

Rebecca Gratz to Margaret (Peggy) Ewing

July 4, 1805

I deferred writing to you, my dear Peggy _ not because in the days of pleasure & cheerfulness you were forgotten _ but with the prudence ascribed to my character because [I] knew that I should soon be a bankrupt in all that bore the title, unless I reserved the recommence-ment of our correspondence for this period _

All our New York & Albany friends left us this morning _ and with them, took Rachel & Miriam Etting _ we feel deserted & forlorn _ poor Sally quite ill of a violent cold _ and a dozen other etc's calculated to encourage gloomy & unpleasant reflections. Harriet left an affectionate message for you _ and did not cease to regret that she was prevented improving an acquaintance with you _ from which she promised herself much pleasure _

I received a message from your Brother's letter _ that you wanted City news & requested me to write _ now Peggy, you must not suppose I can gratify all your wish _ by my ready compliance with a pact _ it was my intention to write _ even before I received your invitation for I have lost much of my vanity on that score _ in gaining a just estimate of the Good _ to which it is sacrificed _ and those of my friends who are able & willing to exchange Sterling for Currency will find me at least punctual in the payment _

on this day of independence _ I might certainly gratify your patriotic feelings by an account of honors & festivity with which
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the sovereign people are celebrating it _ but just as I was going to describe the parade passing my window in which the offices were very busily & actively employed in instructing their men how to keep their guns on their shoulders _ without danger to those marching behind _ the drummers (I suppose by mistake) began the animating sa-ie-za _ and I closed the shutters _ that I might not see the disgrace of our splendid colours _ to which there is a new one added _ very handsomely executed by the famous Miss Julie _

The remainder of the day as usual has passed in riot _ noise _ & drunkenness _ I have seen more men staggering about the street since ten O'clock _ than all the watchmen in the city could manage _ should they get into any mischief _

we spent Yesterday afternoon at Mrs. McEwens where we had the pleasure of meeting your cousins Miss Sergeant & Miss Fox _ they have both promised to come to see us. I mention this to you _ because it is a circumstance that gives me much pleasure as I admire them both, and never until now had an opportunity of [se...] acquaintance.

I am sorry to hear that poor Amelia [he...]

fever _ and hope she will soon recover _ [give] [my?]
respects to your Mama _ who I sincerely [h...]
benefit from the country.

You should be much obliged to me for [...]
it is worth your thanks _ for the Goddess of dullness has dipt her
wing in my inkstand _ [but] for my perseverance _ I began it
in the morning while my ear was yet stunn'd with Adieu _
being determined to pass an hour in good company _ notwithstand
[end of page]

-ing all my losses _ what kind of [a] companion I should have made
you my partly judge _ fortunately the parade interrupted me _
the wind blew down my paper _ and taking a scrap that lay
on the table _ I vented all my sentimental spleen _ [which] I have
just sent in fragments to [take] [seek] a moon light adventure either
in the air, or in the dust _ as the wind _ their own lightness _ or
attraction may determine _ and having given you enough of
plain matters of fact _ you will not much regret being left to
your own reflections _ in which sometimes I would intrude the
image of Rebecca Gratz _

My compliments to your sister
Mrs. [Ewing?] _ Sally & My Mother sends love to you

Philadelphia July 4th. 1805

[Address:]
Miss Margaret Ewing
to the care of Dr. [J. S.?] Ewing
Pitts Town
New Jersey

[Postmaster's Notes:]
John Ewing
Easton Pa

