

Rebecca Gratz to Margaret (Peggy) Ewing

June 24, 1803

Baltimore June 24th. 1803 _

My dear Peggy

I am so glad to hear from you again that I agree to your own terms and without examining the Merit of your long silence, most freely assure you the apologies, you apologize for not making are favorably received _ and that I hope in future there will be no occasion for the exercise of a virtue, whose best praise is but passive _ It is however but proper to say _ that you may be disappointed in other expectations _ You require entertainment _ and I feel so conscious of my inability to afford you any _ that I fear yet to consider our correspondence established _ in Baltimore _ there is plenty of amusement, but whether out of Baltimore it would be amusement or not, I have my doubts _ every body here is attentive _ kind _ and hospitable _ but I have not met with much good society _ My Sisters Family are agreeable _ one of the Miss Ettings is a remarkable fine woman. and all the five sisters agreeable & amiable _ some other of my old friends I have again become intimate with _ and resumed my former partiality for _ so that my time must pass to my satisfaction, altho' I fear you cannot benefit much from it _

The Theatre was open every Evening for a fortnight after my arrival and I there had an opportunity of seeing all the belles _ and beaux _ they assembled very brilliantly dressed, almost every night, and appeared to enjoy themselves for the stage is not much attended to here _ nor indeed was it much worth attending to _ for they gave us poor [end of page]

plays & those badly performed _ Your Great favorite Mr. House called to see me this Morning with Miss Thomas _ and for the want of better information I gave him the message you sent to _ I don't know who with so many charges _ I really believe you, or some of your agents have cautioned him against me _ for unless to accompany some lady. he has paid me but one visit since I came to Baltimore _ now I thought you more charitable _ and more politic. for had you [done] me the favor, to provide me such a beau my gratitude would prompt me constantly to keep you in mind. and the mere mention of your name _ would be a safeguard against any intruders into the heart of your House _ we are going to [make our attack] at the fort _ and he says he shall surrender at discretion _ so expect to hear of our conquest in my next _ he has given me three weeks notice of an intended visit to Lamberton _ so I pray you _ enable me to grant him the happiness of presenting a letter to you _

Your Brother was here this morning and mentions that he had a

letter from you, and that your Sister had returned home _ be so good as to give my love to her and also to Amelia and Mrs. Ewing. you must be very happy in the society of so many of your friends _ since my separation from the Girls _ the thoughts of a family party is more dear to me than ever _ Sister Etting has been in bed three days _ with another boy _ we were a little disappointed _ but very happy now in the prospect of her recovery _ in a few weeks we move to the Cottage _ My Mother will return to Phila. shortly _ she bids me present her love to you and Mrs. Hall _

I was interrupted Friday afternoon _ and obliged to leave my letter unfinished and now at half past Eleven Sunday Night _ the very first hour that I could disengage my self from the duties of the day and the drowsiness of the [end of page]

evenings come to [ma...] _ what perhaps you have wished for before a conclusion to my letter _ I passed the day at Oakland _ the country Seat of Mr. S. Etting _ which is very [elegantly] situated _ about two miles from the city. in almost any direction from Baltimore the country is highly improved the town lays so low that you cannot take a ride without mounting hills from which you command fine extensive views _ and this in the minds of the inhabitants, compensates for the inconvenience and heat of the city _ which at this season is generally deserted by every family who can purchase or hire a house in the country _ one of the roads for two or three miles _ looks like a Village _ and is almost as thickly built as Germantown _ tho' not many large houses _ I suppose it has been improved much on the same principle that Germantown encreased so rapidly _ the expectation of Yellow Fever _ but I forgot you wished an introduction to my friends _ and not to the roads that lead to them in their [retirement] then first, as a particular favorite I must mention Mrs. Horne _ [whom?] probable you may shortly see _ she is going to New-Port to visit Miss Rogers and should she stay any time at Trenton _ I think her acquaintance would be well worth the ride from Lamberton _ even in the sun at noon _ she is handsome, Gay & Young _ with an amiable disposition & good understanding _ she was married at a very early age _ to a man of worth _ and I believe them to be as happy a pair as ever reached the Temple in the Garden of Wedlock _

I am almost ashamed to send you this dirty letter _ but for the convenience of light I am writing on a low seat with the top of a bandbox in my lap for a desk _ and the approach of a regiment of Cockroaches _ that patrols my chamber _ made me drop my pen _ where you see the blot _ God Bless you _ write to me soon and believe me sincerely Yours

R_G_

[Address:]
Miss Margaret Ewing
at Mr. John Hall's
Trenton