

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

March 12, 1827

My Dear Brother

Two or three months ago our Nieces commenced employing them selves in manufacturing little ingenious articles by which they hoped to obtain the means of lightening the difficulties that were gathering around them. I suggested to them the probability of their being able to dispose of some of them in Kentucky and offered to apply to you on the subject _ accordingly a small box has been forwarded to your address _ which we beg you will have the goodness to place in some store, or dispose of in any way you think proper _ they enclosed a paper with the highest prices at which the articles could be sold here _ but without by any [means] limiting them. and will be very grateful to you for having them sold to the best advantage your fashionable market may afford _ our Sister & the Girls make every exertion to bear as they ought the reverses of fortune, and as time soothes their regret for more [untenable?] losses. are recovering their cheerfulness. Mr. Hays has taken a counting-house, and with his son Henry's assistance is endeavoring to make a living _ they will all unite their efforts & I hope with success _

Of the unhappy circumstances in which our household are involved, I scarcely know what to say _ our brothers have written to you, and will keep you informed _ for the first time in my life I rejoice in your absence _ and freedom from this unnatural strife [end of page]

I can scarcely realize that such a state of things can exist _ that all the love & tenderness which has hitherto reigned amongst us should be so rudely rent in pieces _ and by one who has been so revered _ Truly it may be said that adversity is the test of virtue but that it should have the power to break the bonds of brotherhood asunder, my simple nature could not have believed _ had not the conviction been forced upon my senses with a shock which has laid every comfort & peace of mind prostrate _ but this state of things cannot last long. His patience is too exemplary not to be rewarded _ we will hope for better times _ & better things _ O My dear Ben, how my heart grieves for the devious course our brother has been driven into _ his nature has been changed by the perplexities his ill advised family lead him into _ the time may come when you My dear Brother may restore peace _ but at present we most heartily rejoice that you are away _ tell my dear Maria I will write to her as soon as I am a little, a very little happier at present my head & heart beats too quickly & irregularly to do any thing tranquilly _ she must keep you at home and comfort you _ for I know how you will

suffer for these cruel affairs _ none of the family except
those at home, know any thing of the matter. and if our [...] ~~and~~
brother relents they may never know _ God Grant he may, and
that he may restore himself & all of us to that peace
which vehemence of temper _ and ill directed wrath has
carried to such a fearful distance

Adieu My dear Ben
embrace your dear Children for me, and believe how
truly I desire every blessing of heaven [may] visit you & them
ever your Sister RGratz

March 12th. 1827.

[Address:]

To

Benjamin Gratz Esqr.

Lexington Ky

[Endorsement:]

Rebecca Gratz

Mar 12. 1827

26. _