

Decr 12th - 1831

If the influenza has not travelled to Lexington, you
can have no idea My Dear Sister of the condition of our great
city under the effects of it. it would be much easier to tell
you who had escaped it, than to enumerate the invaded -
for I believe John is the only one in our household who has
not hung his head and acknowledged himself quickly beaten -
but as no lives have been lost in the contest we have more
cause to be grateful than to complain. Last week we were
under great apprehensions for our cousin in Baltimore. Ellen
was preparing to accompany her husband in the boat on Monday
but fortunately the letters of Sunday relieved their anxiety -
a snow storm that evening and a cold night stopped the
navigation. and would you believe it since the 3rd of Decr
there has been skating almost every day on the Delaware.

I was delighted to hear that your dear Mother made one of you
family when you last wrote for I feel so much love and admiration
for her that I can readily imagine how happy you are when she
is with you. it so happened too that I had just received a letter
from Mr Blair and so I had an excuse for writing and telling
your sister what a family group you had described. Last
year dearest, we were working in the happiness of all your family
we noticed the days of anniversaries and the children have every day
now recalled what occurred in the last year. I hope your boys have all
received and that the dear little fellows will remember only
what was agreeable to them in Phil^a - tell them I wish them
a happy Christmas and as I have said it first they must
owe me a kiss. until we meet. I wish I could send them some
of the pretty sugar tarts they are making at Hensons

one bookseller make great complaints that the ^{English} Reform
bill should interfere so much with their interests - the whole
reading community of that country being so much absorbed by
the political question that even Sir Walter Scott will not
venture to print a new work - and therefore "Count Robert"
is kept back, but "The Bravo" is out and has been on my
table for a week waiting for Mr. F. Baer. who I have heard
of. I shall also send you the memoirs of Sir Walter Raleigh
which I like very much. I have not yet read it. for your
business at this season what a fuss I make with the little
business that falls to my share abroad & at home - The Bravo
is the most interesting of Cooper's novels - at least his late
ones, he has improved in his acquaintance of female character
and polished his style in the sunny clime of Italy -
I think my friend Verplanck has done himself great credit
too in his library wraps this winter, look in the N York Mirror
of the third, for a Lecture - and his letter to Col. Bryant - is it
not strange that he says so little in congress. when he is so
intelligent - learned & eloquent in his study -
Mrs Featherstonhaugh nearly lost her life in giving
birth to a dead infant - the Lecturer has not made his appearance
again as a candidate for public honors - and keeps his wife at
Wilmington - Mr Coates has arrived with the Willings, and I suppose
is not much indebted to his youngest daughter for giving him a
reason for his son - but the point of fashion is now occupied
by Mrs Polight, who is very beautiful - unaffected and pleasing -
and received her company with great ease & dignity - Mr B
took the opportunity of exhibiting his brick & house at the
same time, two parlours splendidly arranged were opened
for the reception of visitors and refreshment to the Lady -

then - and embrace my
to see lovely camp, and
ble brothers. I hope
which has been sent
finished in time - and
until there is some change
to be has not been out of
Lab would have been more

Mrs Benjamin Gratz

Leaving ton. Ry

Mrs. Barry.

Dec. 12. 1831
Bellevue Lodge
Baltimore

distinction & desirable than making, besides costing double
the price, do tell me who flattered your friend Mrs Lewis
with the resemblance you mentioned. the girls are quite
amused at the idea. but do not wonder she should be of
such a compliment - look like Aunt Maria indeed!!
God bless you, my precious sister, always fondly & warmly
affectionate. Rly -