

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**November 11, 1820**

Novr. 11th. 1820

Yes indeed My dear Maria, I acknowledge with much gratitude that I am your debtor for two letters. and tho' sufficient time elapsed between their dates. to have replied to the first, I hope you are too tenacious of the privilege this gives you, \_ to chide me too keenly for following your example \_ your interesting acknowledgement affords a plea which is irresistible but I know you are too rational a woman \_ to take such advantage of it as I have seen done by some ingenious dames \_ who contrived to make the period of their probation, one of extensive power. you certainly have learned the art of keeping a secret \_ and tho' you have confessed to the main point. leave us still in suspense as to the age of the charming visitor you will bring us in the Spring \_ we needed some fair promise to reconcile us to the prospect of Hyman's protracted absence, I find you are surplanting me with him \_ and have made yourself so agreeable that he allows a little business to be sufficient excuse for another winter's residence with you \_ will you be pleased, when you send him home, to let me know by "what conjurations and mighty magic you have used" as I am resolved to practice, any gentle acts you have found so successful. to keep him stationary, when I am once again blest with the sight of him \_  
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our brother Jo returned home last week after an absence of two months he just escaped [the] winter-journey. for it has been snowing here all day \_ in those cities which were afflicted with Yellow fever \_ this early winter will be hailed with joy. but we are not always grateful for rough blessings and I fear are often discontented even with the Seasons.

I rejoice that the pestilence is stayed \_ at New Orleans & Savannah I lamented poor Mr. Larned very much. and find he is considered a great public loss. Edward Fenno, a young friend of ours. had the fever & recovered. he speaks in the highest terms of the humanity of the colored women, who attended him, and provided him with every comfort during his illness \_ but for all that I wonder, that persons who know the difference between that climate and the more salubrious north. can for the [...] of gain, sacrifice such advantages for the [uncertainties] of a few fleeting months. when the chances are so much against them. the natives may grow rich and flourish being enured to the climate \_ and they should have some privileges. to compensate them for the evils of their situation \_ pray do you know a widow Sergeant. who removed from Natches to our

City last summer? she has purchased a fine house in Chesnut St \_ and set up an Equipage. she has a pretty large family. and from appearances is very wealthy. but I do not think she is calculated to make a dash here. she is an active managing woman. and her daughter a gentle creature. forming an entire contrast as they appeared to me, on a visit I made them. I should suppose Mrs. S. could superintend her own plantation \_ while Mrs. Thompson would scarcely be able to manage a nursery \_ but I was much taken with the pretty feeble Mrs. Thompson, and as she is very young. think she may acquire energy of character \_ where she finds every Lady must take the trouble of thinking for them selves. aye and some times help them selves too \_ one of the curses of slavery is the entire [dependence] [end of page]

[the] poor Mistress is reduced to \_ when she is rich enough to have all her wants supplied by numerous servants \_

our Brother Jac, bids me say to Hyman & Benjn. that he has attended to their commissions \_ Watson's package of the most fashionable cut (coronation coats) &c are ready for an opportunity and the first that occurs will also [have in charge?]. Oil for your Ladyship, and pewter platters for your [guests] \_ If they do not arrive as soon as you may have occasion for Macassar oil. I would promise to you, that it is thought here by hair dressers that bear's oil is preferable for the hair. and a pomatum, made of it is greatly preferred to any other grease \_

Our Sisters & brothers My dear Maria, send you most affectionate love. we all long for the Spring when we shall have the happiness of seeing you. altho' I would not, you should [fatigue] your self remember your Sister is anxious to hear of your [...] and [begs you?] will use Hymans or Ben's pen to give the [...] information when it becomes irksome to write your self \_ Ellen and the rest of the girls desire their love they are delighted to hear you are pleased with their work. and proud of your promise to send each a letter \_ tell my dear Ben how rejoiced I am to hear of his happiness which is proclaimed by all who return from Kentucky. and say to dr. Hyman that I will write him soon, to both make my love accepted \_ and to your self

Dear Maria, say that your Sister prays to Almighty God that all your fond anticipations may be happily realized \_ that you may be protected in the hour of peril \_ and blest according to the wishes of your own heart and when you bring your treasures I will join in your thanksgiving. Adieu dear Maria, ever your affectionate RG \_

[Address:]  
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Ky \_