

March 11th - 1840

Some unknown friend, My Dear Sister brought
me your letter dated 28th Feb for which I most heartily
thank you, and shall be glad when some of your merchandise
have their goods packed to put in a small box containing
your caps, I have procured 5, of different fashions, and
hope they will suit your taste. Should the spring arrivals
bring any thing pretty I shall have opportunities of
sending them in a few weeks, but there seems rather
a stand in the taste of our own Milliners, which puts
me in some difficulty to fit out our friend Mrs Crittenden
for the atmosphere of Washington - I suppose there
will be some attempts to show the bridal costume
of the British Queen, and our ladies are nothing better
to adopt exaggerated fashions for common occasions,
else a royal night cap might furnish, a head piece
sufficiently gay for our day dress - I saw magnificent
lace at very high prices already offered for one visit
but in such hard times, they could afford no
purchasers - we have had a long spell of beautiful
bright warm weather - which brought vegetation forward
and set us gardening - our rose bushes in leaf, and
sweet violets in bloom - but last night came a frost
and covered the ground and icicles are pendant
from the house tops - which I fear will greatly injure
our fruit trees &c - we almost forgot how many
snows & frosts we were entitled to expect in our
variable month, of March & April

I knew you will sympathize with the mourning
house of Meredith, when you hear that Geo. Gould
is no more! her long illness scarcely prepared her
sisters for her departure, and death came suddenly
when she was conversing cheerfully with her brother
William, who called to pay his evening visit. They were
alone in her chamber, in which there was no light,
so that the change passed over her countenance un-
perceived, and it was not until he returned to the
room after a short absence that they discovered
her departure - poor Mr M, lives and walks
about like one in a dream - he weeps when he
realizes his loss, but his life is no longer active
or useful - and were it not that Missian finds
consolation in attending on him, and performing
duties which will make better her heart, we
might not understand the ways of Providence
to this afflicted family.

We have just heard that Capt. Medcalf is
ordered to Europe, and will sail on the 1st of April
Hannah and her children are to spend the time of his
absence here, which will be very agreeable to her Mother.
Ellen is also to spend the Passover with her, so she
will again have a full family of her children around
her, and the prospect of a moving will amuse her
too. I expect she will take a full share of its troubles
too. We have had a short visit from a very intelligent
and agreeable stranger, the Rev Mr Nathan from Jamaica
he introduced himself as nephew of an old acquaintance
of the same name, whom dear Ben knew as N. B. C. and
we welcomed him to read for us some of his

Mary has received your letter & says ps. give my love
to all the dear boys - to my dearest Ben and all my friends
I hope Saml B's husband will return in health, and find
his brother's concerns better than you thought for - Henry
Elling is in New Orleans - the rest of the family at home and
well - God Bless my dearest Maria believe me we are
and always faithfully yours R.G.



Mrs Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky.