

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

January 23, 1850

Philadelphia Jany 23rd.

I received your letter My Dearest Ben with the most grateful pleasure _ I can well imagin the joy occasioned by your safe return and could see the bright faces assembled to welcome you _ your visit was a delightful one to us all, and we hope it will please God to let us meet again in the spring with the additional happiness of having Ann & the children of the party

I am sorry you did not see Mary in her own house, that you might further have satisfied her friends of her new position _ both her own letters and Mr. Riggs' speak as if they were happy and satisfied with each other & all the world _ Mrs. Thrashly must make a little allowance for the occupation _ egotism & forwardness of a bride which [is] proverbial _ indeed it can hardly be otherwise, when every action & word [is] observed and approved of _ and all around her are trying to spoil her _ in a little while Mary will return to her old habits & feelings and then we shall find her kind heart as full of affectionate memories as ever _ they have been much annoyed by the want of their furniture _ which notwithstanding Mr. Volman's promises, only went to Washington the day before yesterday _ this has limited their hospitality to small sociable visitors

Mary mentions Mr. Clay as one of their frequent guests _ I have just sent a very handsome french [end of page]

shawl to her for Mr. Clay intended for Mrs. C _ Marys Christmas present from her father in law was a Camels hair scarf cost \$500 _ one of those sold at Stewarts by auction Mr. Riggs writes to me that she is an excellent house-keeper, and feels her importance in that position, all which may be taken in account of her laziness as a correspondent I shall soon give her a hint on the subject _ and you may believe, My dear brother, that my interest in her will not deminish nor shall I fail act a mothers part without

interfering with the new claims which now super-
-ceed those we formerly held towards her _

we have been enjoying a very superior
intellectual treat in the lectures of Dr. Raphale
“on the poetry of the Hebrews” The first night
Julia’s & my report, induced Jo to go to the next, and
he became so interested that he has not missed
one since, & is quite enthusiastic on the subject.
he is on his way to the South, as far as New Orleans
should he pass thro’ Lexington on his return, I hope
you will see him, he has two sons with him _
they remain in Balt, a fortnight, where he is
to lecture _ these beautiful illustrations of
Bible poetry tho more particularly interesting
to the Hebrews _ attract the attention of our
Christian clergy, who not only visit his lecture
room, but have sought his acquaintance.

our Sister suffers less with her eye than when
[end of page]

you were here, but is still inflamed _ and
there is little other change in the family _ a letter
from Henry now & then delights his mother and
gives an impulse to poor Isabellas [monotone?]
life. Sister Hays is well has been to a party to
meet Dr. Raphall & attends his lectures _ Sara
writes constantly _ and would remind you of
her Mother, when she speaks of her child she
always sends her love to you _ and so does Miri
-am Jac is quite well, tho’ we see little of him
in the parlour _ he loves the indulgence of his
easy chair and carries his books & papers
into his warm chamber to enjoy them _ Jo
does not complain of the weather _ nor
Hyman of any thing _ the club room loses
none of its attractions _ tho’ I am some times
a little jealous about the reputation of my
table, which suffers by comparison with
Auguste’s luxuries _ but they _ we all agree
about the happiness of see you enjoy the
home feeling & home face of the old house
hold _ and the love which brought you to it

tell Dear Ann I will write soon to her, Kiss
the lovely little girls for Aunt Becky most
lovingly _ and remember me affectionately to all
my nephews _ & Jo, & Minerva _ Julia desires to be
kindly remembered _ Horace sends his love
and so do the rest of our family _ God Bless You

My dearest Ben, believe me ever fondly &
gratefully your affectionate Sister RG.

[Address:]
Benjamin Gratz Esqr.
Lexington
Ky

[Endorsement:]
Becky Gratz
Jary 23. 1850
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