

Elijah Gratz Etting to Rebecca Gratz

November 8, 1828

Philipsburg, November 8th. 1828

I cannot permit my dear Aunt your very acceptable letter received last week to remain unacknowledged and altho I have nothing interesting in return for it, most willingly do I take up the pen to thank you for your goodness _ The late [joyful] event too calls forth an expression of my feelings in unison with yours and those of all our family; most sincerely do I respond with you that our dear Ellen may long enjoy all the blessings of this life, no one deserves more from such an event and I think notwithstanding the censorable delay of my cousin S. she has fair prospects of a happy union _ It would have given me much pleasure could I have formed a part of the interesting groupe you have described about to be formed [on] that occasion, but my late affliction left me too little strength to undertake the journey _ altho absent, my mind was with you, and in the contemplation I participate in your joy _

The constant rains of last week prevented me from leaving this hospitable roof, where I have been sheltered from the storm not only of weather but of a most severe [disease] _ and never can
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I forget the attention of my kind friends Mr. & Mrs. Philips who received me in the ragings of a severe fever, administered relief to my sufferings and were agents of a divine Providence in restoring me to health _ To morrow morning is fixed for my departure for Bellefonte _ the weather of to-day is remarkable fair and I think augurs well for to Morrow _ My restoration to health has been as rapid as the disease was violent and sudden as soon as my strength is sufficiently restored to bear the fatigues of a journey and my business properly arranged, I hope again to enjoy the presence of you all _ Excuse my dear Aunt this short epistle with a promise soon to occupy more of your time _ Present me with sincere affection to my dear Uncles and to all and each individual of my beloved family _ and believe me my dear Aunt

your truly attached nephew
Gratz Etting

[Address:]
Miss Rebecca Gratz
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Philadelphia