SOME MATERIAL FOR A BIOGRAPHY OF MRS. ELIZABETH FERGUSSON, née GRÆME.

BY SIMON GRATZ.

(Continued from Vol. XXXIX, page 409.)

Mrs. Ann Græme to Miss Mary Bard, Burlington, N. J.

december 5th 1737.

Dear Mis Bard

it was a very great concern to me that I mist the oppertunity of taking my leave of you but I believe you may immagin it was not out of anyy disregard but I really did expect mamma down stairs to go to market she intended to come but meeting with Mrs Kerssly she told us you were gone wich prevented us pray make my service acceptable to M' denormandes family and now to conclude with my humble service to you and all your good family I remain with the greatest respect your most obedient servant

Ann Græme

Mrs. Ann Græme to Mrs. Campbell.

May 15/1752

Dear Madam

With this you will receive My Betsy who has a great desire to spend a day or two with you; as it is the first time she has been abroad by her self I should not chuse to lett her go but to such a Friend as you, who I am sensible will put a good natured construction on innocence and inexperience, but this I may promise for her, she would not willfuly offend and further I can assure you, she will make no such uneasy complaints as you was troubled with this time last year, but to my unspeakable Joy that purplexing affair is now quite at an end and

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ended more to my satisfaction by far than I could have hoped, and the only way it could have given me pleasure. the particulars of which I refer you to our friend M'r Annand I have promised to spend a few days with M'rs Baird which if I have in my power to perform I shall not fail of giving my self the pleasure to see you going or coming, however that be. I am with unalterable esteem

Dear Madam

Your Much Oliged and Most Hum❜le Servt

My Complmts to M'r Camel

A. Graeme.

Mrs. Ann Graeme to Mrs. Campbell, Burlington, N. J.

June 14/1752

Dear Madam

The favors Betsy received from you and M'r Campel lays me under too great obligation to suffer me to be silent when I have an opportunity to acknowled it. Betsy is so delighted with your manner that she can talk of nothing else, (but this is paying a complement to her Judgment). I am likewise much obliged to all the Ladies of Burlington and Bristol for the Kind notice they were pleased to take of her to whom universally my service & thanks.

My Complements to Mr Campel Joined with Betsys and Jennys to you both.

I hope you will both live to know the pleasure it gives a parent to see their children taken notice of by people of worth and then you will be more sensible how

much I am

Dear Madam Your Much

Obliged Humble Servt

Ann Graeme

Elizabeth Fergusson to Mrs. Campbell.

Graeme park May 9 1779

My dear M'r Campbell

A few weeks ago your affectionate epistle dated February 1779 was sent me up here: I know not by what conveyance it came, nor by what Channel this which is meant as a Reply to it may Reach you: but hope it may get safe tho' it can only offer a tributary Tear of Sorrow to those which I dare say already flow for the Calamities of our Country, involvd in all the Sad train of Affliction incident to a Civil War.

The account you in yours give me of your late Illness drew a heart wrung tear from my Eyes: for alas so strongly are we formed, that the trouble we feel for an individual that is dear to us is of a more heart piercing nature than the greatest Scene of Affliction that can be Exhibited from a Suffering Nation: I have sometimes been ashamed of this selfish principle but upon a more mature Survey of the Order of Man: Considered in his moral capacity I believe it is intended; that those troubles within our own Sphere; should affect us most, because
they are of a Nature in our power often to relieve by our Sympathy; which I fear would flow but coldly, was there not Some Stimulative more active to push us on than bare reason: we see Continually where that speaks without Passion or Affection; we move but very slowly on to anything which requires activity.

If you my dear friend have accomplished your journey to N York as you purpos'd at the time you wrote to me you will in all probability have heard more of me and my affairs than at Mr Frazer's: for Mrs Burton knows a good deal about me; as she often saw Mr F—n at York but in Case you should not have accomplished that excursion, I shall briefly touch on my Situation, There is not that person in the World I would more freely give my Mind to on any and all Subjects than the dear good woman to whom I am now writing: but I have been so unfortunate in having my Letters on the most interesting Subjects open and pass through Hands that were no ways interested in their Contents: that I write now to my dearest friends but very seldom and that with Coolness and Caution.

