

**Rebecca Gratz to Joseph Gratz**

**April 14, 1810**

Philadelphia April 14th.

My Dear Jo

I have had a fortnights notice to write you a letter by Mr. Sims but there seems such an uncertainty about his going, that perhaps this may never reach you unless it should chance to be transferred to another, opportunity \_ The caution of his Father, and the attractions of his mistress might be a most excellent excuse for his giving up the voyage \_ but as he has not given it up, I trust you will see him in Europe \_

Our Friends Eliza Fenno & J Paulding are here on a visit \_ the latter has but a sorry time of it, in your absence, and talks of a speedy departure Eliza will continue sometime and on her return we shall have Maria and her family \_ it might be supposed that these agreeable little accessions to the family would reconcile us to your absence, but I assure you we were never more in want of your society than at present \_ the thousand pleasant means you would devise to entertain our guests are wanting \_ and we daily repeat, how gaily the "winged hours" would fly. if you were [here] to gild the passing Scenes" \_ Eliza is much improved, her conversation is charming \_ and her personal attractions greater than ever \_ but whether she will marry or not I cannot learn \_ I rather suppose the last winter report will not prove a serious truth \_  
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the family here are all well \_ Sally has gone to dine with Richea in compliment to her guest \_ and Rachel just sent for me to drink her Son's birth-day health, the little rogue fancies he has done some wonderfully fine thing, to gain him so many compliments \_ and swallows down praise with as much delight as many older men do the flattery some accidental circumstance entitles them to receive \_

Our dear Father is perfectly well, he frequently hopes that you will be in Hamburgh by the [Nineteenth] and continues to talk of you with with all his parental tenderness \_ Fanny consents to go to Baltimore next month provided one of us accompany her \_ and I expect we shall set out on much such another tour as you had last summer \_

I have been endeavouring to recollect something that has occurred since your departure, but find myself quite at a loss \_ Bernard Henry arrived about a week ago, with a broken hand which he got by the fall of a piece of timber \_ he is in full health however and desires his love to you \_ the accident happened to [his] right hand so you must not expect a letter \_ all your sailor friends are in port \_ Gamble & Burrows at New York Pemberton is I hear making rapid advances in the good graces of his favorite Becky \_ we see nothing of him \_ you have no idea of the many flattering things we hear said of you by that trio of

fair name-sakes, in whose society you used to take so much delight last [winter] \_ I feel greatly indebted to them, not only for this, but for the convert they made of you. and I hope \_ my dear Jo, in honor [end of page]

of them you will endeavour to cultivate a taste for the society of the refined among our sex, in what ever country you may travel besides the pleasure to be derived from their conversation, you will always be sure to meet the most polished men in their circles \_ and there is no better safe gaurd to the morals, and consequently to the happiness of a young man than the friendship of amiable women \_

Our Brothers all desire their affectionate remembrance \_ we had letters a few days ago from Aunt Schuyler, she is well, and talks of visiting Philadelphia this spring \_ the Dr. is not yet reinstated in his office, but great interest is making for him \_ Aunt Bell & the girls send love to you \_ Rachel is still love-lorn \_ Mr. S \_ [...] [...] gone, but talking of an East Indian voyage \_

Do you not my dear Brother, sometimes long to take a peep at home, [...] and all the little attractive creatures that enliven it? they all remember you, and tell wonderful stories of the big water, and the ship, and the great long time you are going to stay away \_ Ah me! how little do their childish imaginations comprehend of all they prate \_ would to God! we could hear from you \_ that you were arrived safe, & happy but we must not overcast the prospect with imaginary gloom, May God Protect you my dear Brother, and with His protection & blessing what have you to

desire? Adieu, I pray for you and am with the utmost affection

Your RG \_

[Address:]  
Mr. Joseph Gratz care of  
Messrs. Parish & Co.  
Hamburgh

[Endorsement:]  
April 14. 1810