

**Rebecca Gratz to Joseph Gratz**

**April 15, 1812**

Philadelphia April 15th.  
1812

My Dear Jo

We yesterday had the happiness to hear of your arrival at Lexington in good health, which I assure you was a great relief to our anxiety. and indeed is the only gratification we can now anticipate for you in this long journey \_ since the embargo will completely defeat the purpose for which you left home however, such kind of disappointments [are] so much the fashion in this world, that a mans philosophy must be small indeed that does not forewarn him, before he embarks on a speculation \_ that such may be the result \_ we now only hope, that the hindrance which appeared unfortunate to you at Pittsburg may prove in the end a friendly sore, and secure you from the evil of a heavy loss \_ You must improve the lesson my dear Brother, and as it is not probable you will increase your fortune much in the present instance, be the more careful not to impair your health, which after all is a thousand times more valuable than all the gold that has ever been dug out of the bowels of the earth. do not stay longer at New Orleans than is just necessary to accomplish your business & satisfy your Curiosity. and tell our Friend Mrs. Tousard we hope she will be ready & willing to accompany you home. present our affectionate remembrance to her. and say we think of her frequently in our ram-bles in the country. where we are sometimes accompanied by her sister \_ and always regret her absence \_  
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we have at length come to a conclusion with Mr. Read about his house \_ his family are moving and in the course of a fortnight we hope to be settled in it \_ after which we shall have a succession of friendly visitors from aboard \_ to fill up the vacancies in the family party \_ yet believe me, my dear, you & Hyman will not cease to be regretted \_ until you drive away regret by your return \_  
as our Brother has written to you, I suppose he [has] communi-cated all the city news \_ at least all arrivals &c so you of course know that Sam Nicholas \_ Charles Ross & half a dozen others are all safely returned with the riches of the East to our shores \_ where they are safely to be locked up, until the President & congress have determ-ined whether to invite the English to come for the spoil or not \_ you don't know how terrible war like we are here \_ new officers in their new uniforms parade the streets \_ and we are frightend

out of our wits at the “dreadful notes of preparation” that issue from the war press at Washington \_

I am quite at a loss for something agreeable to communicate to you, and by no means capable of scribbling any thing for your amusement, I have been quite sick with a sore throat & cold \_ this day is the first of my being out for a fortnight \_ tho’ perfectly recovered I have not regained much elasticity of mind, and returned home so late from Rachels where I spent the afternoon, that you must pardon the stupidity of my night thoughts \_ [tho’] I would rather put your good nature to the test. than leave you to conjecture ill of my constant remembrance and good wishes towards you Our Family are all well, or as nearly so as is usually the case among such a number, Old Mrs. Hays has had some pretty  
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severe warnings this spring \_ of the approach of her declining age and is much debilitated in consequence \_ little Henry has the Measles, but very favourably \_ the rest are well \_ and all unite in most affectionate salutations to you. I hope you will soon find leisure to write to us again \_ It is hard that you should “toil all night and catch no fish,” but be not discouraged there are many brighter days in store for you I trust when fortune will [unwaved?] be won \_ Mr. [Krumbpane?] sent home 2 Vol: of your set of Goldsmith. which some body brought from Hamburg.

Sally sends you her affectionate love

God Bless you my dear Brother \_

I find Robert is preparing to go to bed \_ and if I omit [sending] this to the office to night, you will not recieve it by the [next] mail \_ so Adieu, may Good Angels be appointed to gaurd [your] going out & your coming in \_ and may the Almighty Guardian of Isreal, still be your guide  
ever Yours

RG\_

[Address:]

Mr. Joseph Gratz

Care of J C Wilkens Esqr.

~~Natches~~

[Postmaster’s Notes:]

Recd. May 24

Forwd. 25

4/12

New Orleans

[Endorsement:]

R Gratz  
April 15. 1812