In less than a Month after the date of Mine to you in September, the Commissioners for the State of Pennsylvania Seized this property in Consequence of Mr Fergusson's being among the unfortunate proscrib'd, the personal Estate was all sold except the furniture of two rooms and the Real Estate Rented for a year; I rented it myself. At the Expiration of that time it is to be sold during Mr Fergusson's and my Life: that is the Death of either of us the State has no further Claim on it; had I had a child Mr. F. would have had his life in it; but that not being the Case He has only his Life during my Life in it. I have presented a Petition to the Assembly in consequence of the [illegible] Situation of My affairs; they are to meet in August and I hope as the Property came Solely by my Father and I show no Desire to leave the Country and have ever been against the British Side really from Principle; I hope all these things Cast into the Scale, will have their proper Weight, I purpose if it comes to the last Pinch to bid for it myself, as I cannot think that any person will be either So ill natured or so imprudent to bid high for an Estate thus Circumstanced: they the purchasers hold it no longer than the Life of a woman of my Age, joined to a Constitution frail by nature, but made much more so by trouble; I am determined to do everything that prudent advice can Dictate to preserve this patrimony: as it is more dear to me from its Relative Value than from its Intrinsic one: tho' that is a Comfortable Suport; for me & my all: And now my dear friend you Enquire particularly Concerning My Neice: she is Married to a very Sober industrious young Man; It was quite a Love Match and they are entirely happy in Each Other; Her father poor man for some Strange whim or Other could never be brought to aprove it: in this temper He liv'd and Died, tho' not so as to affect His Will: He divided all He had (which was no great Matter) between his two Children But that part to His Son was Oblied not to be nam'd in that Manner, as He was with the British But as all His Property was in Land; and He left Express
orders that it should be sold immediately on His Decease; it will in the
End be but a poor affair; because it was sold at a time when the Ex-
change of Gold was near twenty for one and in no degree Sold in that
proportion: as Land Sells for Less than anything. My Neice left the
City a few Days before the British enterd it, she remained with me
here a fortnight But Her Husband having a Department with the Hos-
pital at Bethlem; she went with her family when there and there-
abouts she remain’d during the Whole time the British were in this
State. She is now settled in the City, she spent a Week with me this
Spring, she came up to wean her little Boy who was then a year old
He was born when she was in Exile in the Mountains, Her first A Girl;
was two years old last September, this Boy was Baptized Thomas
Graeme: Her Girl Ann; they are large Children; but not so as Sprightly
the Eldest as some that are less, But these little things alter very
much. Amy makes a tender mother; and Affectionate wife But more
particularly in the latter Character than in the former; as she has
many that Equal her in the first but none that Exceed her in the Latter.

My Nephew John Young you know very early showd An Attachment
to the British; near two years he was a Prisoner on his Parole with
me at this Place, but on the British entering the Capitall in Sep-
tember 77 He joined them, He first got a Leitutenancy in the New
Levies but had soon Interest Enough to get a Commission in His Old
highland Regiment, Col. Sterling Commands; and Co1 Sterlings Mother
and Mr Youngs Mother were own Sisters; so that He seems fix’d among
them now for Life. He was always of a Military turn which I wish
to Heaven he would have indulged in any way but the Line he moves
in; for the Drawing His Sword against his Mother Country seems to
me a most Heinous offence. I did every thing while he was with me to
wean him from this unhappy Biass, but the Event too fully prov’d
I could not prevail: as indeed I show’d my bad Success where T was
much more deeply interested than with him.

