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Philadelphia
Oct 12th

It is long my dearest Maria since I have written to you - or to any one - I am ashamed of myself for such a defection of duty - and if I were not conscious that I suffer more than any one else from it should not be able to offer any apology - but since of this kind being their own punishment - and I know you will pardon me when you hear that my mind has been so engrossed with business affairs that you would not have been able to extract an idea from a whole sheet full - had I even traced the newspapers or related the events of a whole month - to you my Sister this will appear incredible - for you can find "books in the runways brooks sermons in stones & good in every thing" - and I doubt not teaching a dull Irish servant & fixing carpets would have suggested some amusement to lighten the toil, but I will not put your patience to the trial, of following me through this duncery - I have now a better prospect in my house hold, Elizabeth has recovered & gone into the country to recruit -

I this morning met Mr. Barry, who told me she had recently seen our dear Ben, and that you were still at Coacwood. Mr. Blair wrote to me some days ago that he thought he might hope for a visit from you - this autumn, my dearest Sister confirm this good news - if you can bring all, and spend the winter with us we should indeed be happy - we will go to visit your Sister in Washington during the season - and try each of us to beguile you of your cares - do not postpone the journey

1 if you can come, until the roads become bad & the river falls.
we have talked of it so often lately that we do not like
to think there are any obstacles in the way of its accomplish-
ment do not think us selfish or unreasonable to subject
you to so long a journey for our gratification, if your
husband & children are with you, you can be at home
here, and you know how devotedly we all love you, change
of scene will be of benefit to your spirits too. your charming
little niece Elizabeth Blair has been here nearly a fortnight
and is quite a favorite at school - Sarah goes there fre-
quently, as a visitor - but ceased with the August vacation
to attend as a scholar - she will study at home this winter,
and thinks your society & counsel would make a woman
of her - your renowned countryman Mr Colver is expected
here immediately and all honors are preparing for his
reception - I think Hamlet is right - we are certainly too fond
of parades, & exaggerated praise - the President's tour last
summer, was comparable to Queen Elizabeth's progress through
her dominions as described in Kenilworth - Black Hawk
had as many in his train - and when ever a political
character appears he is to be followed & fed, and the drum
beat sounded throughout the land - you ask me who Kennedy
is, that he should be clasped with ^{the} honored & observed -
he is the author of a tale called "Swallow-Brown" - and is
preparing another & he says a better work for the press -
he is moreover a very gentlemanly personage, and is blessed
with an intelligent & interesting wife - Washington Irving appears
too happy & too much engaged with the great ones of the land
to write much at present - he has gone to Washington again -
if his old spirit of inspiration comes on him there - he

Sister and realize our hopes of seeing you here this winter
embrace your darling boys for me Elizath Polin tells ~~so many~~ an-
-dotes of them all, that appear characteristic, and bring them before
us, dear fellows how happy I shall be to have them again -
Easy talking, & thinking so sensibly - is strange to realize, when he
could not articulate his meaning, as I remember him -
Josephine too is a great talker - very smart & healthy and the
idol of her parents - Ellen is delicate - still afflicted with her old
uneasiness - I do not know whether you will be able to decipher
this letter - if you cannot - excuse it kindly - and believe every

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Mrs Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky.



line was intended to convey some image of my love to you
and if ever I have the power to convey my sentiments in a
more lucid style - or have a greater intelligence to communicate
you shall hear from me - in the mean time dearest & beloved
Sister & Brother accept my warmest love & best wishes for your happiness
ever your own Rhy