

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

October 15, 1852

I should have replied to your, and Ann's affectionate Letters My dearest Ben, before this _ but Alas! I had nothing to say but a repetition of sad & sorrowful feeling _ or the detail of our poor nieces' sufferings _ Isabella has been very ill, since her dear Mothers death _ no doubt distress has accelerated her disease, which at all times _ for years has been so very severe _ I am with them daily and the presence of their most affectionate Aunt Sally Etting is duly appreciated _ and gives them much consolation _ yet the loss of such a parent _ is not likely to be borne without much mental suffering _ they are doing as well as possible _ and try to submit to the [Divine] will _ aiding each other, and deeply [sympathizing?] with each other in their individual bereavement _ for more than a year _ Miriam has devoted herself [end of page]

to home duties _ and strict attendance on her Mother _ while poor Isabella when free from her afflictive spells of coughing was ever by her side _ so they have prepared themselves, with consolation from a sense of having performed their duties _ and a consciousness that they were acceptable to the beloved departed _ Henry was much benefitted by his journey to the Virginia Springs tho' he was much shaken, on returning home to find his mother in the agonies of death _ or rather sinking calmly into the sleep _ which

terminates our existence here, _
she recognized him _ but could
not speak _ and expired with
her hand clasped in his _ poor
fellow! his heart is sadly disap-
-pointed _ the hope of seeing her
enjoy the fruit of his labor _ has
ended _ but the charge of his
sisters, will still interest him _
and the privilege of having passed
some months with her after
his long absence _ when she had
[end of page]

reached a great age. will be a
future source of grateful memory.

Jo left on Tuesday for his
Virginia trip _ of business _ it
is not much to his fancy _ but Jac
is unable to travel, indeed he had
a chill on Monday _ though it has
not been followed by any increase
of illness Hyman & our Sister Hays
are well _ all her daughters have
left _ Miriam Cohen is the only one
of our nieces here _ she has three
lovely intelligent children with her
she sends her love, and has been
hoping for the happiness of sharing
your visit, to which we look forward
with earnest desire _ she will sail
in the Steamer on the 27th. the
weather is beautiful we have
rarely experienced a more lovely
Autumn _ give My love to Dear
Ann and my little pet nieces
and also to your sons _ I hope
Hyman's arm is improving & that
they are all well & happy _ when
I last saw Charleton Hunt she
told me Hyman would be here
this Autumn _ so I hope to see him
with you _
[end of page]

When you write to Howard
give my love to him & his
wife _ I suppose Gratz Moses has

returned home, the last accounts
received from St Louis, gave more
favorable news of his parents'
health _ our brothers send
you their love _ Henry Etting
has just returned from Balt
he saw Jo there _ who thought
he would be back in about
10 days _ Miriam desires her
best love to you her Aunt Ann
God bless you My beloved
Brother _ May we embrace you
in health & comfort _ and
may you & yours long enjoy
happiness together is the
fervent prayer of your
Affectionate Sister RGratz

Phil Oct 15th. 1852