

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

January 2, 1820

You will conclude My dear Maria, by my speedy replys, that frequent letters will not be troublesome to me; on the contrary, I shall exact them, as the only means of establishing a sisterly intercourse between us. while at such a distance [from] between each other _ I know you are to be very busy in your new avocation of house-keeper and will have a thousand interesting subjects to engage your thoughts _ so much the better, I shall have the more agreeable correspondent _ and it is impossible for you to be too minute _ for every thing will be full of My dear Bens & your happiness and will find its way direct to my heart _

I am not enough of a chess player to answer your question, but soon after your letter arrived, Miss Rush & Mr. Williams came to pay me a morning visit, and stated the case to them, "tell her to play by all means," said Julia, and beat him, if she can _ Why, said Harry, I think she may venture with Ben, if she can win a game without shewing too much triumph in the victory _ but continued he Mr. & Mrs. C _ will not play chess together _ you may tell Ben however _ that his friend seems very earnest in his game with the fair Julia and she plays very skillfully. a looker on may discover that she has the issue in her own hand, but whether she means to stake her heart [end of page]

[her heart] does not appear so plain.

By letters received to day I find our Brother Hyman has left Lexington, I am rejoiced to hear he has regained his good looks, travelling is a charming remedy, and it has the good effect of relaxing the mind from the toils of business which no doubt has its salutary [influence] on his appearance. I am glad your first interview was at Cane-wood, as I am sure it gratified him to pay his respects to your Mother at her own house _

And so you approve my taste, in selecting fashions for you? I should like to see how beautiful you look in them, you have received them so kindly that they must be becoming and my brother [shall] thank you for your gracious acceptance. our winter has just set in, Christmas day was the first cold weather we had, since which we have a covering of snow, and every prospect of hard weather _ rain would have been very acceptable to the country in

this neighbourhood first, as the springs have given out pretty generally. however, I do not join in the murmurs people usually indulge it, when the clouds discharge too much or too little for their convenience. the records of time bear witness, that providence orders all things for the best and the elements obey its decrees.

I told your little favorite Beck, the other day that I had been writing to you, have you, said she, did you give my love to her? "I loved her dearly, before she was my Aunt and I suppose I must love her better now _" children argue well Maria, when they feel naturally _ our family have
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happiness of cherishing affection for each other. you will have many young relations whose hearts are open to receive you when you make their acquaintance _

Ellen is very busy writing [election] tickets for the Orphan Society, who hold an election on Tuesday _ I became weary of writing over the names of 24 ladies, whose features have nothing remarkable in them, and induced her to release me for a while _ have you ever amused yourself by writing the name of a person whose image is agreeable _ and found their countenance appear at the end of your pen? but a list of names of indifferent persons might deal the ingenious device of counting to bring _ drowsiness _ pard[o]n me, my dear, this stupid conclusion, to a [dull] letter, [I] offer small inducement to the corresponden[ce] I invite you to, tell my dear Brother, I shall expect sometimes a letter from him, and to both, if Hyman has returned present my affectionate love _ accept also the remembrance of our Sisters, and a salute from Ellen _ all our Brothers tender their regards. Simon is in town every day. you have less personal acquaintance with him, but have [learn'd] from Ben, how to estimate him _

Adieu, My dear Maria, May God Bless you with a continuance of your present happiness, and realize all your anticipations of the future _ believe me Sincerely Your Sister
RGratz.

present my affectionate regards
to your Mother _
January 2nd. 1820.

[Address:]
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
Lexington. K-y.

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