

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

February 6, 1819

Philadelphia Feby. 6th. 1819

I have many times intended writing to you My dear Ben, but have been prevented, however, I know you have heard so frequently from home that the loss of my letters left you nothing to regret _ Hyman has been your most constant correspondent, and as he is absent you will be obliged to accept some substitute, which I propose to the girls to supply in turn _ you will thus have some variety, and among us chance to get all the domestic news. when last I wrote you Ellen was I believe in Balt or had just returned from there _ since which Sam E_ has been here to make his bow _ and has obtained permission to make him-self as agreeable to her as he can _ he has just entered into business as an Auctioneer in Balt _ and the result of both these important undertakings are to be determined by time. I confess my self a good deal surprised at his success with our niece, as I have never [discovered?] in his qualifications likely to engage the admiration of such a Girl _ her Mother would not permit any hasty promises to be made, and therefore unless their present fancies ripen into a permanent affection they may "shake hands & part friends." E_ made her visit at a very decrying period _ the long suppressed Attachment of her friend Kitty is at length sanctioned by her parents and an engagement formed _ she was the confidante and encourager of the timid fair one, and perhaps thro' her advice induced the application, which had long been expected perhaps too, her influence obtained the consent of S. who was the level of all disposed to favor Mr. C_s suit. now you know it often happens with over zealous agents, that they involve them selves deeper than they intend to do, and this tender sympathy for her friend may have put things in her heart, that would never have entered her head at a nother time, or in a nother situation _ but I need not apologize or account for _ I only intend to relate _
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on Monday we expect Gratz Etting to pass a few weeks with his Parents, he appears to be satisfied with his situation, and writes in better spirits than when he first went there, Henry is likewise much happier _ he is still at Norfolk. is quite a favorite with his fellow officers and is aid to the Capt. Reuben as usual was disappointed in his application for the Marshalls office, and has learned too late how little dependence there is to be placed in party favor _

The winter here has been very dull as to parties and balls _ but the weather has been so fine that people never looked gayer in the streets at this season, the Bank & Brutus is still one of the reigning topics of conversation and all minor scandals are neglected, or swallowed up in this great

one _ for my part I have been obliged to read the Aurora daily in my own defence, or sit contented in ignorance of the general discourse for our Brothers are all so eloquent on the great questions that I could not even be a good listener without knowing something of the subject,

I am almost ashamed to say I am still Maria Gists debtor for a letter I received soon after you arrived in Kentucky _ but I have had a great deal of writing to do this winter, and not many ideas to distribute Mrs. Dorsey resigned her office in The O Society and I was appointed Secretary in her place, which with the one I held before takes up all my writing time _ I shall soon be more at leisure, and then will endeavour to make my peace with Maria _

Your friends H. Williams & the Major come to see us sometimes, and occasionally indulge in their old tricks, your Office is sometimes opened at an unseasonable hour to admit Jac from the club, which never fails to procure him a serious lecture _ tho' I do not find they produce any good effect _ this evening I heard Logans voice at the door, and was prepared for an adjournment to No [4?]. but Jac is safe reposing on the sofa, and I conclude does not mean to join them
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I had five of our younger neices to dine with me to-day, and they were as merry a table as you would desire to see _ little Beck was the [amusem] -ment of them all, she goes to dancing school _ and mimics the French accent of her Master in all her anecdotes _ she is a graceful little creature and shows off to great advantage _ but Sarah is the beauty of the family she begins to talk and discovers so much intelligence that she is a pet throughout the family _ Gratz talks of you very often, and so do all the children, I suppose you have recieved Miriams letter, and hope you will answer it when you have leisure, she is as mature in her mind & studies as girls 3 or 4 years older than herself _ Simon went Yesterday to Wilmington, (his first visit) & will be home to morrow _ I passed one day there in December, and am glad to tell you things have succeeded there as well as could be desired, I have had no anxiety on that score this winter, S. lives in town during the week, and goes [...] on Friday where he spends Saturday & part of [Sunday?] [...] his household & means to send the Hay [...] month. which will lessen his expenses considerably he [expects], Jacob married Hester, he lives with us _ but I have suffered a great loss by the marriage of Anne, which was very unexpected to me _ however, the poor woman thought it would be for her good _ and I hope it may. tho' of all the instances before her that have occurred from our house I fear they have turned out otherwise _ Anthony also took Hannah to wife, so that five of our domestics have entered the holy state since your departure. I wish the parlour boarders were of the same mind, and would seek mates as successfully _ Hyman & Jo have no time to spare _ the former promised to look out on his travels but the Damsels of Israel, have lost their attractions in the land of their exile, we see none like Rachel & Rebecca of old _ "fail to look upon"

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by the bye, I had almost forgot to tell you that your [proxies] have gained your suit of [Dirkhan?] & Myers, to the great mortification of Z. Phillips, it was decided last week, by a point of Law in favor of Myers _ Aunt Bell & all her family desire love to you _ and so do all our Sisters & Brothers _ & the Girls & boys of all the houses _ Adieu, My dearest Ben, My constant wishes are for your health & happiness, and my daily prayers for the blessings of Providence on your undertakings God Bless you, prays your affectionate RG_

[Address:]
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[Endorsement:]
RG.
Feb. 6. 1819