

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

May 27, 1833

I cannot express to you, my dear Sister, how shocked & distressed I was by your account of poor Mrs. Hunts afflictions. I grieve for dear Catharine _ who was a favorite with all who knew her here _ the recollections of her mild & sensible countenance _ her warm affection -ate heart _ her pure dignified manners. are ever before me _ and I can truly sympathize with her bereaved parents _ cut off from such bright hopes as her youthful virtues justified _ I am anxious too My dear Sister _ very anxious about you _ & your dear children, exposed to the encroachments of the same felt disease _ but I pray that Almighty Goodness may preserve you all from danger & sufferings _ the Scarlet fever has been a fatal scourge in all our cities _ I hope before this it has passed away from your neighbourhood _ without more victims among those you are interested for. you promise that we shall hear again from you soon, and I shall look eagerly for the arrival of the mail which is to bring me more comfortable tidings from you _ I commenced a letter to you last week, telling you of our plans & how we intended put our long talked of visit into motion _ but when I [provided?] to details. I found, that I had not obtained Mr. Hays' consent to Sarah's going _ and our Sister Fanny was too sick for me to speak with certainty so I laid [end of page]

aside my sheet until those impediments were removed Sister is thank God, better. and I believe Mr. H may be wooed to approve _ so My dear Sister our present hopes are to embrace you [towards] before the close of the next month _ (Hyman _ the two Sarahs Horace & your Sister) our movements will now depend on your next letter, should you still be oppressed by anxieties about the Scarlet fever _ would it not be better to return to Cane wood with your children? at any rate we will postpone our journey, which we [intended] to commence in a fortnight _ until any period that [may] be more agreeable to you _ I can scarcely tell you how much joy the anticipation of seeing you all inspires in our party. Horace says it will be an epoch in his life _ more remarkable than any that can ever take place _ he shall date every thing

of consequence from the time he starts on this first delightful journey _ and Sarah _ Oh Sarah is becoming so womanly _ that I fear she will take the title of young lady from the same period _

Harriet returned on thursday & brought her Mother home with her, she is a pleasant cheerful old lady _ and appears very happy in the establishment of her daughters _ Horatio sails for china, next week & Ellen is looking out for a house, it is really delightful to see the clouds of care clearing from her brow _ and cheerfulness wooing back health to her languid frame _ her husbands good fortune and good conduct. has restored to him his worldly friends _ or more properly the confidence of men of business [end of page]

and he is likely to do well _ on a better foundation than when he commenced before _ and as his pleasures as [well] as profits are enjoyed in the counting-house, it is of more consequence to him than other men that he should have business _

The remains of John Randolph are this day borne to his estate. in Virginia. he would not willingly have spent his last hours in Phila. but had he presented his wish to go abroad _ his tomb would have been some coral cave in the depth of the ocean instead of that he has chosen beneath the shade of one of his own favorite trees _ Is Solomon's wisdom verified in this case "better is the day of death than the day of ones birth" He died at an Inn, with no friend save his faithful Juba to catch his parting breath! _

as the newspaper has announced Dr. Hays' [accident?] it may be well to [tell] you that he is recovering from it _ effects of [...] was not badly hurt, but sorely bruised by coming in contact with the back of the gig _ his boy was uninjured _ and after a weeks confinement to his easy chair he is able to walk about his room again _ he has improved his establishment since you were here, [taken] the second story of his house _ for a study and chamber, got a house-keeper, and lives in a most comfortable bachelor style _ this improvement has gone far to make him sensible of the value of society he has invited the girls to dine & drink tea with him, and is really hospitable in his endeavours to entertain them _

present my tenderest affection to my dear Ben, and embrace the darling boys for me, tell sweet Cary I will have his nine Kisses when I come to Lexington, and pay them back with interest. God Bless you my dear Maria

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what would I not give to be assured that you are all
well & happy but the God of Mercy is your shield by
day & by night _ and under the shadow of his wing you
may repose secure from the evils that stalketh at noon
day _ ever most truly & devotedly your Sister RG

May 27th. 1833

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington K.y.