

Margaret (Peggy) Ewing to Rebecca Gratz

August 22, [1803]

Lamberton August 22nd.

It is eleven OClock _ and I am absolutely much fatigued with a walk from Trenton _ yet notwithstanding all this, finding you so ceremonious as to count letters with me, I am determined no longer to deprive myself of your entertaining epistles _ I have been so much my own enemy in continuing silent this length of time, that you can surely attribute it to no other cause than that of necessity _ I have indeed been constantly engaged, some how or another, ever since I parted from you _ tho' [I can] give no good account of myself in that time _ I do not mention the [difficulties] attendant upon writing to you in order to enhance the value of my favors _ but for the sole purpose of claiming your charity _ and beseeching you to lay aside all ceremony, and write to me whenever you have time _ and I will even venture to add, inclination also _ for did I suppose that ingredient wanting in your letters, I should cease to regret the loss of them _ I should not be so unconscionable if this were the season of gaiety and dissipation in the City _ but matters are quite reversed _ this is our harvest _ and I will venture to promise, that should I be in the country next winter, and you in Philada., to repay you three-fold _ _ at least, in length _ but in the greatness of my promises
[end of page]

perhaps I am only holding up to your imagination a bug-bear that will deter you from gratifying my request _ "what! to be obliged to digest three long epistles for one of mine!" _ well be it so Beckey _ make your own terms _ I will agree to them _ provided I am benefitted at present _ call to your aid what good nature you may be blessed with and if that be not sufficient for my purpose borrow from any neighbour _ This learned young lady is at the moment writing in a wet room at the risk of her life _ I have endeavoured to break the thread of her discourse, but alas! she is a woman _ I need not tell you this rude intruder was Mrs. Hopkinson I was going to wind up my sentence with a very elegant period, when the good lady entered, and by the violence of her attack had nearly brought me to a full stop in good earnest _ as I was just then preaching about good-nature, I thought it would be quite mal-apropos

to flounce and bounce about _ and protest against it _
and therefore very patiently took the scolding _ sent her
to bed _ and true woman-like, sat myself down in the
same chair _ but as I cannot so easily replace my
ideas, you must excuse my being satisfied with showing
my obstinacy; and then abruptly wishing you good-night _
but not before I remind you that I am anxiously looking
towards the river every day _ and shall continue to
[end of page]

throw my regards at that passing object, untill you
come to fix them here _ there now _ that will do instead
of the pretty speech Mrs. H. stole from you _ my love to
the girls _ compliments to [your] Mother _ [yrs?] _
M E _

[Address:]
Miss Rebecca Gratz
Philadelphia

[Endorsement:]
M Ewing
August 22nd.

[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.]