

**Margaret (Peggy) Ewing to Rebecca Gratz**

**September 1, 1805**

Pitts-town \_ Septr. 1st.

I should have occasion for all the romance that you give me the credit of possessing in so eminent a degree, to make you any tolerable compensation for your last most agreeable and affectionate letter \_ do me the justice to believe that I am quite as solicitous to retain your friendship and good opinion, as you [express] yourself to preserve mine and though I may perhaps no longer consider myself as one of your citizens, yet have I too many ties in Philade. ever to forget it \_ I do not therefore consider myself as having parted from you \_ but I have of late been so much a stranger there, that the probability is I shall see you now as often as formerly \_ at least so I [flatter] persuade myself, in order to reconcile my mind to a separation from so many of my best friends \_ I did not flatter myself with receiving any compensation here, in the way of society, for what I have left \_ and perhaps it was owing to my humble expectations, in some measure, tho' not altogether, that I now consider my situation more fortunate in that particular than one could reasonably expect in any country place \_ very little is wanting to make life tolerable \_ or even comfortable \_ but society I consider as absolutely necessary towards making it agreeable and when one has been accustom'd to a selection, the mind is apt to become fastidious \_ I should not therefore submit to such a deprivation with a very good grace \_ but I'll assure you the people here are not only very kind, attentive, good neighbours, but also agreeable companions \_ I have scarcely made any new acquaintance that would not assist me in passing an hour, or a day, very pleasantly \_ we are so fortunate as to be at a visiting distance, which in the country you know is not confined to one or more miles, from Mrs. Wilsons family \_ which at present has the addition of my old friend and acquaintance Peggy \_ whom I had not seen since her marriage \_ till I met with her here \_ I passed yesterday with them \_ I need not say how much to my satisfaction, when I tell you that her Mother and aunt are blessed with the powers of conversation in an equal degree with herself \_ I expect to spend a week or two with her before she returns home \_ her husband I have not [end of page]

yet seen \_ therefore I have only her word to depend on that he is

very clever \_ which, however strong may be her veracity, is of course too partial to satisfy me \_ I must see him myself \_

I am afraid I shall call my own veracity in question if I tell you that I had quite forgot till this moment that your letter announced the arrival of Mr. House \_ Rachel, at least, will not give me credit for such a treacherous memory \_ I don't know whether to thank you or not for the information it brought with it too much regret to be well received \_ and had I not, in enumerating the agreeable acquaintances I have here met with, been confined entirely to females, tho' I did not make the reservation, I should be almost ready to unsay all I have said in favour of the place \_ but as I did not calculate on meeting with another Mr. H. I am not disappointed that I have seen not even the shadow or semblance of a beau \_ you see I am becoming quite a philosopher \_ not a natural, but an unnatural one, I fear \_ Molly Davidson too was so good as to convey to me the same tidings by the same post \_ I thank ye both ladies \_ but in order that I may share somewhat in the pleasure, you must retain as many of his agreeable sayings as you can \_ and transmit them to me \_ if the task be as agreeable to you as it would be to me, I have not imposed on you an Herculean labour \_ 'tis only retaining one house in your memory \_ which in comparison with carrying a whole world on your shoulders, you must acknowledge to be nothing \_ but least I should tax your patience, as well as your memory, 't'were well to bring my epistle to a conclusion \_ though not before I charge you with my best love and compliments to all your family \_ and also beg that I may have the pleasure of hearing from you by my Brother James \_ who will I expect be the bearer of this \_ good night \_ it will add to my happiness to know that you do not forget me \_

M. E.

[Endorsement:]

M Ewing

Sept 1st. 1805