

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

August 19, [1808]

Wednesday 19th. August _

My Dear Ben

I have just heard from Bella Ogden that you have left New York. and as I promised to write to Albany find I have no time to lose, tho' I certainly expected to have been apprised of your course, and you must blame yourself if this is too late to reach you on your way to Ballston _ we heard through the Moses's that you proceeded on to New York on Sunday night _ why did you pass by the gratification of visiting the Falls? you can never have such an opportunity again _ for half the pleasure of these things are derived from association _ and when we are so happy as to fall in with such a party as you are with, it seems like folly to refuse the advantage. Sally has been lamenting ever since your departure that she did not accompany you, and I have been kind enough to regret it too _ tho' we already feel solitary and dull in the extreme _ the family are all well, parents _ children &c

Mrs. Meredith is in some distress about her children _ one of the Baltimore family has taken the measles, and you know how much she dreads that disease, to increase her difficulty there has been a detention of the ship in which the H-s were to sail, and the bustle of so large a family _ with little Ann's indisposition is almost too much for her harassed mind. she is more depressed than I have yet seen her _

Bella is delighted with our friend Adeline, and says she was almost tempted to join the party _ I regret that in your travelling equipage [end of page]

there should be such a scarcity of writing materials, beg our friends to entract their notes to the mail, directed to my care, and that they shall have them again on their return to insert in the journal in the mean time they will afford us great pleasure, and console us for their absence.

Brother Simon wrote you by Yesterdays mail to New York, which I fear your hasty departure prevented your recieving _ did you not see Maria? I wrote to her informing that Adeline was there, and hoped you would introduce them to each other. a few such acquaintances would add greatly to the charmes of the place _ so do not neglect it on your return _ present us most affectionately to our dear Aunt and the Dr. tell them not to trust to any more promises of seeing us in Troy, tho' we love them dearly, but remember how much more they gain by coming to see us all together here, I fear this weather will spoil your pleasure, it has rained every day since your departure, but do not let that prevent your visiting every Classical spot in the neighbourhood of Troy _ drink deeply of the waters of Ballston _ and induce your compa-

-nions to do so likewise, for health lies at the bottom of the springs and the nearer you approach her, the longer you may expect to feel her influence _ you ought to continue there at least one week, but pray remember, that you left home an invalid, and that some anxiety will dwell in the breasts of your sisters until assured by you that you are no longer so, Sally sends you her love _ present us both affectionately to the Trio of Ms _ it is almost too late to tell you how stupid I am, but believe me, my dear Ben; most truly your attached sister
RG_

[Address:]
Mr. Benjamin Gratz
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