When I reciv’d yours of february Dear Madam; I was just returnd
Home after a journey at a very inclement Season of the year; I went
to Elizabethton point to take leave of Mr Fergusson; who Embarked
for Boston immediately after His Interview with me: and I am yet
ignorant of his Arrival; I was absent from home 6 weeks which was
double the period of time I have ever been absent from this Spot Since
the Death of my dear Father; so totally Domesticated Have I been
since my Marriage; out of the Seven years that I have been married
my Husband has lived but two years and a few months with me; and in
that period Six times has he Cross’d the Atlantic Ocean and is now
on Earth without Home or Habitation: so much has this Coming of the
British done for Him: As for me I have no right to Complain of them;
because from first to last, I have Sincerely been their Enemy as far as
Christianity will admit of Enmity. It is so long since I wrote to you
and the Reading your Epistle seems to have drawn forth all my tender
feelings, that I know not when or where to Stop: On perusal what I
have wrote I seem to have forgot the Rule I laid down to myself, Namly
to write guardedly; it is almost impossible where the heart is Engag'd: And I think if I do not soon stop, I shall send you a Volume: most Sincerely do I wish I could Scribble something to Enliven you in your Retired Situation, But I dare say I live more Retired than you most of my Letters remind me of the title of Mrs Rowes "From the Dead to the Living" tho' the Similarity only holds with the title page the Chief purport of my taking my Pen in Hand; was to beg of you to put me in some method of seeing you in the Course of this Ensuing Summer; I have a Carriage and p' of Horses; but alas my Servant is too fond of drink, But if you would let me Know when you would be either at Bristol or Philadelphia; I would procure a Sober Driver and Send for you: Do my dear friend arrange your affairs so as to pass a Month with me this Summer; you Say you pine to see me; the term is Expressive and I feel the force of it, Miss Stedman, my Constant friend Miss Stedman is ever with me; all others are Birds of Passage; and as Solomon says in his Energetic Language "as a Guest that tarrieth but a Night" But she remains closely here much I owe in my troubles to her Society and Steady friendship, and I do everything I can to render her Retirement Easy; indeed what with parties on the one Side; and Misfortune on the Other; this City of Philadelphia is by no means a Desirable place: you would Saree Know it; not that its External appearance is so changd; but the inhabitants and the War and altogether has given a new Complexion to all around it. When you Mention your Sickness you tell me it has alterd you much, but as you tell me it was a nervous Fever; I am amazed that you are not more affected, for of all maladies it the most totally seems to impair and unhinge the frame. I had a Violent Nervous fever 20 years ago, And I think My Constitution never Entirely Recoverd the Shock, you write as Steady and As Correct as you ever did in your Life: Amidst all the troubles you have encount'd My dear friend it is with great pleasure I Reflect that the Evening of your Days is Spent under the Roof of so worthy a Man As your Son-in Law Mr Frazer: and that Mrs Frazer is so truly Dutifull and Affectionate a Child, as all agree in describing her, tho' you have the utmost right to expect everything that a parent can from a child yet a return of that Sort is not always the Case: But to do the kindest things in the kindest way to the most Worthy person, I am told is Mr and Mrs Frazer peculiar Felicity: I am sure any approbation that my weak pen could give would be so triffling; compard with the Effusions of happiness their own Hearts must experience for such a Conduct, that I shall not attempt to say anything: Suffice it that I think any person who Hears of their Character must Esteem them for their great Virtues: And yet I will not acquit them of disinterestedness altogether; as I think My dear Mrs Campbells Company and Conversation exclusive of the tie of filial Duty and Gratitude is more than a Counterbalance for any little trouble she may Cause in a family: tho' got to the Bottom of my third Sheet; I have not done: Things Rise out of one another; so that every fresh thought seems but the prelude to a former; at this Rate I shall Scribble infinitum I hope if this reaches you that
you will fall upon some Method to write me as soon as convenient and
fix how I may see you; as I pass through the jerseys I had no time
in going at all to have called on you; But on my Return I stay'd a
Week at a very intimate Friends Mr. Stocton of princeton, I there made
a minute Enquiry if I could have got at you: But he told me at that
Season of the year the thing was utterly impracticable, and I must be
foldn in Any thought I should make towards it: so I was obligd the
not without great Reluctance to give up the plan.

The Extreme peace and tranquil State of this Retirement entirely
falls in with my taste, My troubles have impressed by Mind with a
great love of Nature and Solitude, I want for nothing; But then my
Wants are comprized within a much Narrower Compass than I once
thought they Could be. Dress is Excluded Entirely. The enormous
price of every thing in the City makes it incompatable with small for-
tunes to Reside there; and as I have no near Connections I have few
Calls to it.

