

Margaret (Peggy) Ewing to Rebecca Gratz

[September] 11, 1803

Sunday evening _ 11th. 1803 _

"In moon-shine it began _ and there
also it ended" _ so did not ours _ trouble and
affliction brought us together _ and [firm] affection,
firm and sincere, have I hope since united us _
thus much I can safely answer for myself _ and more,
is it than I could have asserted, had I not been
fully convinced of a co-incidence in our feelings on
this subject _ for folks may talk as they will _ but
it is not common to have all the love on one side _
at least I think it would be very apt to be laid by _
altogether if not helped on by a little sympathy _
so Beckey let you and I be content to weep together,
that we may hope to rejoice together also _ and
instead of making any moon-shine or summer bar-
gains, let them include all times and all seasons
with their changes _ I have taken my [text] from
your last letter _ and such a discourse, have I
made of it, that for seriousness, it would almost
do to supply the vacant corner of the lay-preacher
when Mr. Oldschool is too indolent to fill it _ it is
not often I write a talk in such a pretty strain
[end of page]

but a female correspondence, without a little senti-
ment now and then, would be erased from the catalogue
of possibilities _ we must do as Rome does, you
know, or not live in it _ having proceeded this far
I took up your letter to give it another reading _ for the
hurry and bustle attending my Brother's removal, almost
[drew?] from my remembrance any other circumstance not
immediately connected with it _ but now that I have in
some measure settled them, memory again places before
me my absent friends _ and as your lady-ship happened
to be one of her favorites, she insisted on noticing you
among the first _ almost any part of your letter I
wish to say something to _ but fear I shall not have
time this evening _ the most material is Sally's
indisposition _ I sincerely hope her recovery has restored
that cheerfulness to your family circle, which the indis-
position of any one tends to dissipate _ there is another
part of your letter which also requires my particular

attention _ you tell me "that I have said so many fine things you dare scarcely venture to write, 'tho with inclination and leisure sufficient, for fear of disappointing me" _ my real and earnest desire to hear often from you may have led me into somewhat of a complimentary expression _ but believe me nobody in the world more despises fine sayings _ commonly so called _ than I do _ nor more generally studies to avoid them _ the frequency of them in a correspondence which I once held with a young lady, so surfeited me, that I could scarcely bear to answer her letters _ I therefore propose when we meet for our mutual benefit, to analyse all our letters, and strike [end of page]

out every sentence that comes within the above definition _ we shall then see whose letters will have the most proscriptions _ for, whether you have caught it from one I can't tell, but I insist upon it Beckey, you have sometimes been civil as well as me _ I admire with you the facility of Baltimore ladies in knocking up matches and weddings _ but as they come together somewhat in the french style, it is to be hoped they may not be tempted to take a french leave of each other before long _ I cannot determine for you what apartment in the "Temple" will receive them _ I should rather apprehend they will be so fashionable that the same one will not satisfy both _ there, is a little scandal for you by the way _ another necessary ingredient in a ladies letter _ let me see _ what comes next _ I see here something about you being "charitable" enough to pay your promised visit, but my letters, [forsooth], are so agreeable you prefer staying at home to receive them _ so here then endeth my epistles _ for to write any more, would [...] much as to say, don't come _ which I am in [polit...] -bound not to say _ therefore don't expect to hear from me again _ unless you can give me as great an inducement for writing, as you have offered me to hold my tongue _ We have here alarming accounts of the fever as existing in the city _ do they make you think of moving _ if the alarm subsides I expect to see you in town in three or four weeks _ where we shall spend the winter _ Betsy Sergeant has occupied her part of my bed so long, and is making such good use of her time, that it will detain one untill a late hour in the morning to get my share of refreshment _ therefore I shall leave you and resign myself into the arms of Morpheus _ whom I solicit to bless both you and me with pleasant and refreshing slumbers _ love to your Mother and the girls _

M E _

[Address:]
Miss Rebecca Gratz
Philadelphia

[Endorsement:]
M Ewing
1809

[Editors' Note: This letter is part of an ongoing correspondence during the summer of 1803 that includes clear references to each other's writing. Some of these letters are dated "1803," others not.]