

Rebecca Gratz to Joseph Gratz

March 21, 1810

Philadelphia March 21st. 1810

My Dear Brother

Writing to you every day seems to take off the dreadful weight, your long anticipated absence presses on our spirits and were it not for the reflection that you are “buffetting the billows” we might enjoy the consolation of being permitted to hold some communication with you; even tho’ we are sensible a long long time must elapse before they can reach you _ and a much longer [one?] _ ere we can hear that you have received them.

You have not been a fortnight away from us _ yet there appears an immeasurable distance between us _ [and] when you were seven months on the Kentucky tour you never seemed out of our reach _ thus, does imagination sport with our senses & our feelings _ and conjure up dangers, or security _ where perhaps they are equally phantoms _ happily, imagination does not always reign, The sober voice of reason _ and the confiding spirit of Faith (before which the extended finger of Providence ever points, to the path most secure for us to tread) have their turn of influence over the mind, and then My dear Jo, we see through a happier medium, the perils of [end of page]

your situation; we discern the “sweet little cherub, that sits up aloft” and believe the storm will only serve [to] brighten the enjoyment of [the] bright [beams] ready to burst from behind the obscuring cloud.

our friends all assure us you will have a fine passage and [discant] on the beauty & healthfulness of the climate you are seeking until they give an idea of some such regions as Dr. Johnson conducted his traveling Rasselas thro’ _

I am sorry you did not carry that instructive little vol: with you, however, your favorite “[œconomy] of Human life” _ contains all the [prompts?] necessary to illustrate, what the Dr. meant to prove by that history, indeed the curious reader might consider, one, a comment on the other _

This is the third letter I have written within as many days _ I do not know by what vessels they are to be sent, our Brothers enclose them, Sally is also writing _ we are all well, and all send ‘our most affectionate love to you _ Sally Etting is in town and sends you her best wishes _ Mrs. Meredith means to write. you would be gratified to see how many active friends you have _ the hearts of our acquaintances, or friends are not in the ordinary intercourse of society shewn to us _ and very frequently would not be known at [end of page]

all, if not roused into energy by some unexpected event _
thus we find you have been admired, esteemed, Beloved
by many on whom we have looked as mere common
acquaintance _ our dear Father sends you his love and his
Blessing _ our Sisters & Brothers unite in every feeling
of fraternal affection _ and the interesting little groupe of girls
& boys of all the families [...], give so many long messages of kind
-ness for you, that I find it impossible to make room for them.

Rachels little Daughter walks alone _ this I have told [you?]
but lest you should not receive the letter, have gratified [...]
by repeating it _ Adieu My dearest Jo, believe me ever [...]
prayers for your happiness most truly your Affectionate
RG _

Rachel Gratz Moses to Joseph Gratz

My dear Jo

This is the first time that I ever have
ever been so far distant from one I love so dearly as you, and
I have hourly reflected on it with pain, indeed I am not yet
half reconciled to it, and do not think I shall be till I hear
of your safe arrival which I pray for with my whole
soul. to tell how much we feel the loss of your society is
impossible. the [vivacity] of your disposition was a blessing to
[end of page]

us all and we have been more gloomy since your absence
than you can well imagine, I have not yet recovered of
my indisposition though I am down stairs again and I hope soon to
regain my health my little darlings wish you greatly too
and talk of you every day Miriam put her little hands

to her eyes and cries for you a dozen times a day she calls
your name quite [plain?] and puts up her little foot as she
[did] to you when here, whenever she hears your name and Isaac
wishes you back with all his heart you must love them [...]
they shall not forget you my husband sends his love to you
Heaven bless you my beloved Brother with [prosperity?] and [happin]
happiness ever your affectionate RGM.

[Address:]
Mr. Joseph Gratz
Hamburgh

March 21. 1810