

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

June 19, 1831

I have just received your letter my dearest Ben, and am so delighted at the thoughts of your wishing to write more frequently that I cannot resist the pleasure of expressing my thanks. I believe an aversion to writing, is only the effects of habit, and if you desire to overcome it you will not find it very difficult to do so. I trust long before this your home has changed its aspect and become bright with the smiles of your beloved Maria, and vocal with the merry tones of the dear boys _ how can I express my gratitude to you, my own dear Ben, for [the] happiness of the last six months. when I hear that you are ~~again~~ surrounded by your family and yours again complete. I shall perhaps be better able to speak of all I owe you. but while an anxious doubt is yet to be removed I feel that words are feeble _ our brother Jac will do it for me, and his presence will in some degree reward you too. how much your sweet Cary has improved in intelligence _ and all the children in health. is it not charming to witness these changes after the deprivation you have suffered?

Your favorite Montgomery Blair, was delighted with Phila. Gratz took him every where that he could go in two days and gave him letters to his friend Stockton at West Point _ & I believe he made rapid progress in the girls good graces for he continued with them the greatest part of Sunday and did not leave them till late at night. and he invited cousin Becky to pay him a visit when his Mother went to see him.

I am very glad to hear of the improvements going on at Lexington, which will conduce to your advantage & pleasure and hope some day. to witness them. Maria will take such [end of page]

interest in the new College _ and I hope you will be successful in obtaining a President who will be efficient & popular. have you any prospect of one for the next session?

I believe there is nothing new in our city to amuse you with and in the unfinished affairs Maria left there appears slow progress making. Featherstonhaugh & the Dr. keep their respective positions. the latter has been searching for dried bones in New York, and I expect will shew his teeth in biting position, before long. poor Gratz is convalescing, and Isabella much the same, Dr. Chapman, told her on Friday, that he had exhausted the whole catalogue of Medicine without having reached her disease. that it must be seated in the Muscles or she could not

have existed so long _ and he is now trying a warm bath, night and morning. in which she is to continue one hour, if her strength will permit _ I think Miriam will get permission to accept her lover. if he returns and she is so disposed. I am much relieved on this account, for it appeared so unwise and unkind to [thwart] a prospect of happiness in any member of a family so borne down by various trials and afflictions that I could not forbear speaking to such Parents on the subject, you preceeded me. and Miriam thinks she owes much to your and Maria's good offices _ one of the agreeable recollections of your visit must be the benefits you bestowed, and really it would delight you to hear how often the collected girls talk of the good they have derived from Uncle Ben & Maria _ you exhibited such a picture of rational & perfect happiness that you have elevated their ideas of married life _ Marias conversation has improved them _ has taught them to think _ and
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my dear little Sarah, owes so much love & happiness to you all, that she does not know where to begin or end her praise _ at breakfast this morning she said I wonder if Cary remembers me. Yes said I, he will remember you for a month _ a month! she exclaimed with [tearful] eyes _ but all the other dear boys will remember you, even little Hyman will not forget. this consoled her, and she said she was going to write to them all to day _ give our love to them all, and tell them aunt Becky misses her dear little boys so much and is so lonesome & sad some times she would gladly travel to Kentucky to enjoy their loving and amusing talk _

I received a letter yesterday from Julia Hoffman, mentioning the [sudden] and distressing [death] of Ogden's wife _ she had the sca[rlet] fever, but not badly _ on Thursday morning they gave her an anodyne _ she never awoke _ she was a very lovely woman, and has left five children.

Tell my dear Jac, that I wish very much to hear from him it is almost three weeks since he left home and not a word written by his hand has reached us. if he has no business to write about, let him tell us of his pleasures _ tell my dear Maria I was going to trouble her to day _ to complain of my want of her society. and of my ever present, & ever enduring love _ but she shall escape with this _ accept for her & yourself the best love of all our sisters Brothers & nieces _ and believe me my dear Ben most fondly & truly your affectionate sister

RGratz

June 19th. 1831

[Address:]

To

Benjamin Gratz Esqr.

Lexington Ky _