

**Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz**

**August 3, 1820**

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Indeed my dear Ben, you have us [...] to vindicate your heart or affections, no one can be more sensible of their warmth and constancy than your sister, and that is a strong reason for my importunity now & then to have a view of them \_ women are not commonly such disinterested reasoners as to forgo the pleasures of communication because they have full confidence in the stability of absent friends, and indeed I think they are right a miser is as well off when he looks up his chest of treasure and puts his key in a safe place \_ he would be more liberal and use our blessings, particularly treasures of love which rather encrease than diminish by being employed. and as to your plea of having nothing amusing to communicate, I really do not feel the want of such matter. you write so agreeably without it. Solomon said there was nothing new under the Sun in his day \_ and as the order of things are not changed it is not to be expected that we should find any thing new now \_ however, as every thing that falls from your pen is interesting to me, (witness my reading your letters of business which I do not understand) you need never be detirred by any apprehensions of that sort \_

we are rejoiced to hear \_ our dear Hyman has arrived safe at Lexington and is [negosiating?] for a visit from you & Maria to Phila. remember you must make arrangements for the winter if you  
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consent to come \_ we cannot accept a shorter term. Jo will be absent all Septr. and Rachel is in the country. so that by [dividing?] at first we shall not be able to spare you \_ after the collection is made for the winter, and you will have so many new friends to visit that the time will not be long \_ John Biddle will be settled in his own house first of all \_ he is making preparations for housekeeping \_ he seems to have adopted the maxim \_ "happy the wooing, that is not long doing." in opposition to his brother James' experience \_ who is still the most devoted lover. tho' no prospect of a shortened probation \_ they do not mean to marry until the times improve \_ as to the tale of boyish attachment it is too trite to be thought of \_ some men have a great horror of being suddenly caught \_ it is undignified \_ and [should] rather rouse up a long dormant partiality and fancy they were indulging an old inclination \_ than be subject to a powerful new one \_ the Major is wholly engrossed I have only seen him par accident since his engagement and Cabot is quite forlorn. Jac makes out rather

better. I believe his time is not come yet. but I hope he will marry \_ and so you would send Charles [...] to Rhode Island from the gay circles of Richmond when he is pleasing & pleased to proceed against poor Ann, who is educating her children in the obscurity of the most entire solitude \_ her very name seems forgotten amidst the throng who late loved & admired her \_ she is self banished indeed but for no fault \_ but the one of which many are guilty \_ a foolish marriage \_ If they were not suited to each other \_ let them be both flamed & equally share the consequences \_ but do not call C\_ injured for he certainly has the best of the business, in a course of life suited to his taste \_ while she born [and] educated to enjoy society is passing her years in the woods. Maria, My dear, pray convince [end of page]

your husband. that Lords of the creation as men suppose them selves they are not to escape judgment when the contest is between them and their wives \_ while the ax falls on their weaker help mate.

To morrow our Brother Simon & Dr. Hays leave us on a trip to Saratoga. Simon has just recovered from a most severe attack of gout or bilious cholic. I do not know which, but he was very ill for a week. Chapman & Isaac attended him very faithfully, the latter was principal nurse and did not leave him night or day. fortunately he was in town when taken sick. and staid here during the period. he is still weak from the effects of it. and the springs are recommended. Isaac is creeping into practice \_ he is very attentive. patient and studious \_ and is a favorite with some of the professors which I hope will be of service to him \_ the Scotch [professor] Pattison. and Gibson have got into a [dispute] which I am sorry [...] [...] inhospitable to treat a stranger so. however it is [...] [...] the gauntlet. he is not so well liked here as he was [...] [...] are too proud to admit of great pretentions unless [...] by extraordinary talents \_ and foreigners are too apt to under value their knowledge. and sometimes raise them selves on their supposed ignorance \_ the present case is, that Pattison claims the merit of some discovery [of which] Gibson found registered in the work of an older practitioner \_ and when the contest between the King & Queen of England is at an end. it is [probable] they may find a colume in the news paper at their service \_

I shall not encroach on Mrs. Caldwell's privilege by relating any Phila. news. she will no doubt expect to be listened to with an undivided attention. and I will not tax your politeness with a twice told-tale. she told me she would carry any thing I might have to send you or your wife. and if it had not been for Simon's illness I should have called to thank her, and wish a pleasant journey \_ my little package for Maria was not quite ready. and shall now wait her coming \_ or her bidding \_ give my love. accompanied by all our Sisters to her & yourself & to dear Hyman. we never meet without thinking and talking of you all \_ and wishing mountains were removed, and space held us not so far between \_ but thank God [end of page]

who has wisely framed them so. the laws of nature are still friendly  
to our happiness \_ time nor space cannot separate the bonds of love  
and tho' distant we may still hold you to our hearts with ardent &  
constant affection \_ Adieu My dear Brothers & Sister \_ believe me  
ever yours sincerely RG \_

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[Endorsement:]  
Becky G.  
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