

Rebecca Gratz to Joseph Gratz

February 23, 1812

Phila. February 23rd. 1812

We were rejoiced My Dear Jo [with] your early compliance with our request _ and indeed require such kindness to reconcile us to your Absence _ the haste in which you concluded on, & executed this journey _ hardly gave us time to think on the subject. but we now feel most sensibly your loss. and daily lament the necessity, which is ever, in this ill managed state of things separating those who love and could live happily together. while our populous cities are filled with persons who jostle each other in their daily walks unheeding & unheeded. and care not whether they ever meet again

Yet the same providence rules over every clime and under His protecting care, You cannot fail to prosper & be happy _ always remember My dear Brother, that it is your duty to preserve the blessing of health with your utmost care, and that in strange climates it may cost you more trouble, or at least different treatment _

Our interesting Friend S Myers left us on Thursday for New York where I believe he means to wear away the term that yet remains of his exile _ John continues here, admired among the gay and enjoying every amusement our city offers, Yesterday was distinguished by all the honours, patriotism epicurianism, and dancing could confer on it _ a patriotic oration & military parade in the morning _ great feasting at dinners & a most brilliant assembly at night. were performed in honor of Washington _ some gentlemen dined with us to day who were partakers, and seemed highly gratified _ I fear this change of weather will make your travelling very irksome tho' the protection of the stage will prevent your suffering any other inconvenience _ from Pittsburgh we shall hear your plans _ be particular in your communications, that we may accompany you in our thoughts _ do not embark without some company [end of page]

and take advice of those who have [descended] the river, respecting such things as are necessary to your comfort during the voyage _ let us [know] what credit is due to what we heard respecting the [obstruction] in the navigation of the River, and if so dreadful a shock of an earthquake was really experienced _ if there is greater danger or difficulties to be encountered, reflect before you embark, whether the purport of your expedition, be worth the hazard it were better to [forgo] an uncertain good, than to plunge into a certain evil, and as fair a field of honourable exertion may open, where less danger threatens _

We are all perfectly well, but not quite so happy as when you are at home, every one who comes in laments your absence, and that shews how readily they all perceive a change _ Your Friend Gamble continues in much the same state you left him _ but Poor Amelia Ewing is no more! The approaching season will try the strength of all invalids. and I fear prove fatal to the decaying frame of [your] Gamble _

I have not a word of news to communicate & feel rather dull
to amuse you, so you must pardon such a stupid commencement of our
correspondence, and hope for better, in spite of all your experience to the
contrary _ , Your loss _ and S Myers's has almost deprived E_ of her
little court _ she is still a Sultana, but lacks slaves, and I should
not be much surprised if she soon returned home _ You are to be honoured
by letters from Becky C_ who will string puns & smart sayings to your
hearts content, may hap too, she will gather pleasant information for
your [amusement] _ All our dear Sisters & Brothers send you a great
deal of love, and agree many charges to take care of your self
when I think of the distance that will soon separate us I feel
more melancholy _ than I am willing to impart _ God Bless you My dear
Brother _ may you be ever & forever in His peculiar care who provideth
for All and whose tender mercies we have ever proved _ most affectionately Your
RG.

[Address:]
Mr. Joseph Gratz
Pittsburgh

[Endorsement:]
Rebecca Gratz
Feb 23. 1812