

Frances Gratz Etting to Rebecca Gratz

October 31, 1802

Baltimore October 31th. 1802

your wishes to hear from me my dearest Becky cannot [exceed] my inclination, which is ever urgent and always ready to afford pleasure _ affection and gratitude are sensations that will ever enduce me to write often to my beloved sister, painfull indeed has been my Silence and to retrospect on the occasion awakens sensations that none but a parent can experience _ the sufferings of my beloved daughter were great, and afflicting to my soul _ she is now thank the suprem perfecty recoverd her indisposit[ion] although yet thin and pale her appetite and spirits are very good which I hope will soon reestablish her health

your last letter my dear sister tended much to relieve my mind I was unhappy at the thoughts of your returning to the city the accounts are very alarming I hope the present cool weather will check the disorder and [restore] health to the inhabitants _ how shall I my amiable Becky do justice to your goodness or express my thanks for your unremitted attention I am fully sensible of the Benevolence of your heart and am gratefull for the fund of entertainment your esteemed epistals always afford, continue my sister to write to me when [...] convenient [your] letters are read as Blessings [by me] [end of page]

and meritorious in you _ for which you not only claim my warmest affection but extreme admiration _ I am happy to hear my [adored] parents and family enjoy perfect health heaven grant a continuance of its favours _ to my dearest parents tender my dutious affection our mother not being partial to the country I suppose is anxious to return to the city _ Brother Simons being separated from you must more strongly urge the wish _ sister Hays will not soon return to town a disagreeable circumstance for I hear she is very retired at Bloomfield _ Mrs. Smith goes on tuesday to Wash[ington] where she resides the winter season _ she calld to [...] yesterday I discover a pensiveness in her, and pity the [...] of her leaving her aged father _ Mrs. [Hall] is in great [...] Corvil, her eldest son is in the last stage of a consumption and poor [Latty Pervoyance?] is in a similar Situation she is now confined to her chamber, at [Mrs. Maccrayn?] who is illy calculated to attend her _ Becky Barney begged me to proffer you her Love, she is tenderly attached to you _ Comador Barrey is returned. to his family, a perfect french man

all your acquaintances are inquisitive about you and anxious
to see you here, Edward Johnson is among the number
[end of page]

I suppose you have heard of Biddy [Kennedy] and Hetty Etting
Returning from Business the former will [shortly] be united
to a Mr. Poe _ the latter has of late been much indisposed
cousins family is still at Oakland

you say my dearst Becky you are surprisd
at my crediting a Report _ of moment to you and am too
newly [alied?] to my own happiness to pass unnoticed _ although
I made the enquiry I did not believ it possible, to be as
positively fixed as report has ascerted without some[...]ation
from my belovd Sisters I can make every allowance for
[...] delicasy of your feelings, but under no part[...]
[...] could I forgive Richea Sally or Rachel fo[...]
[...]cealing intelligence that would add happiness supreme
to know you Blessd with one who could make you
happy equal to your distinguishd merit,
my most affectionate Love to all my dear Sisters I will write
to them all soon to Richea first, please tell her so
to my worthy dear Brothers give a large share of Love
accept an abundance from my Etting and children who
are extremely anxious to see you nothing can add
more to my wishes or happiness then the Blessing
of your society which you may believe to be as
[Sincere] as my affection is fervent F Etting

[Address:]
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