

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

January 31, 1832

January 31st. 1832

I am so continually receiving favors & kindnesses from My Dear Brothers that I have scarcely words left to express my gratitude, yet believe me My Dearest Ben my heart registers every new instance of their love & bounty and your recent gift was received with feelings _ which I may not utter _ but would not for the world repress _

I sincerely hope before this your dear little Hyman has recovered _ and all the rest are well _ I am looking anxiously for one of Maria's charming letters _ she manages to give us such living pictures of all her dear household that we see you in the very mode & expression she pleases to place you _ you would be quite amused at the sensation [the] arrival of such a letter produces in Boston now. each one picks up the sketch that pleases them most _ and descants on the perfection of that act which makes time & distance subservient _ and brings us into the presence of absent friends _

we have had rather a dull winter _ cold weather & influenza have made great ravages among our friends _ and in our community _ the most recent & unexpected was the death of my friend Adeline, who was only sick three days _ poor Mr. Myers seems doomed to realize the mournful apprehension of his wife _ that of surviving all her children, in little more than a year the two eldest, and most important members of his family have been hastily snatched away _ Adeline apparently from perfect health and in the very prime of her usefulness _ her father & brother seemed to depend upon her powerful mind _ as the advisee & prop of their fallen fortunes _ her cheerfulness & exertions kept the old man from sinking into despondency _ I do not know what will become of them now they have lost her _

I suppose the Barry's are afflicted at the death of James
[end of page]

Craig _ it was so sudden _ that every one was shocked _ he was thought to be but slightly indisposed, and having taken an [ang-dyin?] anodyne was left to sleep _ at dinner time they found his door fastened _ and broke it open; when he was found Dead _ it is said he has left no will _ which is very unfortunate for his poor relations _ as his brother & Sister have wealth enough and there are many he cared for whom it is probable _ had he thought of dying so soon he would have provided for _ it has been reported since his death that he was engaged to be married

to his beautiful young Cousin _ he will be greatly missed by a number of needy men who [were fed] at his table, and fared sumptuously every day _

our Sister's [families] are much as usual Gratz & Isabella continuing to be better & worse alternately. with out any material change in the situation of either _ the rest of the family well _ Levi Phillip's death has left his poor blind wife entirely destitute, indeed he was so impoverished as to be supported by his nephews for several years previous to his death _ Aunt Leah is to live with Aunt Bell at the charge of her husband's [nephews] the Cohen's are moving into the northern part of the city, where I hope their shop will be more productive than it was in Broad street _ they appear to be worse off than ever _ and the litigation of old suits keeps up such an irritation (however unjustly with us) that our intercourse is stopped by it _ I have not seen Aunt Bell for more than a month _ and am given to understand, that I may not visit her _ this I regret very much as she is very feeble and declining _

Tell Maria _ Sir Walters last tales have just issued from the press this morning. and are only waiting a conveyance to Lexington, with a book that Hyman tried some time ago to get smuggled into the baggage of a traveller _ who unfortunately had packed his trunk so tight he could not get in a novel _ and whose head was so full of speculations _ that he would not break [end of page]

web of his golden dreams _ by mixing them with the no less romantic imaginings of the author _ so she will have Count Robert _ and the Countess Jacqueline to entertain her together _ I hope the Ohio will not be so impassable as our Delaware again _ and then she may get her looking glasses _ for the first party she gives in February _ as they have been several weeks on their journey _ present my most affectionate love to her and the dear boys _ I just recollect in time that Jac _ said he wished to say some thing to you in the sheet _ and so my dear Brother I will leave space to indemnify you for the trouble of reading the two preceding pages _

God Bless you _ with all you & your beloved Maria can desire to make life happy and preserve it so, and believe me dear Ben
most affectionately & gratefully your attached Sister RG

Jacob Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

January 31, 1832

My Dear Ben

Our good Sister has left me sufficient [space]

to [thank] you for your letter of 13th Just a much [longer?] time had elapsed since we had heard from you [th...?] ought to have occurred do pray in future have some consideration for our anxiety which will be much diminished by hearing from you more frequently, I fervently hope that my dear little Hyman has perfectly recovered I paid Dr. Hays for attendance on Bernard Fifteen Dollars & handed over to Hyman Six hundred & [twenty] eleven 37/100 Dollars on your account he will account to you for its application, he is informed of the amount you wish paid to Watson & Shelmerdine, the above sums make the balance stated to be in my hands. per my [accrt?] [a...?], I have also discharg'd your bill on me to our sister, whereas any further sum shall be received from the same source, it shall be [...] similarly applied _ I am anxious to receive your wife' new years epistle to whom & the boys make my affectionate love ever yours
Jac.

[Address:]
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[Endorsement:]
Rebecca Gratz
31 Jan. 1832
16. Feb.