And now my dear Madam on a Review of Life after a few years are
fled; and some or most that are dear to us are laid low. How strip'd
of Pleasure does the world appear; But the Skeleton of former Pleasures
and Beauty; So true does Dr. Young say "He builds too low, who
Builds beneath the Skies"

The dreary part remains, while the soft Vernal Season is soon past
and gone. It suggested these Lines.

The blooming blushing fragrant Rose
A few short Sun's remains:
Not long its leaves their Sweets disclose,
It droops upon the Plains.
Not so, the rugged Prickly thorn;
Which doth its Stalk Surround,
From of the Bush is never torn
And in all Seasons found.

I shall I think send this to Mrs Stogton [Stockton] at York to Con-
vey: I have found her a Steady friend in all My troubles, My Health is
sometimes so indiferent; that I fear I shall never see you But the
Spring is ever a trying season with me; if I should not see you be
assured that I Sit many hours; and Reflect on the Days I have Spent
at the Parsonage House at Burlington. The Strict intimisy you had
with My Mother, my Sisters and the Kind attention that you honord
my infant years with when I am Sure nothing but a fund of good
Nature could Led you to have bore with my Nonsense; all are deeply
impressd on my Memory. I Remember the Garden, the Orchards; the
large Rose Bushes; good Mr Elton peeping in to see what a Clock it is:
all all seem to pass in Review before me. Pray is Little old Lavinia
alive, and Her Husband, and where is their destiny? Mr Young Died
the Day after I came to Town after my meeting with Mr F. I did not
see him as he was too ill and not quite I believe in his Senses: He
died that Day 20 years that my Sister young Died; poor Man His
latter years were totally unhappy as he was angry with both his Chil-
Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, née Graeme.

dren; and at the last was only Attended by Strangers and hired people:
He was a very fond father While his Children were little, and a good
husband; the Death of My Sister was an irreparable Loss. He was buried
by her in Christ Church: Burying yard: How many dear friends lay
there. How light does the World apear and all that is in it when we
fix our minds on these Repositories of the remains of all we held Dear:
Adieu my dear Madam Miss Betsy Stedman Begs me to say every-
thing that is Kind and tender: in full Confidence of seeing you soon
I remain your Sincere friend and humble

Servant

Elizabeth Fergusson

Graeme park Jany 13, 1784.

Dear Madam

Your agreable favor did not reach me till 2 Months after its Date or
it should not have been so long unanswered. I am always particularly
pleased with a letter from my dear Mrs. Campbell as it is proof that
her poor Solitary Eye can do more in the writing way than most other
Eyes can do in partnership but you must not make a practice of mak-
ing it perform double Duty. I enclose you Miss Meade's letter (which
you need not take the trouble to Return) She is a young Lady I assure
you that if you like on a Slight acquaintance, you will love on An
intimate one She is really an Amiable young Person. I lent Miss
Smith the Watch paper I think there is no deficiencies in it. I so
Sincerely Sympathize with Miss Molly on the Catastrophe of the
Scissors! that it produced an Eligeic Copy of Verses on the Subject
that you must Read and Explain to her. I send her a Pair of Scissors
but do not Suppose they are equal to the Eve Lamb. I Send Miss Jenny
and Miss Becky a Tucker I worked for my Self but have no Call now
to Dress my Neck as I always wear Double handkerchs. I think you
had a pleasing tour And I am sure made your old Burlington Friends
happy I am much Obliged to you to give me all your Wanderings as
you Call them. Give my Kind Regards to Mr Frazer and tell her
I was quite Disapointed her stay was so Short when she came to bring
you home.

I join with Mr Frazer in thinking the Season too far advanced for
our Walk. I think we will postpone it till we can Say in the Soft
Verse in the Canticles

“For lo the Winter is past, the Rain is over and gone, the Flowers
appear in the Earth, And the time of the Singing of the Birds is Come
And the voice of the Turtle is heard in our Land The Peach Tree
puteth Forth her fine Blossoms and the Magnolia gives a sweet smell
and the apple trees are powdered with Flowers” I believe I must
not write the Rest of the verse or else Mr Frazer will put in a Caveat
to our Expedition unless She is to be of our Party.

You ask me my dear Friend if my own prospects Brighten. I will
answer you as our old Friend Mr Annaud used sometimes when He had
the Cobler in His Throat And we would Ask Him If He was Mended
in His Spirrits?
Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, née Grame.

