

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

June 12, 1820

June 12th. 1820

Tho' you are engaged in business, and have little time to spare to female correspondents, My dear Ben, I cannot forbear now and then intruding my self upon you _ your dear Maria, it is true sometimes most kindly and with a welcome pen pleads your excuse and I will not say that any man could have a better substitute but I am not willing to indulge you in the habit of always employing another hand, lest you should altogether forget that it is your business to write to me at all and then by a very natural process in the course of time you will consider me as Marias correspondent only, and perhaps cease to think of me in any other light _ and I shall never be blessed with the sight of your hand writing expressing a single kind thought but in the general message at the conclusion of one of the boys letters [which] like the winding up of an argument will be written after having your head full of India Goods, produce _ & groceries _ instead of coming fresh from the heart as all your tenderness does when you take a sheet of white paper, seat yourself in your family circle, and express to each of your delighted auditors the fullness of your happiness, and your reliance [on] their constant love _ one wishes to write sometimes too, but have no particular communication to make, and the [end of page]

being a letter in debt is a most satisfactory excuse to ones vanity for indulging the desire unprovided with sufficient matter. our brothers keep you so well informed of every thing passing here among those you are interested for, that I am sure there is little for me to do but indulge my self in the pleasure of calling your attention to the domestic circle in which you are cherished with a Benjamins portion of love & tender recollections _

Maria tells me she is anxious to make us a visit _ but never answers directly to my earnest solicitations to come, so that I do not know whether to blame you, your business, or her for such tantalizing conduct. but I look forward to Hymans return as offering an inducement you will neither of you resist if circumstances permit you to accompany him _ you will come into a little community [of] newly married or engaged acquaintances. and as your own happiness has put you in such a benevolent wishing-mood with all the

world, you will have an ample field of indulging your sympathy among Hymens [~~votarys~~] votaries _

Dr. Caldwell has arrived here from N. Orleans we have been in some apprehension respecting the state of that city and some reports [~~respecting~~] of its having been destroyed by fire, he has happily been able to contradict _ the Drs. defence & valedictory address will not encrease his literacy reputation here, nor should I suppose it would any where, Mrs. C provided Col. Morrison with a copy when here, and also presented him with the life of Green that he might judge for him self.

Mrs. Meredith has become a most zealous member of the Deaf & Dumb Institution, and patronizes all the family of Seixas she often makes affectionate enquiries about you _ since our dear Bella's death I have seen her oftener than for years before _ she will not now have so much of her Sisters society _ as the girls will not be willing
[end of page]

to separate, My friend Maria has as usual been employed in kind offices to the family her health is moderately good but her husbands circumstances not so favorable. he has realized the truth of Shakespeare ascertainment that "unhappy is the man who waits on princes [favors]" for any man in power is a prince in that respect _ Hoffman has too long been pursuing the same shadow _ Ann Nicholas continues at the lake her husband you know is appointed Casshier at Richmond, she will not join him there until the autumn _ In a few days Mr. H Sergeant commences his western tour, and from him you will acquire all the local chit chat of our city he does not take out a wife I believe, so you will not have him long. Mr. Emlen was not much affected by his travels he is too much of a devoted benedict to see any thing fair or bright, so far from his better part _ our Sisters families [health] [...] the Hays' have been a good deal in society this [winter] [appear] to be favorites tho' not belles. Ellen's prospects are not [...] [then] [consummation] of her engagement will not take place very speedily I suspect. she is happy & confiding and while her cheerfulness sustains thro' absence I shall not wish for a change. her lover is too contented under such circumstances I think but you must make no comment on this subject, as I would not have her mind influenced and she eagerly reads your letters (when she has an opportunity). Isaac has just opened an office. as soon as Rachel is fixed in the country Maria will hear from her youthful nieces, they have left school for the summer and mean to write. little Sarah would delight you she is so beautiful and engaging _ Reuben enjoys better health, than he did in town. he gardens very successfully and if he had a little money would be very happy. at least comparatively so, but so many unprovided for children to an old man must be sources of great anxiety. Edward is trying for a commission in the navy. failing in that he will continue a sailor _
Give my love to our dear Maria, tell her I look with hope to the [postmans]

arrival, as her goodness is my pledge that she will not be long a debtor.
May God Bless you both, My dearest Brother believe me most truly your
and her affectionate RGratz
[end of page]

Ellen desires her best love to you both. her silence must not be
attributed to want of affection. she often talks of it _ but seems in great
difficulty about a beginning _

[Address:]
Benjamin Gratz Esqr.
Lexington
Kentucky

[Endorsement:]
Reb. Gratz
June 12th. 1820
Ans July 2. 1820