

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

July 17, 1827

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Our Brothers are so much engaged in the perplexities of their affairs that they have deputed me to write to you My dear Ben, and tho' I am sure my letter will not be so satisfactory as one from either of them _ I shall take up the parable where Jo left off on Wednesday _ [In] pursuance of the order of the Arbitrators Mr. Richards produced the Keys of the long closed up Fire proof _ and in presence of the parties concerned opened the doors _ within which a padlock fastning had also been introduced when lo! it was found empty of any thing of value _ all the books & papers which had been usually kept there were removed even to your Insurance policy _ and in their place some old receipt books & other worthless articles of as little consequence were [crammed?]

You may imagine the shock this discovery occasioned _ I could have wept over the fallen honor of our eldest brother _ at first he was himself ashamed _ and during the humiliating scene of directing his porters & clerks to bring back the [parlorized?] articles was confused & agitated _ but has since resumed his former deportment _ on two occasions they have had stormy interviews _ ~~one~~ [occasioned] on Hyman's removing the sign of the old firm _ which S. promised should come down, but afterwards objected to _ the Arbitrators met again on Friday morning _ and began with accounts _ to day they were assembled _ but Mr. Chauncey was taken sick, and they were obliged to adjourn _ we may look forward to a long _ & mortifying turmoil before this unfortunate business is closed _ Simon's superior talents and complete preparation _ having been four months in quiet possession of every document he required _ his ingenuity in making the worse appear the better reason _ [end of page]

and the boldness of his harangues tend to embarrass the business and give him advantages _ which Hyman is not calculated to meet _ however, we must hope that honest plain-dealing & truth will prevail and in the end justice be obtained _ notwithstanding that he must have perused every line in the papers during all this time _ he is so tardy in relinquishing them that the other party are but partially possessed of those they require your accounts have been called for, but not yet produced _ your interests My dear Ben, must be involved with the others in the concerns of S.G. & Brothers _ and I wish you, were here to attend to them yourself _ provided you could bring our dearest Maria & boys along with you _ [but] not for the world would I have you [again] involve your happiness in another separation from them _

you mention that Maria is not well _ might not a journey towards the Sea be of service to her? her precious health is always the first object of consideration & whatever troubles assail us, believe me My dear Brother, no wish or thought would interrupt your domestic [comfort] _ it is the brightest on our family record and god grant it may be as permanent as your lives _

I am shocked at what I have written concerning our Brother _ a short time ago, I thought his integrity unassailable _ and looked upon his moral discrepancy as spots in the Sun _ but alas! his glory is now eclipsed in my eyes and I cease to wonder at the many altercations I have heard respecting our Father's estate. so contrary to justice & right do I consider the demands upon it _ That a poor old Man, sick & melancholy & confined to his chamber for years should be chargable with an extravagant establishment of which he could not partake the luxury. or direct the expenditure _ & which was so different from the economy [which] had been [observed] during the former part of his life _ when the management of his estate was in his own hands. that I am very sure had our excellent [end of page]

mother supposed the changed style of living was at his expense, she would never have consented to its adoption _ but all this is not new to you, therefore it is not necessary to trouble you about it _ present me with the warmest affection to my dear Sister, I hope in a few days to hear that she is better. it seems very long for a letter to reach us _ yours of the 3rd. only arrived to day _ God Bless you my dear Brother. all here are well. and desire a great deal of love _ the girls are at present much engaged _ Mr. Joshua Moses his wife & daughter are their guests. our Sisters greet you with affection I have not seen Simon since we met him together _ Adieu with prayers
for your happiness believe me your attached Sister RGratz

Joseph Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

July 17, 1827

My dear Ben _

We have not progressed far in the submission _ the greatest effort will be made by S_ to induce the Arbr. to question the integrity of H_ or at any rate his ability to transact business, he has commenced with that already, this horrid cruelty _ has had an overwhelming influence upon poor H _ the object of S_ is to get an order for his continuing in possession of the effects of the concerns, and to pay over to each their proportions upon final [settlement], after sales of all the property _ you know when that might be expected to take place _ the next object in Our Fathers Estate _ on that head he will [strive?] hard, & it will require all our exertions x

x together with the exertions of all the family to overcome the snares, which he has successfully paid, to give an apparent sanction to the charges in the books of

S&HG & SG& [...] _ he is the most ham faced [O_?] in I have [en...]
with and braves every thing with unshrinking audacity _ falsehoods are blended
with truths and that so ingeniously, that really I am at a loss sometimes
to know how to counteract their effects _ I should like to have you here, if
Your family was with you _ Heaven bless you all, prays your [s... friends?]
JoG

[Address:]
To
Benjamin Gratz Esqr.
Lexington Ky

[Endorsement:]
Rebecca Gratz
J. Gratz
July 17.
Aug. 3. _
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[Editors' Note: Joseph's note is rendered here in the order it was written but in the original, the second paragraph is written above the first.]