"Yes troth as Sour ale mends in Summer." I need not dip the Pencil in Shade of fancy to give you a gloomy picture. My Husband and Nephew both proscribd the former under the most painfull accusations and I tortured with Suspense as to fixing my Mind one way or other on the point: A Landed property daily diminishing in value By tenants wearing out and destroying the place: A Load of Debt whose interest alone is far beyond the Rent if that Rent was Regularly paid which it never—Seldom 10£ at one time.

I find my Friend every darling prospect is as to this World Blasted and withered so I will quit the painfull theme. I can Command my Pen And my Speech to Say I can my thoughts would be Pharasaical Hypocrasy.

I write at this time to Miss S. Bard And shall leave the packet unsealed which if you think it worth Reading you may then Seal And forward to her by some safe Hand, you will See in it a Copy of an Advertisement of this Estate. If Mr Frazer thinks it would lay in the Way to circulate He will be so good as let Some of His young people Copy one or two

The lady who I enclose a letter (to Miss Bard) from to me is a Granddaughter of Sir William the Lady is the first Cousin to me by the Mothers Side Miss Feilds And Mrs Brooks were her two younger Sisters, they were at New York and here in the year 1777 Mrs Brooks a Widow Buried a fine youth of 22 at York. She at that time might have Sat for the picture of Health and Her Sister also Both these ladies before forty paid their "Debt" to Nature Mrs Senniers has been a Widow 25 years is about your Age at this time the Lady who is my Correspondent, at the time of the War that is from the year 76. to 81 I never heard anything of the Family And Now Mrs Senniers first letter contained like Ezekiel Roll mourning Lamentations And woe. In two years the Deaths of the Family were as follows.

Miss Feild (?) a favorite Sister, Mrs Brooks her Third Sister, not very long before that period an Amiable Lady a Sister about 22 went for Her Health to a Celebrated Spring for Health and a poisend Vine happend to be bathd in the Water which Deprived her of Life in great torments. Mrs Sennier had a favorite Daughter 26 years old Maried about a year She Died Sudden: Mrs S—n had then four Sons, the Eldest Dropd down of an Apoplectic Fit, So that He was dead And Buried before She Could See Him The Second in less than a year Died of a Bilious fever. She Had at that time a Suit in Chaney Which went against Her and Losses by Fire So that from being the owner of Seven Elegant Houses and Some of them attended with West India Works as Sugar House Slaves, etc. etc. She was not in 1782 possesd of one but an Inhabitant of one of her Sons

Her family at present Consist of two Daughters and two Sons, one of Her Daughters Single Resides in England for her health, She has 400 pr Anum of her own And likes to Spend it at Bath the Other Daughter is Maried to a Gentleman possessed of Entail of a Landaff Castle in Wales only for his Life the possessor.
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You must get some of the young Eyes about you dear Madam to read all this, as it may serve as a lesson to them of all the Shortness of Human felicity.

I Remain with great affection your Sincere friend E. Fergusson

Elizabeth Fergusson to Mrs. Smith.

G. Park, April 21, 1792.

My Dear Mrs. Smith

If you have received the letter which I wrote you the evening before I left town, you will no doubt think that you are to be overwhelmed with my Epistles: Nor have I much reason to think they are welcome: as you never have written to me this two years:

But I make all allowances for the Embarrassment of the Subject, and the more immediate calls of the many Interesting Visitudes you And yours of late have been engagd In my distressed Friend!

On taking a Retrospect of my past Life, I have this day felt myself unusually serious, And affected. It has ever been one of many peculiar weaknesses belonging to me, to have the Springs of past Sorrow fresh opend on the annual return of the Day on which any interesting event that gave a Complexion to my future Life returnd: And on this principle I have Retrod every hour of this Day twenty years with the most lively emotions And you were associated with the Scenes!

