

**Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz**

**December 15, 1818**

Decr. 15th. 1818

I really did not expect, My dear Ben, that you would have been almost two months absent without bestowing one letter on me, I have written to you several times \_ and last evening destroyed an unfinished letter that had lain some time [there] in my desk waiting for the promised one from you, which more than a fortnight ago was to have been sent by the next mail. our brothers write so constantly that my letters are unnecessary but one does not like to be so entirely over looked and as no one suffers greater deprivation than I do from your absence \_ I think you might at least devote a few spare moments to my gratification Pemberton tells that you are delighted with Lexington but as he has returned more fond than ever of home I hope you will do so too \_ your friends Williams & J Biddle come to see us sometimes, they have neither of them heard from you yet \_ tho the latter talks of writing a Twenty page letter some of these days to rouse you from your forgetfulness of distant friends \_ he says since your departure the club has dissolved. that of course you were the most dissipated \_ or the cause of it \_ since it no longer exists in your absence \_

Ellen Hays has been in Baltimore almost three weeks Jac goes down for her in a few days. she said before she left home that she should write to you from there. but I suspect she will not find time as she makes but little use of her pen. and is so intoxicated with the attentions of her friends & school fellows that it will be difficult to withdraw from their society during her stay. I sent Maria Gists letter to her last week \_  
[end of page]

This evening Ellen Lyle is to be married her Sister preceeded her about a month \_ The latter continues to reside with her father \_ Mr. L has taken good care of her property \_ placing it in such a strong box, so sealed & fettered in parchment that nothing short of her will can reach it. and poor Beckett must draw on her for his daily bread \_ I do not know how Hartman will manage, but too much prudence looks so like suspicion, that a man must feel very mean who is not trusted to look into his wifes coffers \_

There is a very impertinent piece in the Port Folio of this month [which] has made a good deal of noise, addressed to H \_ \_ and so pointed that with all Hartmans phlegm I think he must be moved to wrath about it \_

Richeas poor little Becky had another very dangerous attack last week, but her health had been so good previous to it, that

I do not think it has affected her constitution as much as usual and she is now quite well again. Fanny has moved into the house next to John Swift. Reuben has applied for the office of Marshall but he has been so often disappointed that I shall never feel very sanguine of his success. until he is in possession \_ Gratz writes that he will be home in Feby. he is pleased. and has as much business as he could expect. tho' he does not say that he makes money \_ all the family are well, and we get along as comfortably as cold weather and your absence will permit \_ but many an anxious hour is laid to your charge \_ so very distant \_ and still going on we know not where, or to what difficulties \_ and you have always been accustomed to the conveniences & the comforts of home \_ but I will say nothing on this subject \_ I hope the Spring will bring you back with her first blossoms \_ in the mean time, do not think total silence the way to reconcile me to your absence \_  
[end of page]

Rachel Cohen comes very frequently to enquire if I have heard from you, she looks very ill \_ her diseased tooth continues to give her much trouble \_ but I believe this is not her worst trouble \_ Maria Hays stays with me during Ellens absence she is an amiable girl, and has become much more cheerful she would write if she were here, but has gone to a Tea Party \_

Cooper is playing to crowded houses \_ and notwithstanding hard-times \_ the U.S. Bank & broken merchants \_ the city is again resuming the gaiety of the season \_ there has been several private balls and more talked of \_ this wedding will anticipate christ-mas festivals, and then we shall hear of something besides failures general Jackson \_ and the Bank \_ I hope My dear Ben you will meet with no difficulties or delays in your business but will be both able & willing to open your office in the spring \_ give my love to Mrs. Scott & Maria, tell the latter will write her soon, remember me also to Mrs. Morrison & the rest of My Kentuckian acquaintances \_ I feel an interest now in all who come from the west \_ & was quite glad to meet G Rheinhold in the street, tho I do not know whether he saw you or not \_ all our sisters & brothers send much love to you \_ Rachels children talk of you constantly \_ her little Sarah is a perfect beauty \_ and the most engaging & lovely creature we know \_ Aunt Bell & the girls send love \_

will you be tired of this long letter? I have nothing new or entertaining to relate, as an apology for writing so much \_ but feel unwilling to leave you \_ as if this sheet of paper and goose quill had the magic charm of bring you before we \_ but \_ adieu for all

God Bless you my dear Brother, May you be ever under the shadow of His wing where so ever you roam \_ and enjoy [health?]

and happiness \_ believe me ever your affectionate Sister RG\_

[Address:]  
Benjamin Gratz Esqr.  
Lexington Ky  
via Washington  
City \_

[Endorsement:]  
By. G.  
Dec. 15th. 1818