

Rebecca Gratz to Sarah Gratz

July 13, 1800

[Postscript:]

Rachel & Miriam begs you will accept
their Affectionate love _ the former thanks you
for your letter & will write in the course of this week or at any rate next Sunday
we are very busy making shirts _ we have three [p...es?] of linen but know not
when they will be accomplished. we miss your assistance _ as you were
always acknowledged the most industrious _ you will say it is curious to end
a letter where it begins _ God Bless you _

Philadelphia, July 13th. 1800

from my letters my dear Sally, you have little
to expect, I am conscious they afford you no amusement but
they prevent anxiety _ and give me the pleasure of conversing
with you _ therefore I write _ our Sister went to Bloomfield last
wednesday. Mr. Hays was in town on friday and says they
are all well. Sally Cohen accompanied him on his return,
she will stay but a few days _ they have not quite determined
what to call the little cherub but I believe it will be [Eliza].
she is the handsomest baby I ever saw _ and I think resembles
Isaac.

why have you not my dear Sally written to me, I long
for a letter, perhaps I am unreasonable _ but my chief pleasure
is derived from receiving letters _ of which lately I have been
deprived, tis two weeks, since from New York I've had a line, and
untill now _ three days [scarcely] passed _ since My Maria left
us _ that her goodness did not anticipate my wishes _ she has
been to Newark _ Charles & George _ are both going to sea.
many reasons may prevent her writing _ but each is a source of
uneasiness in which I participate _ Sally Williams spent last
Evening with us and left the city this morning for New York. Maria will be delighted
to see her old friend, tho her stay will be but short. Becky Hamilton
and the Miss Jones's were also here _ the latter are charming girls _ and
very good neighbours _ but Becky is our most constant companion
[end of page]

a kind of sympathy unites us _ for each loved the friends most dear
to the other _ and that strengthens the esteem we had before conceived
Andrew left us last thursday afternoon _ poor fellow _ his spirits
were very bad _ he came to bade us farewell about an hour before
his departure and with true friendship, express'd many good wishes
for us all _ & particularly begged when I wrote you to present
you a share. he might have passed a few days more with his

family for the ship is still detain'd at New-Castle _ but I imagin he will not return _ the pain of bidding adieu to a mind of sensibility cannot be counter balanced by even the pleasure of a few days enjoyment _ particularly as the prospect is constantly overcast by the certainty of a long separation _ he goes again to Batavia with the most unfavourable idea of the climate _ and a[n] fear of its proving fatal _ You know such was the impression of his mind on a former voyage _ but he was not so melancholy then as now _ they have however [some] Jovial characters & I suppose he will soon forget his apprehensions when at sea _

the Miss Nielsons left town yesterday _ for Lancaster _ they spent tuesday Afternoon with me, I regretted that I had it not in my power to pay them more attention _ being for some days constantly engaged with Richea _ assisting to get her off as she was too weak to bear the fatigue of moving _ I assisted in packing up _

I was much disappointed at not seeing the girls on friday I expected them in the Afternoon _ but they sent an apology & I promised to go to see them in the evening _ Sally Williams however just came up _ as I was leaving the step which prevented me _ give my love to them when you see them and mention the [end of page]

[accident] that prevented my having that pleasure _

Peggy Ewing begs you will accept her love _ Sam constantly enquires for you & presents respectful regards _ James Caldwell has return'd. he was absent two weeks with his sister Mary _ Sally does not sail untill the autumn she resides at her mothers but is going to spend the summer in the country _ we have seen nothing of her but in the street since you heard from us _ and a friendly [b...] or good Evening Becky _ all that passes _ there is something very singular in her conduct _ her voice and manner is that of a friend _ and her countenance such as it always was to wards us _ I am persuaided she still loves us _ but cannot solve the mystery [of] or divine the cause of that estrangement which has caused me the bitterest moments of pain in my exist[...]
Sally to you I acknowledge that many hours have been [spent] the agony a heart can feel for the loss of a friend _ it most tenderly [cared] _ to this day I cannot see her without [agitation] _ and her passing me in the street causes a palpitation _ that destroys the pleasure of whatever company I may be with _ I pant for an explanation and sigh at the recollection of those days _ when unreserved [friendship] and a happy intercourse was the sweetest pleasure of my life _ but I must check those feelings _ they are always obtruding and since the Absence of my sweet Maria _ still oftener _ and frequently without intending it lead to the stability or instibility of female attachments. Mr. Lysle who is a man of uncommon sense & penetration _ & who says he has made it his pleasure to [read] characters _ & study human Nature _ tells me that they are rarely found to exist after Marriage but in that I must

differ from him _ tho' alas too many examples [coroberate] the idea _

on other subject the conversations of Mr. L- are very pleasing his remarks judicious
his arguments strong & his taste & moral sentiments pure & striking
[end of page]

he is in fact a most agreeable companion, and I have never heard from his lips, [any]
thing offensive to the most [se...ous?] delicacy _ to My Best loved Sister tender my
affection also to Brother & all the family & friends I did not intend writing so much but was
led on without thinking. and have mentioned nothing of the family _ they are however all
well & join in tender affection to you all _ Ben is at Bloomfield _ you may imagin how lonesome
we are with Richea & Sally C- both absent. there is a letter for you from the latter waiting
a private conveyance _ God Bless you, my dear Sally. Adieu may health & happiness
await you most ardently prays your truly Attached Sister & friend Becky Gratz

[Address:]
Miss Sally Gratz
at Mr. Reuben Etting's
Baltimore