I in Review Sat between One and Two at your Bed Side, in the little Room in walnut Street and felt all again when I bid farewell knowing the important event that was to take place that night: But I will pass over the Hours and moments from then till nine at night which is the Hour I now write and which was on the 21 of April 1772 the hour that I gave my hand in the Swedes Church to Henry Fergusson. I know how little qualified we are to talk of ourselves, yet pardon me and charge me not with extreame vanity when I tell you on reading the following Lines in a tragedy of Mr Haylys I wept most plentifully and thought had I seen an indulgent Father giving His Daughters Bridegroom Elect a Clue to guide her temper So would my father have Spoke, for the lines are spoken in Character of a Father Speaking to His Intended Son-in-Law on the morn of His Daughters Nouptials (Marcella the Tragedy)

Father . . .

"For I wished to make her,
"Not the cagd Vassal of Parental power
"But Truth and Natures Chaste and free Disciple:
"Her early temper Joined with my affection
"To fix me in this Conduct; for believe me
"Her Mind is like the Element of Fire:
"Treat it with gentle Caution it will Shine
"The Radiant Minister of Joy and Comfort,
"But Close confinement or a blind Neglect
"May rouse its perilous Energies to spread
"Unthought of Scenes of misery and Sorrow."
The Stillness of the night: my Dear Friend by me, with a Candle in her hand going to Bed perhaps for the last night she will as an inhabitant be under this Roof, and one maid Servant being all my family—all all Conspire to make me look into my Self And question my Heart But it fully acquits me as to my Husband. Cannot you Spare a Couple of Days after your Dear Child leaves you, as I am told is the Plan as soon as a Bride! could not you and Mr. Bond and Mrs. Hopkinson and your little Grand Daughter come up in your Carriages and pay a last Solitary Visit to your Friend Oh if you have one Single Idea that it is an Intrusion Banish it, it will be a treat a generous treat to my Mind: My beds are as yet in Statute quo and also my furniture Mr. Bond will be at lissure after she parts with her Son and the Face of the country in all probability will come under that Discription which Milton terms

"Vernal Delight Capable of chasing
All Sadness But Despair."

Think not my Friend that a Blush faint as ever Spread the Face of the Heetick Mendicant Monk Shall rise tho I cant Spread you a table as formerly but you shall have sufficient Oh come!

As Mr Bond is near parting with his amiable mother and sister who I know he most tenderly loves tho' I suppose it will be but a temporary Seperation yet all Separations that fling the Atlantic between us and those we value are attended with a soft Melancholy so I will Suppose that frame of Mind may extend itself in a Degree to one who begs a favor of Him. I once more through your Medium Do, ask the following:

I ask Him in Brief if he will Devote a forenoon to coming out of town any part of the Day he shall name to the Jolly Post at Frankford I will make His Hour mine and bring with me there to Him Christian Fitzmire (?) the man who lives near Oxford Church that he may hear the Mans own Evidence and Relate it to Mr. Fer. Or if he does not Chuse to take that trouble if he will see Him in town If I bring Him to Mr Bonds house but that is a piece of freedom I shall not take till I know first whether we shall be admitted; as I chuse to be present to hear the Man and was I come at a venture Mr Bond might be from Home or so engaged he could not speak to Him and that would Disappoint me. I again Repeat that the Man is either Bribed to say what he does or he speaks the Truth as in His Mode of Relating there can be no Error but Willful Error, wicked willful Error. If Mrs Fergusson hears this and Denies the whole then it will show the Villany practed on Him: If he owns it it acquits me, but if he will neither speak one way nor other in reply I shall to those friends in England who have Condemned me without Knowing the Truth write a full Detail of my Conduct, and leave them to Decide a Letter from Himself can Only Silence

Your much Injured Friend

E. Fergusson.
Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, née Grome.

Elizabeth Fergusson to John Nicholson.

Billet, March 20 96

Sir

I cannot but fear from the multiplicity of Business that you are involved in, or some other Cause unknown to me: that there is some mistake in our Ideas of the 40 Dollars a year added to the 60£ annually stipulated by sealed Contract to avoid all misaprehension, I will as briefly as possible consistant with perspicacity make a Statement of the Dates in this transsacien.

