

**Margaret (Peggy) Ewing to Rebecca Gratz**

**June 16, [1803]**

June 16th.

If I had not so invincible an aversion to apologies and begging pardons, I should think my conduct to you required a very long one \_ and a most humble petition for your clemency \_ but [from] you, to require it, will be to receive it \_ at least, I have so much confidence in your charity as to believe that an acknowledgement of a fault is only giving you an opportunity to exercise your benevolence \_ and particularly tho when that fault has not wilfully committed \_ on this [score], therefore you will be my debtor \_ for surely to call forth the exertion of a virtue, is at least as commendable a deed as to forgive an offence \_ you see I have hopes that we shall soon be able to balance accounts \_ and in future each be indebted to the other only for \_ entertainment \_ It was my first intention not to have left Philada. without answering your short, tho affectionate letter \_ that it was short I could only lament \_ not [murmur] that you had remembered me at all at such a time, I was truly grateful \_ my stay in town was very short \_ and in that time I had a number of friends to see \_ since my return to Jersey one engagement has succeeded another \_ which tho' they occupied my time did not altogether employ my thoughts \_ for I frequently remembered what I owed you \_ and only delayed the payment because I had no specie valuable enough to discharge [end of page]

the debt \_ Sam wrote to me yesterday that he was going to Baltimore this week \_ I could not neglect so good an opportunity to write to you \_ and at least determined to [shew] you my good intentions towards you by enclosing him a letter as immediately as I could \_ in the hope he will receive it before he commences his journey \_ he has been quite unwell \_ I hope he may receive benefit from the ride \_

As my acquaintance in and about Baltimore is very circumscribed I cannot ask you with whom you spend your time \_ tho' I can [venture?] to ask you how \_ I hope as agreeably as mine [...] for I am surrounded with good society \_ and [...] place where I have formerly spent many [delightful?]

hours \_ you must introduce to me those who [ma...]  
est you \_ for such you will certainly find in a large  
circle \_ that is true \_ I have one acquaintance,  
about whom I must caution you \_ that you make  
not yourself too agreeable to him \_ I will allow you to  
be second to me \_ or indeed equal \_ but I insist upon  
it you keep the [bounds?] prescribed, and rise not supe-  
rior \_ I am very tenacious, you know, of my standing  
there \_ but alas' all this advice is but thrown away \_  
without I could [at] the same time command you to  
lock yourself up from his sight \_ it is unnecessary after  
all this to tell you his name \_ you know who is so  
great a favorite of mine \_ not withstanding all my fears  
I do not feel very maliciously inclined towards you \_ and  
to show you that I am not will allow you to give my  
[end of page]

compliments to him \_ when next you see him \_  
Amelia has been with me for the last fort-night \_  
she and Sister are preparing to leave the house and  
family in my charge for a few days \_ whilst they  
pay a short visit to my Brother James \_ they are just  
now about setting off \_ I have been assisting them, and  
writing to you at the same time \_ least my letter  
should be too late for the post \_ so if you find any  
family orders, or charges to take care of the children  
intermixed, you will know how to account for them \_  
Sister and Amelia both desire their love to you \_ mine  
[...] Sister Etting \_ Sally and Rachel when you [write]  
[...] do I beseech you Beckey let me hear [...]  
[...] \_ that by a generous forgiveness of [...]  
[...] neglect?, I may be ashamed to commit a [...]   
offence again \_ tell me how your time is employ-  
ed \_ that amidst your numerous acquaintances you  
sometimes remember me \_ I can with truth make  
the same assertion \_ and do not forget when you  
write to me that any thing the most trifling to you  
will be interesting to me as coming from you \_  
ME\_

[Address:]  
Miss Rebecca Gratz  
Baltimore

[Editors' Note: This letter is part of an ongoing correspondence during the summer of 1803 that includes clear references to each other's writing. Some of these letters are dated "1803," others not.]