

whole

May 27th 1839

If I tell you now My Dear Sister, how delighted I was to receive your letter - you may remark that it was a fortnight old before I made the acknowledgment - but truly it has been in my heart acknowledged daily, and always most gratefully - and I have been twenty times on the point of telling you so before - but I am not going to enumerate the causes of delay, for I have been sick & violently headach in the last ten days - and had to part with Julia on Saturday, so I am sure of your sympathy, and having gained that point, may proceed in the hope of interesting you further. Some one says that family letters, should be a kind of domestic newspaper - this is a good idea provided one was furnished with anecdotal & anecdote worthy of record, but the even tenor of dull city life afford few circumstances of the kind, and I should be sorry to impose the idle rumors which would taken a letter to a news paper, on you, when perhaps concern honesty might oblige me to withhold them in my next sheet. I was pleased to see our friends Mr & Mrs Macalister yesterday, and to hear the good accounts they bring from Kentucky of all your dear family. Eliza tells me you are again Secretary of the A Society and I am glad of it, for your boys are no longer so young as to require all your attention, and I know by experience how richly one is repaid for all the trouble & thought that is spent on that Institution, and you have even more to attach you to it than I have - for you are the Forewoman as well as the principal Manager - and there are many here who could fill my place, without my being suspect if I withdrew. She told me too about my dear Sarah Bodley & your sister, and most sincerely do sympathize with you in dear Mrs Black's sufferings, and think on the beauty of her character, which has been illustrated by so many trials

we have always thought there was a resemblance between
her & Rebecca, perhaps this is stronger now in the shadow that
affliction has cast over them, than earlier in life - one widowed
sister is resigned & might sometimes be cheerful, were it not
for the anxiety she experiences from Ellen's sickness & her reperi-
ration from all her daughters - but with all she does not com-
plain, and is ever pen in hand to give them comfort - Sally
tries & succeeds in filling a daughters part, and I really believe
she is as dear to her, for she has taught her children to revere
her, and softened the cold manners of her husband into perfect
blandness - Sister Etting too has regained her health, goes abroad
and is cheerful, Reuben is in Baltimore on a visit to his sisters
and the young people of the family following their usual
occupations prosperously - I have been reading a most stupid
immoral novel, by Lady Bulwer, for no other reason than
because it is said to be the picture of their own life, and
I have always thought so badly of her husband's character
that my curiosity was awakened to know how they would
make it out themselves - I must say I feel less respect for
her Ladyship since she has spoken for herself - but I hope
it will have the good effect of putting down the fashion
of admiring the poison distilled from the perfligate pen
of her husband, since his character is so fully exposed -
we may indeed turn with delight to the pages of Mr
W. Scott, and find in his life & letters such nature &
purity as gives a brighter glow to his genius & his
his virtues - have you read Prescott's "Frederick & Isabella"?
if not, I think it will interest & entertain you - I must
confess I turn with disgust from the intolerance & super-
stition of the age - and can scarcely agree with the his-
torian in his praise of Isabella's benevolence & piety
when the stake and the wheel were continually reeking
with the blood of Jews & heretics - it is a bad argument

Been at her own home again - this world would be too happy if
all we love might be collected in one charmed circle, and
enjoy the delight of that ~~kind of~~ communion of perfect love
& confidence, which is sometimes & at distant periods ~~often~~
~~admitted~~ to occur - Say a thousand kind things for me to
my beloved brother, and the dear boys - and then say
dear Sister Jordan all my steadfastly and love me both
as true an affection as I offer to your acceptance - ever
Your attached Brother -



Dear Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky