

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

June 29, 1828

You need not apologize for introducing any friend of yours My dear Ben, and when they happen to be as interesting as the Revd. Mr. Woods you confer a great favor on me, particularly as he had so many delightful things to say about my brother. and his family _ he sat with us less than an hour _ but what he said has recurred again and again, and afforded me more pleasure than I know how to thank him for _ I hope you will have an agreeable & useful acquisition to your community in him _ Mrs. Read is very much liked here, and I should suppose Mr. Woods wife can not be inferior to her sisters, so that our dear Maria may have Mrs. Holleys place supplied in her circle _ the beautiful Miss M_ is engaged to be married to Mr. Otis which will dissappoint her sister of a visit as it was expected she would spend the next winter in Phila.

we have been much concerned at the sudden death of Mr. Meade his daughter Charlotte was to have been Married to-morrow. instead of which his friends are bidden to his funeral obsequies _ the body arrived here yesterday to be deposited in the tomb of his fathers _ this is a [consummation] of the family misfortunes. I scarcely ever knew a woman so severely tried as Mrs. Meade has been _ or who has supported calamity with so much firmness but this is more than all the rest _ and if she can endure it as becomes her high character as a wife & mother she will win a crown of glory _ Elizabeth has never dared approach her parents since her marriage _ she will feel in the death of her father the bitterest fruits of disobedience _ poor Mr. Meade carried his sense of duty too far _ he meant to make her an example to the rest of his
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daughters _ but if he has died without expressing his pardon for her fault _ she will be rendered more unhappy than the strict -est judge could decree her due _ every days experience shews [us] how prodigal we are of the good within our reach _ and how many evils we produce for our selves & others _ yet [I do not p...]
we are not admonished _ until it is too late to profit by the lesson _

I hope the worst of our domestic trials are over _ yet feel as if there were enough remaining to make the after years of life many shades darker than they formerly were _ still you may believe [the] sense of improvement will make patience endure to the end _ I could not have credited a few years ago that any circumstances could occur to reconcile me to an estrange -ment from our brother Simon _ and when I now recall all the symptoms

and grades of [feelings] which have led to it _ I am more confirmed in the opinion that he has been compromising with his own family for the degrees of kindness he bestowed upon us _ and that finally he has yielded to them _ alas! I [fear] he has cast away his comfort as well as those higher considerations which no man should part with at any sacrifice _ I have spoken to him but once since you were here, and then methought he would have avoided the meeting if he could _ but he spoke kindly _ tho' he bowed formally at parting _

our friend Mrs. Meredith has been extremely ill. and still looks very badly. she is very much enfeebled and I fear her constitution is broken. her spirits continue pretty good _ she has just returned from Borden town improved _ your friend Jos Norris has built himself a fine house next to St Marys chapel in 4th. Street. his sister-in law [is] engaged to be married to a very good fortune _ and Neddy Thomson is released from prison and retired to his farm on Turners lane.

Ben Etting has gone to Richmond, I suppose he will appoint a time for his marriage before he returns. I hope so at least for the [end of page]

present shameful fashion of making & breaking engagement _ or leaving them so long unfulfilled that it is little better than a failure, is so unprincipled and unsentimental that whether they are to be treated seriously, or foolishly it is disgraceful to the character of the age _ Ben is desperately in love _ and Harriet appears to be a clever spirited girl who would not be satisfied to be postponed until, convenience is more consulted than inclination _ so that if he can manage to get a house, he will no doubt soon place her in it _ Henry is at home for the present _ he spends his money very freely & generously on his mother & Sisters. and contributes all he can afford to the support of the family _ Edward I suppose is with you by this time and can inform of his own prospects _ The Hays' are well _ Henry gets on pretty well. is industrious and looks as if he felt independent _ our Sister & the girls are [as?] frugal as possible & Mr. H. fat & contented _ as soon as an [aw...] is given _ we shall be moving I suppose, we have been looking out for a house for some time _ but as some items may make a difference in our case we are not prepared to go until it is given _ the weather is exceedingly warm _ but the city as healthy as usual at this season _ our children enjoy health. Horace bid me send his love to the boys. he talks of them continually and thinks they must be the happiest boys in the world. because they have always got companions _ tell My dear Sister I shall write to her soon _ I had nearly filled a sheet to her last Sunday. when an envious blot so besmeared a page of it, that I could not reconcile it to my sense of decency [as] to offend her neatness with such an unsightly letter _ assure her of [my] love and thanks for her last favor _ God bless you My dearest Ben. believe me my heart is always near you, and you beloved family _ my warmest gratitude acknowledges your happi

ness _ and my constant prayers for a continuance of all your
blessings _
ever Your Affectionate Sister RG.

June 29th.

[Address:]
Benjamin Gratz Esqr.
Lexington Ky

[Endorsement:]
Rebecca Gratz
June 29. 1828
July 8.