

You need not apologise for introducing any friend of yours my dear Ben, and when they happen to be as interesting as the Rev. Mr Woods you confer a great favour on me, particularly as he had so many delightful things to say about my brother and his family. He sat with us less than an hour, but what he said has returned again and again, and afforded me more pleasure than I know how to thank him for. I hope you will have an agreeable & useful acquisition to your community in him. Mrs Read is very much liked here, and I should suppose Mr Woods wife can not be inferior to her sisters, so that our dear Maria may have Mrs Hollays place supplied in her circle. The beautiful Miss P. is engaged to be married to Mr Otis which will disappoint her sister of a visit as it was expected she would spend the real winter in Phil^a.

We have been much concerned at the sudden death of Mr Meade. his daughter Charlotte was to have been married to-morrow, & instead of which his friends are bidden to his funeral obsequies. the body arrived here yesterday to be deposited in the tomb of his father. this is a consummation of the family misfortune. I scarcely ever knew a woman so severely tried as Mrs Meade has been. or who has supported calamity with so much firmness but this is more than all the rest, and if she can endure it as becomes her high character as a wife & mother she will win a crown of glory. Elizabeth has never dared approach her parents since her marriage. she will feel the death of her father the bitterest fruits of disobedience. poor Mr Meade carried his sense of duty too far. he meant to make her an example to the rest of his

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daughters - but if he has died without ~~expressing~~ his pardon
for his fault - she will be rendered more unhappy than the kindest
judge could decree her due - every days experience shows
how prodigal we are of the good within our reach - and how
many evils we produce for our selves & others - yet ~~I do not~~ ^{not} feel
we are ^{not} admonished - until it is too late to profit by the lesson -

I hope the worst of our domestic trials are over - yet feel
as if there were enough remaining to make the after years of
life many shades darker than they formerly were - still you
may believe the sense of improvement will make patience
endure to the end - I could not have credited a few years ago
that any circumstances could come to reconcile me to an estrang-
ment from our brother Simon - and when I now recall all the symptoms
and grades of feelings which have led to it - I am more confirmed in
the opinion that he has been compromising with his own family for
the degrees of kindness he bestowed upon us - and that finally he has
yielded to them - alas! I fear he has cast away his comfort as
well as those higher considerations which no man should part with
at any sacrifice - I have spoken to him but once since you were
here, and then although he would have avoided the meeting if
he could, but he spoke kindly, tho' he bowed formally at parting -
our friend Mrs. Meredith has been extremely ill, and still looks very bad -
ly. she is very much enfeebled, and I fear her constitution is broken -
her spirits continue pretty good - she has just returned from Boston town
improved - your friend Jos. Norris has built himself a fine house next to
St Marys chapel in 4th Street, his sister in law is engaged to be married
to a very good fortune - and Reddy Thomson is released from prison and
returned to his farm on Turners Lane.

Ben Elting has gone to Richmond, I suppose he will appoint a
time for his marriage before he returns. I hope so at least for the

Rebecca Gratz

June 29. 1828

July 8.

Leaving for
N.Y.

Benjamin Gratz Esq



26.

Goods by Craig
is at hand -

Sea. June 29. -
Land. July 8. 1828. -