

Rebecca Gratz to Margaret (Peggy) Ewing

August 31, [1803]

Philadelphia August [31]st.

I have recieved your messages _ both from Mrs. Hopkin-son and from your Brother _ have time, and inclination _ yet with all these _ dare scarcely venture to write, because you have said so many fine things that I am unwilling to disappoint you _ and know it is not in my power to [afford] you the amusement you expect _ however it may be some gratification to hear that I recieved _ and am grateful for your epistle _ it speaks the language of cheerfulness and pleasure _ which though not in unison with my present feelings is recognized in my friend with a sensation that is some what allied [there] to _ Sally is very much indisposed _ with a violent cold and sore throat she went to bed early _ and I seated my-self in her chamber for the double purpose of attending to her, and discharging my debt to you _ when the cry of fire _ and the watchmans rattle made such disturbance in the street that I was obliged to desert my post _ 'tis past twelve _ all is restored to quietness _ but in the tumult _ I have lost what few ideas I had arranged [for] you _ and in the debility that succeeds to fright, seem not very probable to collect new ones _

I must therefore resort to news _ and as this days mail brought me a letter from Baltimore mentioning Miss Pascaults [marriage] _ shall introduce you to the wedding party _ all of whom are not indifferent to you _ Bonaparte & House were the Generals attendants _ Miss Haslet & Miss [Stricker?] the Brides _ I believe you are unacquainted with these Ladies _ I mention their names, as a memorial of some merit in the speed with which they made preparations for the splendid Occasion _ what apartment in the Temple _ think you, Madame Ruebelle will inhabit _ I hope chance may conduct her to a peaceful abode
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tho' she has had little time to consider the merit of her companion _

I congratulate you on the acquisition of your Brothers family to your charming circle. you have in Amelia the companion most to be desired of ~~any other~~ female friend on earth _ the happy combination of sister, and friend appears to me _ as one of those extra-blessings with which Heaven intended to counter-balance a thousand of life's sorrows and privations _ I rejoice that you are restored to each others society _ had I known Mrs. Ewing & Amelia continued in town this morning I would have paid them a visit _ remember me to them, and also to Mrs. Hall _ from all accounts this must really be a season of Jubilee at Lamberton _ I have no idea of rational pleasure _ beyond that frank _ hospitable. and cheerful enjoyment of domestic life _ said to preside in your family _ and did not your letters contribute so largely

to my satisfaction _ I should be "charitable" enough to subscribe to your proposal _ but at your "harvest" when plenty abounds, what could you glean from the city to enrich your crops? unless indeed the force of contrast would [enable] you to estimate more highly your abundance, from a comparison with our poverty _ and that is giving a false value to real benefits _ which ought to be acknowledged for themselves alone, you hold out a great allurements _ three-fold payment in the winter, but suppose you get tired and consider me well paid for the trouble I give you by total desertion _ we once made a bargain with the Dunlaps _ to visit them in the summer, because they lived in the pleasantest situation for an evening walk, and that they should return them in the winter _ now I neither, would compare you unto them _ nor the motives of these season plans _ but the proposals being similar, I could not help reflecting that the consequences might prove so too _ for you must know our intimacy could not stand a frost _ it began in Moon shine and there ended _

My Mother, Sally & Rachel unite in love, and good wishes to you & Mrs. Hall _ in which my Brothers join _ Sim returned last week. you
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are still a great favorite with him _ and I believe Hyman would be willing to perform his promise, but having thrown me out (or let me fall out) of the chair returning from Bloomfield last week _ he fears some reflection on his unskillful driving would be made if he proposed it _

God Bless you _ ever Yrs

R_G _

[Address:]

Miss Margaret Ewing
Lamberton

[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.]