

**Rebecca Gratz to Joseph Gratz**

**May 15, 1812**

Philadelphia May 15th. 1812

Your letter My dear Jo of the 18th. April was recieved with the greatest joy and as it did not reach us until we imagined you were [~~passd~~] [past] the dangers and inconveniences of your voyage we perused it with the same kind of feelings, a traveller experiences when he looks back on the toilsome journey, and rejoices with an honest pride over the difficulties he has surmounted \_ when you inform us of your safe arrival at Natchez we shall be happy indeed \_ tho aware how severe a disappointment you will meet there, in the embargo we hope your stay at New Orleans will be very short, and that next month we shall have the pleasure of welcom-ing you home again \_ we are at length fixed in our new House at the corner of Chesnut & 7th. and have our dear Cousin Rachel her Husband & daughter Catharine with us \_ she continually laments that you are not at home and I promise to bring you to Baltimore at some future happy day to return her visits \_ and I know you will soon learn to love her dearly \_ If Kate was a few years older and as fine a woman, as she no doubt will be \_ considering what a sweet interesting child she is \_ I do not think you would desire to continue your search much longer in so unprofitable a way \_ you have had so much reflecting time as you floated down the river, that I dare say you have moralized, your situation “into a thousand similies” and I hope come to the resolution not to glide down the stream of time without a kind companion & stedfast friend \_

The Myers' have just passed through the city on their return home, Sam's trial takes place this month and his friends are extremely anxious about it \_ he appears sensible of the danger but keeps up his spirits, and if acquitted will leave the country  
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immediately they both made very friendly enquiries about you, and drank to your health at supper \_

At New Orleans I hope My dear Brother you will remember that we shall be very anxious to hear of you \_ and that we cannot consent to you entering into any engagements that would detain you beyond the month of June, Mrs. Tousards sister expects her about that period, and depends on you returning with her \_

Our Brothers & Sisters are all well, and send you a deal of love The Children have all had the Measles \_ and had them favourably My little name-sake has escaped thus far \_ but expect she will soon take it also \_ I have no family news to communicate we have been so taken up with, first preparations, & repairs \_ and then moving that I have not been able to write you before, and [now] late on Friday afternoon \_ can scarcely collect my ideas for the purpose having just heard of an

opportunity of sending a letter \_ Cousin has been here a fortnight \_ and will leave us on Tuesday next \_ she & Mr. Etting both desire me to present them affectionately to you \_ Reuben is much as usual \_ his spirits not improved would to God! his prospects were brightend \_ his [dear?] friends seem to have nothing to give him \_ tho' there are continually openings in offices, which he could fill \_ Fanny has been a good deal confined with her children \_ but is well \_ and the other girls enjoy perfect health \_

Eliza V and her husband will be here tomorrow \_ all circumstances of this kind makes me regret your absence more \_ you love changes in the family circle, and our guests would pass a more agreeable time, were you here to enliven the scene \_ They talk here, of nothing but war \_ it serves some for jokes and [makes] many more serious \_ a recruiting officer thinly attended \_ and a few glittering silver Epaulets now & then are seen through [end of page]

streets but the spirit seems to have departed, and left nothing but such shadows to haunt us, as will [neither] give assurance that they are soldiers \_ or let us enjoy the repose we have so long cherished \_ New York has succeeded in the last Election in obtaining a federal administration and our friend Hoffman is to be sent to legislate next session \_ we heard from Hyman last week \_ his letter was dated from Dripping Spring 7 Miles from [Mammoth] Cave. he has been exploring, and already writes like a manufacturer \_ he is in good health, but I fear will be much longer absent than we expected him to be \_

I beg of you not to fix on any spot to build Castles \_ at such an awful distance from us all \_ even tho' founded on a rock. you can have no idea how much we lose in the absence of you & Hyman \_ [eve...] friends fail to make the house like home, until you [are] [...] -ized there \_ Aunt Bell & the girls are well \_ Becky [...] you I believe \_ your friends are well \_ Pemberton not married \_ Miss Scott going to be very soon, to Mr. Peterson \_and they say her brother John, is addressing Miss Dallas \_ but you will be home I trust in time to partake in these festivities \_ Adieu, May God Bless you, my dear Brother, and grant that you celebrate the approaching Festival in health & spirits my prayers shall meet yours at the Throne of grace and I hope both will be accepted by Him, who alone can cleanse the heart, and make us worthy to enjoy his mercies \_  
Most sincerely & affectionately your  
attached Sister  
RG.

[Address:]  
Mr. Joseph Gratz  
Care of Mssrs. J C Wilkens & Co.  
~~Natchez~~

[Postmaster's Notes:]

Forwd. 25  
17/42  
New Orleans

[Endorsement:]  
Rebecca Gratz  
May 15. 1812