

## Rebecca Gratz to Joseph Gratz

March 2, 1812

Trust no more, My Dear Jo, to the gloomy impressions which induces you to think on Second-sight and the visitation of unreal beings \_ your Friend Gamble still lives, and may continue for some time \_ tho' he gradually becomes weaker & weaker, his sufferings are abated \_ and the close of life will probably be more calm & happy than the path he has been destined to pursue during his short course, B Henry told me a few days ago that he had seen him, and that he could not perceive any change \_ he take large doses of laudanum, which must be injurious \_ but where there is no hope of remedy \_ I suppose they are induced to allow of any thing that can render him comfortable \_ poor little Hopkinson died on Wednesday, to the great affliction of his parents \_ who are quite subdued by these frequent visitations this is the fifth child they have lost.

we were charmed by your letter, it is the most satisfactory style of writing from those we love, and are interested in, continue to journalize that we may know, all you experience in your long tone if you are pleased we shall participate, and when you endure hardships. why should we not feel the sympathy our affection claims? \_ believe me, my dear Brother, not a day passes that we do not think & speak of you. and pray that you may be in possession of health and as many comforts as to make your project tolerable, what ever may be its eventual success \_

Our old Friend Rodman, has arrived, he passed a day here on his way to New York \_ he has lived almost altogether in Paris, is considerably thinner [end of page]

a little Frenchified in his manners \_ but heartily rejoiced to be home once more \_ thus we see, that an american, let him wander where he may \_ [whether][even] in the polished regions of France, is pleased to return to the peaceful scenes of domestic life, which is no where to be found so pure and so happy as at home \_

he brings no news of a political nature, he was at court on the evening Mr. Barlow was presented to the Emperour, and says he was well received, [nary?]. more distinguished than any other foreign minister, that Bonaparte addressed him several times &c, but not a word of the dispatches has yet transpired \_

Rodman does not seem to think, much is to be expected from le grand Empereur of a friendly disposition towards this country \_ but I hope we shall have no war and that you will make 25.000 Dols this year. and be as happy during the rest of your life, as the enjoyment of rational pleasures \_ an amiable wife a competent fortune, and regulated wishes can make you \_ with these blessings my dear Jo, you need not envy the collected splendour of all the world \_ but if you fail to set bounds to your roving inclinations, it will be in vain to obtain wife & money \_ happiness can never reside in a breast, that is subject to the tossings of a restless spirit \_ nor can such a spirit be subdued without a persevering adherence to the dictates of reason \_ instead of your old motto. to do what inclination prompts \_ I would have you adopt one that would subject inclination to your better judgement \_

and in a short time you would find them so docile that you, would wonder at the ease with which you could obtain so great a conquest \_ but this is something like sermonizing, and I know from my letters you could rather expect light amusement \_ to begin then, according to the report of the day. Miss Harriet Butler is engaged to be married, to a young man, named Thompson, son to a petty grocer who formerly lived opposite to us \_ he studied law. with Mr. Sampson Levy \_ and is now clerk in the mayors office \_ but how he ever made his way in \_ to the parlour \_ and thence into the good graces of the fair Harriet is a great surprise to her friends \_ Mrs. Meade was much concerned about it and would have taken her sister to Spain with her, in order to prevent the sacrifice but opposition you know, adds fuel to a flame, which might soon languish and expire if left to the uncontrolled will of the parties concerned \_ and Harriet being thus opposed will certainly marry, to shew her independence, & be miserable in her own way.  
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Mary Henry spent the evening of your birthday (Purim) with us, she looks more beautiful than ever, and they appear to be as happy as any two persons can expect or desire to be in this "working day world" \_ Pemberton has dined with us since you left home \_ I cannot understand why he trifles away his happiness and that of his chere amie by such unreasonable delays \_ he should not have engaged himself unless his situation would authorize his marrying \_ his passion will exhaust itself in the long delay he imposes \_ and if the Ladys attachment does not share the same fate, she will grow tired of finding excuses for the pride or indifference that induces him to prefer a state of expectation, to the pleasure of living with her in retirement \_ he says he is not rich enough to marry \_ that he should not be happy unless he could afford to live according to a plan he has imagined in his mind \_ there is so little of real sentiment in such cold speculations \_ that if I were in Miss C\_s place I should have very moderate expectations of future happiness [...] The man that truly loves, will never want a motive for exertion, and would [find?] more refined pleasure \_ in lavishing new wealth & honors on a beloved wife, [than?] he could possibly enjoy in leading a bride to a splendid establishment \_ for which she is wait the tedious lapse of years, he spends in acquiring it \_

Our dear Sisters & their familys are well \_ and all beg you will accept their best love, we passed part of this evening with Rachel, and her parting injunction was full of affectionate wishes to you \_ Sallys cold is well \_ and she looks better than when you left us, she also sends you a deal of love in which all our Brothers unite.

Eliza [Shuter?] is still in town, she has not been here since your departure, I can never bear to think that our friend J\_ is attached to such a woman \_ she is going home next week \_ if they are married, he may bid adieu to all his former intellectual enjoyments, and learn to submit to the slavery of [dancing?] attendance on a silly coquette, or drag out the heavy load of life in discontented murmurs against a pouting beauty \_ from which he prayed devoutly \_ he might say Good Lord deliver us \_ and perhaps you will be inclined to make the same ejaculation before you get half through this long stupid letter \_ Adieu My dear Brother, May God deliver you from all evil, and bestow every blessing on you most fervently prays your attached RG \_

\_ March 2nd. 1812 \_

[Address:]  
Mr. Joseph Gratz  
Pittsburgh \_ Penn\_

[Endorsement:]  
Rebecca Gratz  
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