

TO THE SAME

The year of this letter is omitted from the date but it is fixed by the mention of the birth of Gratz Moses' first child. This child was born November 24, 1838, at Bordentown, New Jersey.

Sunday School class - Mrs. Hemans' "Hebrew Mother" - exposition of Genesis by the Reverend William H. Furness - T. I. Wharton's addresses- the anti-foreigner riots of 1838.

Philadelphia Decr 16th

I have been counting the days for a whole week My Dear Maria, in hopes each would have brought me a letter from you, and tho perhaps one is on its passage I shall not wait its arrival, because my busy time is approaching and I may not find leisure to write again, until I hail you on the New Year- I have been up to Bordentown to see Gratz little son, he came to town and seemed so proud & happy in the character of Parent that I had not the heart to disappoint his wish to introduce him to my love - and as all the children of my sister have a peculiar claim upon me, it would have been churlish to refuse- his wife is really a fine woman, so rational, and mild, and kind hearted, that this would alone entitle her to the regard of his family- but she adds the charm of a well cultivated intellect- and strong principle of rectitude- which must claim their respect also- I am yet uncertain whether Julia will make me her annual visit or not, so when you think of her on a morning in the little breakfast room- say what would I not give for some of the interesting conferences we held together- out of which we both I trust gleaned some useful knowledge- it is true we each have the means of improving ourselves from the same book in our separate homes- but I believe we gain more by comparing

opinions than by solitary study- and so My dear Sister, if you tell me what portion of scripture you are engaged on I will read it, and our meditations may again be communicated- in My Sunday School I have taken the life of Samuel to read & comment on- and find it deeply interesting- Hannahs earnest desire & prayer for a child- and her self sacrifice in devoting him- is almost as touching in the language of Scripture- as Mrs Hemans has made it in her beautiful poem "The Hebrew Mother"- our favorite orator Mr Furness gave a most beautiful lecture the other evening on Genesis- and verily- I thought he illustrated his subject most aptly- the hall was crowded, and the most deep & fixed attention prevailed, I wished you could have heard him, for I never heard him more eloquent in the pulpit, and he managed a popular lecture so as to abate nothing from the reverence & dignity of his clerical character- on tuesday next our dear Bens friend T. I. Wharton is to enlighten us- I omitted going last week because the orator had been making some violent insurgent speeches at public meetings on the disorganized state of our political situation, and the outrage was felt by all the Whig party or in other words those who respect the laws- I do not know when Harrisburg will be left to civil government- the military are still there to keep the peace- but I am not going to trouble you with subjects you can learn better from the newspapers- if you wish to learn them at all-

Our family affairs continue much as you left them - I look at the dry branches of the willows and remember how constantly you admired their graceful foliage but spring will renew their beauty- and I hope My dear Maria we shall look at them together and again praise them- and the hand that so bounteously clothes them & all nature with richness and beauty- we have had very little cold weather yet, none that

impedes our usual exercise in the city, tho' enough to stop steam boat travelling in our rivers, which the girls think hard of as they could go up to Bordentown unattended in that way, and are obliged to get an escort by the railroad. . . . present my love to them- Hyman saw Mr Clay when he was in town- but gleaned nothing from him about our Kentucky friends, except that he had seen Ben the day before he left home- God Bless you My dear Sister. May the approaching New Year find you in health & happiness which I pray may encrease "even as your lives pass"- believe me ever affectionately

Your RG

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TO THE SAME

Sins of omission - New Year's Day reflections - a day of reckoning.

Jany 9th 1839

A thousand thanks Sweet Sister, for the happiness your two last letters have bestowed - I did not mean to have been your debtor on the New Year - but old Time on his silent march overtook me before my duties were fulfill'd and will, I fear, have many registers against me- when my great account is called for- of omissions- not only through ignorance but delays- it is well to have a point in every year to sum up our accounts as well for our moral improvement as for the affairs of business with our fellow beings- and truly I have had a charge this morning that will carry me back through many years of my life, to examine my conscience- for actions and motives of action- for feelings indulged,

without the sanction of judgment- and to trace consequences through a long train of causes, up to the present unsatisfactory result-

There is a part of your letter My Dear Sister, that gives me much concern, you speak of your health as seriously affected- but as your dear husband is watchful- and Dudley your leech, I hope soon to have better accounts- Your New Years gift I treasure, in "My heart of hearts"- and give due credence to your husbands feelings, nor indeed is my confidence one jot the less- nor has my love ever known abatement- it is agreeable sometimes, and why not on the New Year- to examine our hearts and renew compacts when we can, of affection and truth as we do leases- strengthening the old ones by free and willing offerings- and sometimes raising our grateful estimation- by the memory of our full loves and hopes of future improvements- every parent realises such feelings- and in the various relations I have been placed in, both private and public, I have experienced it too- Sara's¹ letters always speak of Lizzie,² and your Sister- the last was written on the 1st-all the pageantry of the *coast* was displayed on that day- and your niece bore the palm of admiration among the fair and young- Jo has kept his health and spirits amazingly for the winter- except in the beginning he has not complained of cold- and is so much interested in the Gas works, that he goes up to the N. Liberties once or twice a week in any weather- he and all the rest of the family reciprocate your good wishes and pray for the restoration of your health- and the completion of your happiness- half of your boys are no longer children- and the others are fast outgrowing the title- I keep their gauge by some of their old companions, and since Horace has put

¹Sara Hays Mordecai, who was living in Washington.

²Elizabeth Blair.