

Rebecca Gratz to Margaret (Peggy) Ewing

August 8, [1805]

Philadelphia August 8th.

I was extremely sorry My dear Peggy, that I had not the pleasure of seeing you when you were here. and as Sally tells me we are no longer to consider you a [citizen-ess] my regret continues _ as I know not when such another opportunity of enjoying your society may occur _ but as I suppose that depends in a great measure on the state of your Mother's health _ I shall in sending you my good wishes for her recovery. anticipate some agreeable effects to your Phila. friends _

As your letter is almost a month old _ you will not expect me to answer it _ tho' it is not too late to tell you, (for I remember it well) that I read it with lively sensations of pleasure _ such as the kind assurance of an absent Friend's remembrance can alone excite _

I am glad to hear that Amelia is recovered _ you will now be able to enjoy the advantages of air, & exercise. and will no doubt find in the neighbourhood, if not Giants, fairies & Knights, creatures of more rational qualifications, who may contribute to your amusement _ and as I believe the Goddess of romance has erected a throne in your imagination _ she will not let you wander unaccompanied over Mountains or through valleys _ and as I am by no means an enemy to her _ tho' not one of her numerous train of worshipers. I beg you will pay her so much homage _ as will furnish but a descriptive letter of your perambulations _ whether on the banks of the Lehigh _ to the [end of page]

famous Gap _ or to the pious sisterhood of [Bethlehemites] _ or should you be stationary at Pittstown, you need not slight her favors [for] that place is as novel to me as either of the others _ and a letter will be acceptable come from where it may _

In Germantown you may suppose Romance is quite a stranger _ the very name [might] banish her, or if she ventured to alight one moment on the top of the church steeple _ the sight of the inhabitants would frighten her away _ unless Miss Blair should chance to be foremost of the group _

For my part I should have forgotten there was such a being in all the regions of fancy _ had I not one night heard Rosa sing to a Lady Bug _ that her house was on fire _ and her children at home _ this must have been her first visitation to the infant's brain _ it was moon-light _ and if an insect crawling on the white pillar of the [piazza?] could awaken such an association of ideas in little Rosa's mind _ I should blush not to take some interest in the mother bug's distress _ or to let her travel to the scene of conflagration alone and uncommiserated _ Thus you see my dear Margaret _ there is no corner of the world in which this said Goddess Romance has not an "habitation and a name" _ do you not think the subject interesting enough to furnish

Kotesbue with a drama _ or some other author _ an Epic poem _ Maternal grief at such a fatal catastrophe might excite great sympathy _ even tho' the sufferer were a lady-bug _

But being in town now, I shall please you better by speaking of Men, & women, particularly if the former be Mr. House & the latter Mrs. Hopkinson, not that I call these two men & women _ but being examples so high in your estimation _ you will be inclined to think favorably of those I may chuse to introduce after them _ we have been walking together this evening _ your old friend retains his good looks, and agree [end of page]

-able manners _ he is going to West Point _ and probably to Ballston Springs, where he will find (if Rachel's taste will suit him) a most pleasant party _ of accomplished Ladies, & musical Gentlemen _ the girls write most extravagantly of their amusements _ you would think they had mounted to the very [pinnacle] of pleasure _ and that their heads were [~~giddy~~] turning round with the rapidity of a spinning wheel _ I am afraid we shall not see them home again for a long time _

we saw Molly Davidson this evening and she told us her father is something better _ but her countenance & tone of voice, did not express the cheerfulness inspired by a considerable amendment _ she is a most exemplary woman _ and might stand as [the] Personification of filial duty and attention _

Sally desires me to present her love to you _ and I beg [you?] give mine to Amelia _ and my compliments to your Sister Mrs. Ewing.

I hope to hear from you soon _ and that you will continue to me those sentiments of esteem & friendship _ which I so highly value, and sincerely reciprocate _ it has been my fate to be separated from those friends whose society I most valued _ and whose affection my heart most fondly cherished _ but I have had the [happiness] to retain them mine _ and I am equally fortunate in being so remembered by you, My dear Peggy _ I shall ever be gratefully & affectionately

Yours Rebecca Gratz

My Mother begs to be remembered to you _
Sister Hays is enjoying very good health,
and improves much in her appearance _ she sends her love to you _

[Address:]

Miss Margaret Ewing
Pittstown N. Jersey