

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

October 3, 1820

My Dear Maria,

Last week Mr. Boswell took charge of a little box containing a few little articles of which I beg your acceptance they have given me a great deal of pleasure to prepare, and the girls were delighted to be employed for you _ the pieces are labeled with the names of the workers you will perceive you are not indebted to me for any fancy work. and you must charge to the account of distance. the smallness of the offering. I should have been much pleased to have completed the [wardrobe] had not the bulk of larger articles deterred me. It is a long time indeed since I have heard from you, or my dear Ben _ and you can scarcely conceive how much I was disappointed at our Brother Hymans detention _ we had supposed he was on his journey and I was beginning to calculate the days until his return _ when the account arrived that he had changed his plans. I sincerely hope he will be able to come home before the winter sets in, his absence has already been more than twice the length I expected _

our city begins to resume its usual appearance, the citizens are returning to their habitations _ and strangers begin to pass thro' undismayed by the alarm of Yellow-fever. indeed when we compare our situation to the southern cities we cannot be sufficiently grateful for escaping the dreadful calamity with which we were threatened _ and they are suffering under _ poor Savannah has been visited in wrath _ fire & pestilence [have] brought down her glory. and filled her streets with mourning & lamentations [end of page]

New Orleans too is the scene of disease & death _ Ellen & I have really grieved for poor Mr. Larned _ his short brilliant [career] is too soon arrested _ frequently his name reached us accompanied with praise or recounting some circumstance in the routine of duty, which seemed to indicate that he was rising in honors & usefulness _ on Saturday we were shocked to see an obituary notice _ of his falling a victim to the Yellow fever. pray did you know his wife? I find she is mentioned with great sympathy. as being bequeathed in the course of one Year. of almost every tender tie of nature _ her Mother, brother child & husband! _ what my dear Maria, can that poor woman have left in this world. to render her weary [pilgrimage] supportable? If she has not a heart steadfast in the love of God _ and submissive to His will _ she must fall into despondency and so die _ but as Stern says, "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." and he is not less tender of his other creatures _ poor Mrs. Larned will not be forsaken _ his aged Mother will be sadly shaken, she

gloried in her son _

our Sister Rachel is preparing to come to town. her son Horace is really a noble boy _ I shall be quite rich in company when her numerous little folks get back _ we have been so small all summer and since Jo's absence have hardly been able to keep house. at all, when the gentlemen do not come in town to dinner _ we emigrate [up] street and take up our quarters at Mr. Hays's

Tell My dear Ben, his friend the Major accompanied by his wife paid me a visit Yesterday and appears very anxious to see him _ Mrs. Biddle also enquired if you were not to be here in the Spring. they are desirous to meet old friends in new conditions H. Williams & his fair Julia too court your favor _ they anticipate great pleasure in comparing the happy present with the gay past. and say to have you located in the neighbourhood would be completing the compact
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our sisters send affectionate greetings to you all _ and so do their sons & daughters. Ellen means to write you a letter _ she has long desired to do so. but from putting it off too long finds [it] difficult to begin. as she feels an apology necessary unless she can produce a letter worthy of itself to attract your favor. and you know how apt our anxiety to do a thing well, is to produce a difficulty where none exists _ give my best love to My dear Brothers. I shall write to Hyman soon _ I beg my dear Maria for a letter from you _ I have been expecting one these two weeks _ and every time the postman rings have a disappointment not at all favorable to my other correspondents _ Make my affectionate respects to Col. Morrison and my regards to Mrs. M. remember me also at Canewood to your excellent Mother _

And believe me My dear Sister, with
very sincere affection _ and best wishes for [your?]
health & happiness your attached [RG?]

Oct. 3rd. 1820

[Address:]

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
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Kentucky