

Philadelphia Dec. 24th 1812

My Dear Sir

Although I cannot perform
my promise to inform ^{you} when I shall set
out for New York, I will ~~do myself~~
the not less agreeable pleasure of announcing
my arrival in Philadelphia - After scarcely
passing a day or two in Baltimore I took
my departure for this charming metropolis of
the American arts & literature - I have found
here a refined society, and an agreeable spirit
of hospitality. - Should this pleasant party continue
it will be sometime before I leave here for
New York, as I shall be entirely regaled in
my movements by my own caprices. - You know
I am not so calm & collected as ~~yourself~~ - I
cannot take the ill for the blessings of life, nor
can I look with an equal countenance upon
its dark or radiant prospects. - That careless
philosophy of soul is the precious gem which

our tragic bard fancied to exist in the load
that represented adversity — It lightens all the
care of life, and changes the sable & gloomy
hues of melancholy into the most brilliant
colours. — If adversity could bestow it I ought
to possess ^{it}, as my life is not unfamiliar with
the cup of calamity — The stream of my
life you know has seldom been permitted
to meander thro' an elegiac meadow, or to
swell into a gentle and translucent wave
under auspicious gales in a more expanded
scene — no! It has been interrupted by cataracts
and dashed with devoted fury on the shores
of misfortune by the angry storms of heaven.

I very sincerely hope to congratulate
you soon on the ~~prosperitous~~ smiles of your
— — — and more, that you may find in
temple of Hymen a source of real & lasting
happiness. — That you are the sole object of
her undivided affections you cannot doubt,
and I think you ought speedily to terminate
the negotiation — How enviable is your situation?
Basking in the full sun-shine of future felicity.

You promised ^{to} give me a detail of the domestic
incidents of Washington, and as I am no student
of News papers a sketch of the political — The
former however is infinitely the most interesting

Tell me something about that blue-eyed little
sylph of angel innocence that inhabits your house.

Is she as lovely as ever? Has she a legion of beaux?
and is she smiling at any of them? If I thought

I lived in her recollection I would venture to
request you to ~~tender~~ my compliments, but

as it is certain she has long since forgotten
me & perhaps my name I will not offer
the intrusion of my respects. I am

} glad that the E. Shore can
boast of such a damsel.

Her friend Miss Gold is (in
my humble opinion) an admirable girl,
uniting fine sense with wonderful amabi-
-lity — I would not live under your roof
a month for the Universe — there is too much
peril lurking there! — If Miss Gold ever mentions
my name you may offer my compliments to
her — Write to me immediately — tell
me the news of Washington — Excuse my haste.
Remember me to Madame B. and Miss Shore

I have a ^{high} respect for both of them -
A. S. Diet to Massachusetts University
Philadelphia Wm. L. Connelley

Hon. P. Van Cortlandt
Member of Congress

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Gen. Pierre Van Cortlandt
Member of Congress
Washington
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