

Frances Gratz Etting to Rebecca Gratz

May 3, 1801

Baltimore May 3th. 1801

I thank you my beloved Sister for your affectionate epistals they conveyd the happy intelligence of the health of my dearest family which I receivd as a Blessing, that our honored father supported his affliction with the fortitude you [describe] has greatly alleviated my extreme anxiety which was [each moment augmented] untill the receipt of our dear Rachels letter fearfull of our father not being acquainted of the indispositions of our worthy Uncle the pain and difficulty of communicating the distressing account of his dissolution would be too much for nature to support the shock was great to me, although sensible of his declining state which I saw with pain, from day, to day a change untill exhausted, we are cheered by hope often was he attack by the same symptoms that terminated his [End?] [and] buoyed by expectations I flattered myself he would recover good old man his enjoyments in life was few the want of health reconciled him and made him anxious for death, which cousin tells me she has heard him express

oh my sister I cannot describe my feelings, when I visit at the home, I have been often with Cousin since her loss, the likeness of her departed father hangs in her sitting room to her I suppose it to be a consolation but to me it occasions poignant grief how different are our sensations and Blest are those who possess such strength [end of page]

of mind. my spirits had long been depressed, previous to my visit to Philadelphia but the happiness I experienced in being with my family dissipated the gloom which nothing else could effect [I f] I am sorry my dear you have been uneasy about my health be assured it is now good have entirely recovered a cold which was severe _ dr. [Been] comes and tells me to give his Love to Aunt Becky and say he wants to see you _ tell me my dear Sister does our mother speak of the promise made me when with you of a visit to Baltimore urge it my love it is my most pleasing anticipation _ should I be disappointed in that expectation remember I have a claim on your goodness and the happiness [bestowed] will be undecipherable _ please tender my most affectionate [and] dutiful Love to our dear parents am happy to hear you are permitted to spend some time in [...] fathers room no doubt he will feel a happiness in having the family man with him heaven grant it may produce a happy change I was distressed to hear our dear Rachel was not well to her please tribute my affectionate Love I will write to her in a few days and by that means you will be informed how we twice a week let that consideration plead my apology for the present to Sister Sally I will write soon my tenderest Love to our dr. Brothers Simon Hyman Joe Jack and Ben my Etting bids me say every thing to you all [your?] affections can [dictate] _ should I not be prevented intend writing to our dear Richea am sorry to hear dr. Ellen has been poorly _ Henry not yet inoculated _ He constantly speak of our dr. & parents Sisters and Brothers _ I shall be glad to [end of page]

hear of your being movd and settled do not my dear Becky suffer our [dear]
mother to fatigue her self when moving I am sorry to think she does not sufficiently
indulge or suffer that attention payd her she [greatly] deserves pardon me my sister for
dictating but to conceal [my] sentiments I should consider a crime my affections teach
me to be [unreservd?]

my Love to aunt B and Sally _ Cousin [requests] her
Love [...?], that of] Mr. E and girls receive
Adiu be assurd of the warmest affection of
your Sincerly attachd F Etting

[Address:]
Miss Rebecca Gratz
Philadelphia