

I cannot express to you, my dear Lester, how
shocked & distressed I was by your account of poor
Mrs Hunt's afflictions. I grieve for dear Catherine - who
was a favorite with all who knew her here - the recollection
of her mild & sensible countenance - her warm affection-
ate heart - her pure dignified manners, are ever
before me - and I can truly sympathize with her
bereaved parents - cut off from such bright hopes as
her youthful virtues justified. I am anxious too
my dear sister - very anxious about you & your dear
children, exposed to the encroachments of the same fell
disease - but I pray that almighty goodness may pre-
serve you all from danger & suffering. The small
pox has been a fatal scourge in all our cities. I hope
before this it has passed away from your neighbourhood
without more victims among those you are interested
for. You promise that we shall hear again from
you soon, and I shall look eagerly for the arrival
of the mail which is to bring me news & comfortable
tidings from you. I commenced a letter to you last
week, telling you of our plans & how we intended
just our long talk of visit into action - but when
I proceeded to details, I found, that I had not obtained
Mr Hays' consent to Sarah's going - and our sister Fanny
was too sick for me to speak with certainty so I laid

aside my sheet until those impediments are removed
sister is thank God, better, and I believe Mr H may
be wroth to approve. so my dear sister our present
hopes are to embrace you ^{before} ~~towards~~ the close of the
next month. (My men - the two Jacobs Kerac & your sister)
our movements will now depend on your next
letter. Should you still be oppressed by anxieties
about the scarlet fever - would it not be better
to return to Leam Wood with your children? at any
rate we will post home on journey, which we intended
to commence in a fortnight. until any period that
might be more agreeable to you - I can scarcely tell
you how much joy the anticipation of seeing you
all inspires in our party. Kerac says it will be
an epoch in his life more remarkable than any
that can ever take place - he shall date every thing
of consequence from the time he starts on this
first delightful journey - and Sarah - Oh Sarah
is becoming so womanly that I fear she will take
the title of young lady from the same period -

Kerac returned on Thursday & brought her Mother
home with her, she is a pleasant cheerful old lady
and appears very happy in the establishment of
her Daughters - Kerac sails for China, next week
& Ellen is looking out for a house, it is really
delightful to see the clouds of care clearing from
her brow, and cheerfulness wooing back health
to her languid frame. her husband's good fortune
and good conduct, has restored to him his worldly
friends - or more properly the confidence of men of business

What would I not give to be assured that you are all
well & happy but the God of Mercy is your shield by
day & by night and under the shadow of His wing you
may refuge secure from the evils that stalketh at noon
day - ever most truly & devotedly your sister Rly
Mercy 27th 1833

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Mrs Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky.

