

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

November 26, 1832

Novr. 26th. 1832.

Why My Beloved Sister is it impossible that you should all spend this Winter in Phila.? the season is still mild and pleasant for travelling and I hope by this time your own precious health is sufficiently restored _ the wish has long since sped from my heart _ and been reiterated by all around us: ever since the pestilence has taken its course west & south, I have not mentioned it until last week to our dear Ben, because I thought so many difficulties presented, that you would not listen to me. but since it has Pleased God to take away the blessing he lent to your arms for a few days and your other treasures would not suffer in a journey why might ye not come to us and make us so happy? [Oh] dear Maria, do think of it, not as an impossibility but as easily accomplished _ take the shortest and most travelled route and forget the hardships and accidents of your former jaunt _ and do not stay until the evil spreads in your city _ and the fear of it fills the country through which you are to pass _ come dearest Sister, and make our hearts glad _ we share your anxiety for our darling Brother _ and for you all _ yet trust in Heaven's mercy for your preservation! you have been stricken, & I have wept for the sweet blossom. that faded & fell, before my eyes beheld it _ you will think of it with love & with resignation _ but do not [aggravate] the trial _ by imagining any other cause, than the Will of Him who gave it _ for its removal _ and pray, remember how much the joy of all [end of page]

you love depends on you. strive to be cheerful that your health may be more perfect _ the children around you command your love & duty _ those treasured in heaven, & dwelling in your secret thoughts are not less dear _ they form the strong mysterious link between you & your God. they & those who preceeded them _ bind our "Nature fast in faith _" is it not dear Maria, the memory of such that people the heaven of our wishes? _ we cannot believe that the souls of even the [rightous] made perfect." can be fit to associate with God _ therefore

our highest conception of future bliss _ must
be to commix with spirits thus purified _ [in] the
beatitude of contemplating his goodness _
so constantly do my thoughts commune with
my own dear parents & sisters, that I sometimes [am]
on the point of calling those I speak to by their names.
particularly the children of my Sister Rachel _ and
I have learned to love them more & regret them less
from that circumstance _ I saw Aunt Bell on Saturday
& told her of you, she expressed great tenderness for
both you & Ben and begged I would send you her love.
she is very feeble & infirm, but cheerful, and tries to
persuade herself that she shall be stronger _ the
love of life, or rather the unconsciousness of these
warnings that her frame is wearing out. astonishes
me. and yet good woman! she must be bettered by
the change for she has trode a rugged path, in these
long years of widowhood & poverty _ (except the constant
attention of affectionate children, she has no outward
signs of comfort to love this world for.
[end of page]

our dear Ellen is more cheerful than before she went
to Baltimore. she has comfortable accommodations
and I hope her husband will get business _ her child
improves and has excellent health _ Ben & Harriet
are as happy as their friends could wish, he is better
than usual _ which gives us hopes of his entire recovery.
our girls have not yet returned from New York _ Sisters
both perfectly well they will be charmed that you
have thought of coming to us _ I hope before this
reaches you all your plans will be arranged, and
our dearest Ben convinced that it will be best.
I have sat down to answer your letter immediately
so as not to lose a mail, some of our brothers will
no doubt write to Ben about it _ but you may take
my word for the general joy of all _ at the [suggestion]

Sarah & Horace have been wishing the winter was
over, because they hoped in the Spring we might go to
Kentucky. your letter will put them in extacy.
Horace has a school he likes _ and would recommend
to his dear Cousins _ Gratz had a charming letter
from Montgomery Blair last week, they keep up quite
a close correspondence, and are both very clever
fellows. your friend Miss Peters expresses a lively interest
and begs you will accept her love, Miss Delany has lost
her only Sister. [for] [...] whom she left Miss P. in the summer.
but now she is entirely devoted to her friend _ happy for

both that they are so necessary to each other. as they
have no body besides to care enough for to make life
pleasant _ God Bless you, My Sister. I embrace you
all _ pray that you may be preserved from all danger
& distress. & hope that we may soon meet _ & embrace indeed
always your RG.

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Kentucky