

June, 1826

The Whooping Cough!! Well my dear Mamma there is comfort
in knowing this is an evil which does not return - but if you
could only bring them across the mountains what a power
of medicine it would save - for you know travelling is the best remedy
for that disease - then much as I desire the privilege of assisting
you in all your troubles, I would not have you make the journey
under such circumstances - My dear little Bernard will learn
to be patient tho; from feeling how much lighter the spells of coughing
are whilst under its influence than when a vexed spirit aggravates
the evil - tell him Horace had the whooping cough when he was
a little baby, and did not understand half so well as he does
that when he felt it rising in his throat he got very angry
and began to cry - that this naughtiness made the cough a great
deal worse, that the more he cried the more he coughed, and
sometimes was almost choked before he grew patient, and
learned to bear it better - while little Sarah who was about
as old as Bernard used to stand still, and let somebody
hold her head while she coughed, and that she got over it
much easier - poor dear children, how I pity them and you my
dear Sister as much as them for I am sure you suffer quite as
much as they do, and your little infant if he has it will give
you more anxiety, tho' he may have it lighter.

It is well under such trials to look over other pages of parental
duties and pleasures - to anticipate the joy of their recovery, and
take the consolation of knowing how many recover with out any remedy.

This is a favorable season too, and that gives me comfort is, that my Dear Sister has the faculty of making the best of every thing, and will not allow herself to be cast down, whilst any exertion of hers can lighten the burthen -

Now what you say I have hopes that Pyman will soon turn his face home wards, for I assure you we want him very much, tho' by the bye if he grows fat, and is free from rheumatism, I should be ashamed to express such a wish, lest we might purchase our pleasure at too dear a rate, to be well home is rather dull, compared to what it was last summer when we had you all with us, and to morrow I am going to visit the Canal and will leave another vacancy. My employments dear Præcia would give you few hints to improve your domestic economy - nor any very bright picture to amuse your fancy. I continue the occupation of pedagogue to Horace in the morning, and have to exercise some patience in the art of making a little learning palatable to him, he likes to read amusing books - but Euclid's words are as great a terror as Greek and Algebra are to bigger boys. I try to spirit him on to some ambition by telling him how Great will get before him, and this has given him a desire to open a correspondence with you, he has just been begging me to write a letter for him, and when I asked him what I should write he tells me to send you a line of the Multiplication table - do you not think he will be a poet as he would already write in numbers? he is not small for all that - being alone and having only old people to talk to, he sometimes catches up ideas unusual with children, but in a few years we shall find what is due to his capacity. I suppose you have had Wordstock by this time, and I hope you like it. Sir Walter has a great love for the house of Newall and he makes an interest for them in every one. Whatever may be the figures they make in the pages of history - Charles the 2nd - like his father & Grand father is revered in these memories with many embellishments from his genius.

The girls also had a multitude of fair speeches and services of
 thanking for their selves. Kindly - our sisters & brothers unite in tenderest
 affection to you all - Aunt Milla celebrated her 71st birth day yesterday. She
 sends you and Ben her blessing. When you can spare a few minutes, pray
 my beloved Maria let me hear how our darling are and may God bless
 you all and perpetuate your strength to the trials you have to encounter
 and restore your darlings to perfect health again. Adieu believe in the con-
 stant affection of your attached sister Rly -

June 18th - 1826

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Mrs Benjamin Gratz
 Lexington Ky.

To



Received July 15th 1826
 Rebecca Gratz