

I have it on my conscience my dear Maria that I have never written a letter to my dear Brother Benj since he left us, and when he pleads for a domestic letter from one brother to, and accuses himself as having not received one from me, (never having asked for one) it was my determination to write to him immediately, but on second thoughts I still defer it, hoping thereby to draw him to write.

While I can indulge myself in telling you confidentially my policy, and satisfy my desire of conversing with him thro' you, and at the same time pay a just debt, but if I fail in making you sensible how delightful your letters are to me, it must be wholly my want of skill in portraying my feelings for I assure you they never fail to create ^{such} a sensation first at home, and then thro' the different houses of the family including town & country members, and as where were strongly expressed than by our good old Aunt Polly. If my memory could retain the verbal misapprehensions delivered on the occasion, I might and you love-tells, of as much variety as the laughs at Capt. Phillips' in the highlands, recorded in the Salmagundi. but even then, they would be imperfect, for they generally introduce some affectionate reminiscence (as Mr Walsh calls it) of your husband, and then we have dear Ben, from his childhood upwards, "and gentle sighs, and moist eyes glisten" that ye are "far away". Our citizens are now flocking to Long-branch and remind me how pleasantly we enjoyed the last season there. Mrs Gillaspie wishes me to join her party but I shall not leave home this summer unless it be to

accompany Hyman where ever his Physicians may send him - a little indisposition in ail or exposure has brought back his Rheumatism to a violent degree in his limbs. he has again resorted to mercury, and suffers a good deal with his usual philosophy. Simon left home this morning for Lancaster. we hope to finish a long business now before arbitrators. he was there three weeks in the last month, and adjourned for a fortnight during which time he came home, had a severe fit of the gout, and with the marks of recent cups on his temples, gave to resume the fight. till now he must have, by mistake left a little of his Law eloquence at Willington which his brother is making use of, they say, very much to the purpose at Lancaster. I delivered your Messages to Louisa & Caroline they were much gratified by your remembrance, and I requested them to answer your questions themselves, but as they have not, may say for them, that they are well, and pass their time pretty much as usual. Louisa is taking lessons in oil painting which she is very fond of. I lament their total seclusion from society which deprives them of many resources, which an enlargement of ideas resulting from intercourse with the world would afford. The Mayers from Norfolk passed a few days with me, on their way to Canada, and went out with me to see them. I am delighted when an opportunity occurs of introducing them to any of my friends. which from the limited patronage they receive in the family, is all that is in my power.

The Hunts staid but a short time in the city, but I suppose they will soon return. Theodosia went to visit New York and her mother to Fenton. I was surprised to see Dr. Caldwell, apparently very attentive to Theodosia, and well received by her - on a visit I paid them one evening while they were in town, she does not visit the sins of the wife or the husband, but it gave me an impression, that there was more reasonableness on a most delicate subject than charity in such conduct.

Horace is as ever, and must be a philosopher. He views
the danger with so much indifference. You are so kind, my dear Maria
in extending the journey light which must bring you to us. that I have
dared to hope you might be induced to spend the winter in Phil^a. you can
come on a little earlier than you left us last year, so as not to miss
the river full of water. and if it is in the power of woman to make you
happy here. and my dear Ben will bring you and your son. what shall
prevent our having such a winter together, as I have not passed since
the days of my youth? all our sisters & brothers join in affectionate
love, and subscribe to the above request. and tell Ben a phalanx of
old friends will hail him, and unite to give him welcome.
Adieu dearest, embrace my Brother & his son for me, and believe me
thine & your most ardently attached. P. S. -

July 14th 1822

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Mr Benjamin Gratz

Leopoldtown Ky

Melrose Gratz
July 15. 1822