

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**December 25, 1819**

You must banish reserve now My dear Maria, for we are Sisters, and with that loved title you have a claim to my warmest affection \_ and in that title too I look for such love as has been the most fertile source of comfort & happiness to me thro' my life \_ I thank you most sincerely for your kind letter \_ Ben should not have made you acquainted with my wishes when it was too late to have them gratified \_ as it gave you an unnecessary regret \_ I have every confidence in the integrity of both. may I not say, it was my knowledge of the superiority of your character that induced me to make the request. [from] henceforth we will not remember that there is a difference of opinion on any subject between us \_ and I trust we shall be sincere friends as well as affectionate sisters to the end of our lives \_

I thank you for withholding any part of my message that would have given pain to your Mother \_ I have the highest respect for her & would not for the world wound her feelings. You must my dear [Maria], win her for me if I have offended.

We have had the satisfaction to hear that our dear Hyman is with you \_ he left home so thin that I was apprehensive the fatigue of a winter journey would be too severe for him \_ but now that he is in his favorite Kentucky with friends, shall expect to hear of his regaining his health & good looks \_  
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tell my Brothers, the most extraordinary things continue to take place on this side the mountains my last letters told the melancholy tale of Miss Coleman's dying for love and now I have to recount an act of violence, which has thrown Young Goodwin (Robert) into prison to wait his trial for Murder \_ the New York papers relate all the circumstances particularly. it seems however, that his intentions were not murderous \_ an accidental stroke on the spring of his cane exposed the dagger, on which in their scuffle Mr. Stoughton fell, & it penetrated his heart \_ the rencountre took place at mid-day in the most public part of the city \_ and of course very considerable irritation is excited against the survivor \_ they had a public funeral at which 10\_000 persons were collected \_ of all places I know, New York appear to me the worst, for such an offence to occur in \_ so many fatal duels have desolated the higher ranks of society \_ so many

families have been plunged in distress \_ by that detested practice, that every act of violence renews the recollection and engages the sympathy \_ and the vengeance of the public mind

Mr. Goodwins family have been peculiarly unfortunate his brothers have all shared in the troubles of Baltimore and are reduced in fortune \_ one of his sisters recently become a widow \_ and now this calamity, which worse than all, brings guilt & disgrace upon them \_ is a climax in the history of their woes \_

If Ellen were here she would have some thing affection-ate to say for her-self. but she has gone to pass a few [end of page]

days at her Mothers, her little Sister is sick with the Measles, which prevails almost universally thro' our city, and Maria being absent she has gone to supply her place as assistant nurse \_ we have had 25 sick at one time at the Orphan Asylum with that disease \_

Your little favorites Becky & Gratz Moses talk of you with great animation and send a deal of love to you and Uncle Ben \_ I have so much love and congratulation from all quarters to send you both, that it would take a page to give a catalogue of names only \_ Ben must tell you of all your new relations, and then you will please to bow your head & say thank ye, to each of them \_ but as for our sisters bid him salute you for each, and say what ever he thinks will be most agreeable \_

present me affectionately to your dear Mother \_ [tell] my dearest Brothers I depend on learning from them frequently \_ and you, Maria, I must have you confess that you no longer feel diffident towards one who loves you sincerely \_ and who is too simple hearted to cause such a feeling in you \_ I hope soon to receive such an assurance, and am my dear girl with sincerity yr affectionate  
sister RG \_

Saturday Eveg. Decr. 25th. 1819 \_

[Address:]  
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