

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

February 19, 1820

Feb: 19th. 1820

I have been waiting & waiting for a letter from either you or my Brother Benj for at least a fortnight. My dear Maria, and at length came to the determination of giving you both a good scolding _ when your letter arrived _ and I have a great deal more pleasure in thanking you for it _ than [I] should have had in reproving you for the want of it _ we heard from Hyman that you had entered on the avocations of a house keeper, and I rejoice that you find the burthen light _ I did not doubt you would do so, for I have always thought [the][it] a station in which a fine woman appeared to most advantage, the difficulties are soon surmounted by a willing mind, and the happiness of making home the chosen scene of domestic enjoyment to a beloved object is a sweet reward for the toil it may involve _ you have had the advantage of such excellent instruction & example [from] your honor'd Mother. that you can find no difficulties in the beginning _ which to some young women is quite a terror _

I thank you, my dear Maria, for wishing me the gratification of witnessing your happiness. you must present it in frequent communications to my minds eye during the period of separation. I live in the hope of seeing you next summer _ and at no distant [time] [beyond] of having you located near us. I should else perhaps not so heartily [sympathize in] the pleasure you express at getting into your own house
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Simon would be quite flattered at what you say about him. you may cherish the kindest feelings towards him in anticipation and will not cast them off when you become acquainted with him. he has really a noble spirit _ and as little of selfishness in his nature as I have ever met with in a human character _ but, I suppose Ben, sometimes entertains you with family sketches, and presume you already know us all lights & shades. tho' from your complimentary observations I fear he has not brought out his figures sufficiently, and either from his own love, or a wish to engage yours for them has brighten'd his colours only when he had the best subjects on his canvass, you are a reasonable woman, Maria, and therefore will not expect too much from your new relations _ but as an affectionate wife delights to approve of all, her husband is connected with. you will not be a severe judge. we

shall all be glad of an opportunity to improve our acquaintance _

Your account of the disturbance at Transylvania university does not surprise me, from what I have heard of President H. from those who knew him here, such a result might have been expected. how does our Dr. Caldwell stand affected by these commotions? there is no encouragement offered to Mr. Pattison to migrate to the west if you treat learned strangers with so little ceremony, he too has been the subject of some squibs here _ there is something more of parade & pretension about him, than is suited to american taste. several little newspaper affairs have appeared, in which he has come off second best _ but he is a favorite with the ladies and introduces scientific subjects to them _ which is too flattering to their understandings not to engage
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them in his cause _ he is fond of music too & poetry _ is pleasant in conversation _ relates anecdotes with characteristic drolling _ "suiting the actions to the words" and passes off as a first rate beau. this however, is his relaxation _ he lectures & practices surgery _ and is acknowledged to be a man of science _

Tell My Brothers, (as they get no letters by this mail) that nothing new has occurred _ Simon is at Washington & Jac at Lancaster _ our family would be reduced to three if it were not replenished from the country. but Gratz Etting is on a visit to his parents, and as the city has great attractions for him, he passes a good deal of time with us _

little Beck Moses, is delighted that she had written to you before she received your kind message & [Miriam] [...] say she should have been much gratified [...] written, they all send love to you & their uncles in which they are joined by all our Brothers Sisters & nieces, Ellen will write, and will be glad to be written to, she often talks of both. as of a gratification much to be desired _ tell my dear Ben, I receive his promises with good faith, and expect him to redeem them, my best love to him & Hyman. and my respects to your Mother.

Adieu My dear Maria, do not let it be so long again before I hear from you, "your easy joy [trot?]" is not more pleasant to you, than to hear tell of it will be to me, I wish to be familiarized to all your concerns. and most sincerely pray for a continuance of Yours & My dear Brothers health & happiness _ Yr. affectionate RG _

[Address:]

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
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