as when you are at home, every one who comes in laments your absence, and that shows how readily they all perceive a change. Your friend Gamble continues in much the same state you left him - but Poor Hannah Ewing is no more! The approaching season will try the strength of all invalids, and I fear prove fatal to the decaying frame of poor Gamble -

I have not a word of news to communicate & feel rather dull to amuse you, so you must pardon such a stupid commencement of our correspondence, and hope for better, in spite of all your experience to the contrary - Your wife and I Misses's has almost deprived E- of her little Court - she is still a Sultaness, but lacks slaves, and I should not be much surprised if she soon returned home. You are to be honored by letters from Becky C- who will bring news & smart sayings to your hearts content, may hap too, she will gather pleasant information for your amusement - All our dear Sisters & Brothers send you a great deal of love, and a great many charges to take care of yourself.

When I think of the distance that will soon separate us I feel more melancholy - than I am willing to impart. God Bless you My dear

Brother May you be ever & forever in this peculiar care who provideth for all and whose tender mercies we have ever proved - most affectionately Ever Affly

Rebecca Gratz

Feb 23. 1812

Mr Joseph Gratz

Pittsburgh

