

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

[November 12, 1818]

I received your few lines from Pittsburg my dear Ben, and was rejoiced that you had got that far on your journey so pleasantly Mr. Peters also told us you had left there in good health _ and so we must trust you continue, until the welcome intelligence of your arrival at Lexington reaches us. There is nothing new from home to communicate. poor Jack has been troubled with another Bile which has kept him from club, and several days confined him to his room, Harry Williams & the Major [comes] occasionally to cheer him, and play chess. they talk of the metaporphoris now pretty confidently. and as there is a new invention of chess cards. perhaps they may wean themselves from brag thro' this medium _ ere this you have seen Maria Gist, and cane wood _ and Mrs. Scott and if Mr. Larned ~~was~~ [not] mistaken _ you have had some agreeable agitations & no doubt a great deal of pleasure in the society of these charming women. but if [...] has really turned Dr. you will be sooner ready to return home _ and I shall be the more obliged to her _

You will certainly not become enamored of the naked forests in winter, nor of the unsophisticated charms of savage life winning under the hardships of [this season] a rustic maid is very engaging in pastoral poetry _ but will not strike the fancy of [end of page]

one bred in a city. I do not think the "Backwoodsman" will help you much in the way of smoothing a path in the wilderness _ tho' you will find him rising to distinction by the time his eyes are dim with age. Pauldings [laurels] reputation is not much encreased by this publication, Thomas has sent you a copy _ and you will judge for your self.

The children all send you a great deal of love, and so do their Parents all are quite well _ the Hay's had a party last night the effects of which engages Ellen to day. she begs her best love may be sent to you. Simon promises to take her to Lancaster next week & she is on the very tip-toe of expectation. we have parted with Anthony & Hannah, so I am at present in a little domestic quandary not having either of their places supplied to my satisfaction _

Isaac Hays has had the comforts of abusing two of Dr. Hares lectures, which almost reconciles him to his disappointment _ poor Dorsey is very ill _ yesterday very slight hopes were entertained of his recovery. he was a little better last night. his loss would be a great calamity to the college at this crisis _ the medical class [this?] year [is] amounts four Hundred. last year there were five Hundred students but I should suppose the country must be over stocked with Physi-

-cians. and who can calculate the injury, if the usual proportion of them are quacks. or men of but ordinary capacity_

There are no new engagements spoken of in the beau monde
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except Willing Francis to his cousin Maria Willing _ Mary Lyle is to be married to night at the Woodlands _ her sisters wedding day is not fixed _ this is a long idle talk to send so far _ but my dear Ben, you must excuse its stupidity _ as my object is to keep up the interest of Phila. trifles in your recollection. if I were to tell my own thoughts & feelings they would make you sad _ I cannot be reconciled to your absence_ your closed office is an eyesore to me and your vacant place a grief of heart _ but of this I shall be silent _ and only pray for your happiness and success _ Jo, says he shall write to morrow_ and Jac will as soon as he can tell you he is well_ God Bless you, my dear Brother it [will be?] a joyful day to me when I hear from you again [that?] you are well, and as much pleased with your travels as you anticipated _ believe me most truly your affectionate RG _

Sally Cohen sends you her love _ in which aunt B. joins present my respects to Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. & the Miss Hunts & Mrs. Wilkins _ My love to Mrs. Scott & Maria _ Adieu _

Thursday Eve'g

Poor Dr. Dorsey is no more! he expired at noon this day. of a bilious fever. after a few days illness _ this is a calamity both private & public. that is felt [thro'ghout] the city _

[Address:]

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Via Washington
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[Endorsement:]

Reb G.
Nov. 12. 1818