On the 24 of January 1794 Mr Meade Sir brought me a letter from you with a warm and I supose a Sincere proposal of 40 Dollars pr year added to the Contract you purchased of him at that time I by a letter refused it, you in the offer desired it to commence from the time you [illegible] ——— to pay 40 Dollars then and a year after 40 after: I refused it on the 20 of Sept 1794 I wrote you a long letter, Sir, by the Revend D' Smith telling you I would take it with thanking you and I sent all my motives with my Reasons for acquiescing which were not the ostensible but the true ones. I heard nothing from you for a great while, I wrote again, No Reply, I sent a pointed Message to you by D' Awl (?) but had no answer I then expressed my Surprize to the reverend Mr Irvine in May and he spoke to you Sir by him you Sent me 40 Dollars and told me you had sent it to me before But as I did not know to whose care you had consigned the money whether to any place that I was accustomed to have my letters left or how it was I instantly returned the money till time should develope where the Error lay I heard nothing from you I went to the house of the Reverend D' Smiths on the Bank of Schuylkill: two letters and many messages I sent you from thense in order to know the Fate of the Lost Cash, I went to town in Septembr to Mr Medes; you then Sir thro the Channel of the Revend D' Smith sent me 40 dollars which I acknowledged by Letter you Sir told me no fraud had been caryd on as to the money missing but thro' mistake it had been sent to Maryland. You did me the Honour Sir to call on me In Sept at M' Medes and I asked you how and in what way I was to draw for the 40 Dollars, and I hinted to you that it would be well enough Sir If on the Demise of M' Bradford a new Contract must be drawn to put the additional 40 Dollars in it you seemed to decline it, I then asked when it was due? You sd October In that month I left the City and on the Day I did I heard M' Nicholson had done me the favor to call on me. I was sorry I was from home But I had made every advance to her acquaintance by calling twice at her town and once at her Country House. But we did not meet; perhaps Sir you will say what is the purport of this Long Letter about a trifle no doubt Sir you transact thousands with fewer words But as Goldsmith says

"These little Things are Great to little men"

My Idea Sir without wishing to give you Sir the smallest offence is plainly this If I am unreasonable Sir Set me Right with the same
Candor I address you I think from the 20 of September Had I recvd
the 40 Dolars aggred the Secnd 40 would have been due 20 Sept 1795.
on this Statement this 20 of March 1796 there is 60 Dollars due. I
plead the Cause of the Poor the greatest part of it is appropriated
to the old and Infirm who have no way of keeping pace with monstrous
Prices of Bread. Middlings is 50/ hundred wheat 21/ p.B.

I remain with respect your most Humble S

E. Fergusson

Elizabeth Fergusson to Mrs. Frazer.

My Dear Mrs Frazer

I stand indebted to you 3 Letters, one by Dr Tod, one by Mr Worthy,
and this Day by Mr Evans. As he return early tomorrow morning you
will be so good as to pardon any inaccuracies, that will arise in writing
in a hurry. The Death of Bishop Seabury is a public and Domestic
Loss: It is sd. more people have within this last twelve months Died of
apoplexy than was ever known in the same Space of time, whether this
is to be traced to natural Causes I leave to the Faculty to decide. As
to poor Judge Wicks I think it is a most extraordinary Death, I supose
he was on horse-back and that no traces of the Beast nor master could
be found is uncomon I should conclude that he had not fair play for
his Life if the Body is not found but I know not the Situation of the
wood. As to the marriage of Miss Boyls and Mr S——d by what Mrs
Tod says of him I pity the girl. I find Dr Tod was one of the wedding
Guests. Mr. Pope Says you know in a frequent quoted line:

"Some men to Business, some to pleasure take
But every woman is at heart a Rake"

I dont know but it might be more just to say

But every woman has at heart a Rake

Dr Young in one of his Satires on our Sex has some very Severe
lines on this very Error

"The youth of Fire, who has Drank deep, and played"
"And Killed his man, and triumphed o'er his Maid:
"For him (if yet unhung) she Spreads her Charms,"
"And takes the Dear Distroyer to her Arms."

The very 1st opportunity I had: I sent the Receipe to Mrs Meade, I
heard this afternoon from them And it is not thought he can hold above
a Day or two, he suffers a great Deal now as all the Skin on one Side
is Chaffed.

