

Rebecca Gratz to Joseph Gratz

March 15, 1812

Philadelphia March 15th. 1812

We thank you My dear Brother for yr charming letters, they are really the sweeteners of that necessary evil _ absence, and we shall not repine while you so kindly make us partners in the varied scenes _ and consequent sensations that are ever arising out of your travels, Goldsmiths beautiful poem could not have been more agreeable to his brother. than are your affectionate descriptive letters to us _ and as the distance encreases, we shall more eagerly greet the effusions of that fraternal heart which “untravell’d turns [again]” to us” _ I hope before you left Pittsburg you recieved letters from home I twice wrote to that place and our Brothers more frequently from whom you have perhaps heard why Hyman left us this morning on his long projected journey to Kentucky _ I hope you will be so fortunate as to meet. I assure you we have need of great philosophy to be reconciled to such losses in our family circle and I believe if we did not know that we are obliged to submit, we should not bear it with so good a grace, but fortunately our minds are fitted to the station we are destined to hold and we yield, (after many struggles) partially to trials and deprivations which might even shake the resolution of a manly breast _

In my last letter I bade you not to be influenced by any melancholy anticipations respecting your Friend Gamble, I might [now] call your feelings prophetic _ The poor Fellow! was this day a week consigned to his last abode he expired on Friday evening the 6th. instant _ after so long a state of suffering, that those who loved him most were grateful for the merciful dispensation which released his spirit from its perishing tenement his father is at sea, but many a weeping friend paid the last tribute of affection to his remains _ Hyman has carried some of Miss Edgeworths tales to your friend Mrs. [Barsby?] I am sorry you were deprived of the pleasure the hospitality of Pittsburg would have afforded you, and suffered so much from your old tormentor, you must be very careful to get rid of it _ perhaps the abstinence that Passover requires may be of service to you let us hear particularly concerning it, and your health generally whenever you write [end of page]

There is nothing new of a domestic nature among your phila. acquaintances the whole town male & female, young & old being at present occupied on the subject of this famous Mountain-in-labour conspiracy of Mr. Henry Sir J K Craige &c you will no doubt have the newspapers and all the documents as early as this reaches you, therefore I shall say nothing more on the subject than just to apologize for not giving any account of what is passing in this “great Babel” _ The Bankrupt law has passed the legislature, which relieves some of our friends, and I trust will open a safe door to exertion on the part of our unfortunate R _

Your prediction respecting Miss Hammond & Mr. Bayard is verified _ they are engaged _ Mr. Gracie has been engaged in a duel with young Hamilton son to the Secretary and is wounded, not mortally, but bad enough to confine him for sometime to come _ the cause is a Lady to whom Mr. G had been introduced

and was apparently agreeable _ Mr. H _ having been rejected _ felt himself insulted and a quarrel ensued _ thus you see my dear, your accomplished friend after braving the dangers of the seas _ and the temptations of foreign follies & foreign beauties _ has sacrificed the graces of his person to a silly affair _ at the very moment he loses all hopes of attaining the fair one. whose charmes were the talisman that shielded him from the enchantments of the fairy land in the “midst of the Ocean” _ Sally wishes to address you on this paper you will therefore excuse a short letter from me, believing at the same time, that if I had filled volumes, I could not more truly or sincerely assure you how wholly I am your affectionate Sister _

Sarah (Sally) Gratz to Joseph Gratz

Hymans departure so unexpectedly, has cast a gloom on our spirits, which I assure you my dear Brother it requires all the philosophy we possess to combat; These [seperations] tho' perhaps necessary, are sad invaders of our domestic comfort. Two Beloved members from our, already bereaved, circle is severely felt. and
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is only to be reconciled by the hope of future advantages to you both, I Pray heaven to prosper your undertakings, and to shield and protect you from every danger _ We have been extreemly gratified in hearing frequently from you, and our hearts thank you for those affectionate effusions, such letter are really invaluable to us _ Our Sisters all enjoy them [&] beg me to offer you their most tender love, they are all well, with their respective families _ Sally E. has paid another visit of a week here, and left town this morning. Miss Shuter returned home on friday _ your Friends are I believe all well, Henry and Pemberton dined with a few days since _ [Br...] [...] sailed for England, he wrote Brother Simon he went to travel and would probably be absent two or three years _ John Myers still lingers here, and poor Sam passes the remainder of his exile in Mr. Moses family quite shut out from all other society _ Soll says he shall write to you and Rachel is quite satisfied you love and do not forget her _ Aunt Bell and the Girls offer their kindest remembrances _ God Bless you my dearest Brother, believe in the ardent affection of your
SG

[Address:]
Mr. Joseph Gratz

[Endorsement:]
Rebecca Gratz
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