

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

May 13, 1844

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I was rejoiced My dear Brother, to receive a letter from you again, and to hear such good tidings of your family _ nothing could have been more agreeable to me, than to accept your invitation and return with our dear Bernard, but Miriam Cohen is in New York on her way to pay us a visit, and we expect will spend the month of June here, if she is not induced to remain longer. Bernard left us this morning to pass two or three days in New York with his Cousins, for Sara left home the morning after he arrived here, and [extorted] a promise from him, to do so if he determined to journey westward before she got back, _ indeed it was hard for her to obtain her own consent to leave him; her arrangements were made & her Sisters expecting her, before Bernard arrived.

I regret that you did not send Cary with his brother you know change of air is always recommended in the whooping cough. thank God, he is getting well without it, I am told it often happens that this disease [is] taken a second time, tho numbered among the infantile evils which are to plague us no more. Sally Cohen has had it violently this winter _ in her old age _ our Brother Etting is very frail indeed yesterday he had an attack, from which he apprehended that he would not recover _ but in a short time it passed off [end of page]

leaving him as well as usual _ but admonishing as by how slight a [ti...?] his valued life is held _ in a few weeks he will enter his Eighty second year, so we have only to be grateful, and regard his lengthened days as a special favor.

I received a letter last week from Howard, mentioning as a reason for leaving Gratzs house, that they had not room for him, Mrs. Grove's was confined, and perhaps his accommodations were therefore not so good _ but in my reply I recommended him to return, as soon as she left St. Louis _ I am sorry My dear Brother, that you suffered so much anxiety on that account _ Howard has to endure many inconveniences before he will gain by personal experience, that wisdom which is to carry him safely

through the world, but I think his [p...?] will
bear him out. he has a great deal to unlearn, which
in the careless indulgences of early life, became habits.
Gratz & his wife have been schooled, to the necessity of
frugality and economy and they are admirable ex-
-amples, that even hardships may be endured with
dignity. you must bear with some waywardness in Howard.
in the hope that, it will be corrected before long _ perhaps
now that he is catering for himself, he will be more consi-
-derate, and study harder, for the want of domestic society
or if this becomes irksome, return to his Cousin _
present me Affectionately to the dear boys and
Mary. I am disappointed, at the relinquishment of her
visit this summer, particularly as I fear, when she becomes
settled at housekeeping we shall see less of her. God Bless You
My dear Ben, believe me ever your Affectionately Attached
Sister RG.
[end of page]

Rebecca Gratz to Anna Maria Boswell Shelby Gratz

I have restricted myself to one page, My Dear Sister
Ann, that I may not exceed wholesome bounds, for weak
eyes, while I tell you how happy I am to hear that
you and my little niece are well, and doing well
I am told the little Lady is a beauty _ and what Mother
does not desire this blessed distinction for a daughter?
I have heard many speak of the perils of beauty, who spoke
very wisely. but I doubted the sincerity of their hearts, if they
would not still say that they would encounter the peril
to possess the gift _ indeed an expression of goodness is
so necessary to beauty, that I believe it is independent
of features in a great degree. and therefore an amiable
& good mother, may always beautify her daughters by
bringing them up well, giving them examples of [good]
temper, and the graces of a gentle spirit _ (this is
very old maidish) I did not mean to write any thing
on this page but good wishes _ and I beg you will
accept an abundance, for both Mother & Child _
and if after all the babe does not turn out a beauty.
(babys change so) I will try when that is ascertained, to
say as much in favor of plain faces, as will satisfy
any mother, or rational being _ that God has abundance
of good gifts _ beside beauty _ to bestow, and a grateful
heart cherisheth them, and is blessed _ I hope soon to
hear that you are abroad again, this fine spring weather
will soon restore your strength. and then you will describe

your daughter, to me _ believe me very affectionately Yours
RG.

[Address:]
Benjamin Gratz Esqr.
Lexington
Ky.

[Endorsement:]
Rebecca Gratz
14 Nov. 1844