On the 12 of April Miss Stedman came from town where she had been
eight weeks close Shut up with Mrs Stedman and but once out all that
time while she was there Mrs Abercromby was brought to Bed of her
Seventh Child, so that she was no assistance to her mother-in-Law: Miss Stedman with an under nurse entirely presided, Miss Stedman on
the 16 instant came here as Mrs Tods boarder and lodger, But to Day Mrs Stedman Sent up that She pines to have her: so on Monday next She returns till Mrs Stedman is Better, which Dr Redman says will he thinks never be: But he thinks the month of June the utmost time that She will hold out, The length of time I have known Mrs Stedman amid many very delicate and distressing Circumstances make me feel a great deal: to her Grand Children She is an irreparable Loss, they are pretty Children As to your question of Peace or War? My dear you might as well ask your Black Boy as me but just as I had begun this the Reverend Mr Irvine called in with a message to Miss Stedman from her aunt; he had been in town at the Presbytery, he is a great Politician and hears and sees what is going forward when in town, he sd. there was in the Senate a warm opposition against peace but the mercantile Interest was so loud, powerful and unanimous in favor of a union with Britain that it was generally thought by many of the Knowing ones that a peace would take place. A vessel had arived this afternoon from London on so Short a passage as having left it on the 16 of March; the news had not transpired as the letters were not taken out of the Bag and the "Quid Nuncs" were all impatience to hear some thing. I have you see obeyed your Injunction as to laying aside my Liluputian Packet, But indeed my dear Madam you have no Conscience if you can Complain of me as to writing after the volums you have lately recvd: In your Letter by Mr Watkyns you are so kind as to mention what Mr. Gylaspye had from Saly Bard about Miss Kemp and Mr F——n believe me dear Madam I take it not a little unkind that tho I wrote to Miss Bard three times to desire her friend Miss Kemp to get some Information whether Mr Fergusson did not receve a Box of Books from me that went from Philadelphia the latter end of the year 1793 and in the same Box a large Sealed Paket: Miss Bard never to me took the least notice whether She ever asked Miss Irwin or Miss Kemp had done it. Indeed I am treated beyond all hopes of reconcilment no Body on the other Side the water feels for me But I must abruptly quit the Subject as tho I have taken paper upon a larger Scale than comon I should soon fill it with that Subject and no other: perhaps my feelings are more lively than usual as in a Recollection of my pensive Calendar I too well remember on this night April 21 of 1772 at nine at wicacoe Church I married the man that has proved the Source of so much Sorrow to me; and when I saw that passage in Mr Galaspsys letter about Miss Kemp; I thought till I had come to the end of it that I had to be sure a Reply to so plain a question. Miss Bard always treated me in a Careless way as to this affair But stop He is not worth a line from my pen: yet a man one once loved and expected to have passd ones Life with to such a temper as mine cannot be the object of Indiference tho he may be of extreme Resentment. I am very much pleased that you have had Letters from Mr Frazer's friends: to one my dear Mr Frazer of your afectionate cast of mind, it must be the most pensive, pleasing, tender melancholy that you can have to have letters from the Friends of the deceased and letters fillld with their
tender approbation of him; well does Sigismundy in a Tragedy wrote by Tomson say to her friend who is painting Tancred in a charming manner: She sigismundy desires her to proceed “For believe me Cleon, the hart of woman knows no greater Joy than to hear the praises of the man she Loves.”

I am pleased that Mr Gray has had good accounts from his Friends; you ask me if a person saying “another is tender in their Health is not a Scotch Phrase?” I believe it may be, But it is certainly a very expressive one to convey the Idea of a delicate Constitution I have put off to the last Sheet what has never been out of my thoughts since I heard it, namely that part of Mrs. Galaspys Letter as to Mrs Cruger—what can one Say were I acquainted with her I should Sit in Silence as Jobs Friends did the first Seven Days of their meeting for I am sure were I to offer a word of consolation She would directly Silence me by saying “Oh madam you never was a mother!” True! Some pious writer very justly observes “that every Cross has its own Gall” But I would advise the Lady as her Fortune is easy to change the Home directly where the tragedy happened: Local Situations have a great Influence over us! God preserve her husband to her tho he might have died from weak health yet she will if he dies within this year think it originates with her. Pray how did the afair turn out as to the Tavern Keepers wife? Yours with regard

E. Fer