

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

March 30, 1821

If the return of your brother has not dressed your countenance with smiles, my dear Maria. I fear this tardy greeting from your lazy Sister, will not be very graciously received. but indeed you have daily been in my mind & heart and if I had not been very busy, and very stupid and sometimes very sad too _ I should long since have presented myself before you _ but I suspect you knew, long before I did that our brother Jo was going to leave me, and have sympathized in my loneliness, and if so, have you not urged Hyman to hasten home? and will you not hasten yourself too to perform your promise and realize my long & anxious anticipations? _ Mr. Blair will tell you how much I calculate on your visit and I believe he is so well pleased with Phila. that he will give his vote in our behalf _ he has gained the esteem of our whole family circle and we shall be very sorry to miss his agreeable society _ I have a great desire to see Mrs. Blair of whom he speaks with as much animation, as Romeo might have done of his lady-love _ he has even given us hopes that he will some day bring her across the Mountains and we yesterday planned a charming summer party to the Sea-side, which I fear he will quite forget when he sets foot in Kentucky again _

Will you thank your Mother, My dear Maria, for her interesting P. S. and will you forgive me for reading it first? but how could I help turning to it, with a grateful sense of her goodness [end of page]

and something like triumph in the success of my stratagem to learn something about you _ It would be presumption in me to attempt giving you any Phila. news, as Mr. Blair will do it in so much more agreeable manner. he has collected or rather culled every thing worth transporting for his wifes amusement. and I find is very apt to associate you in them all _ "Kenilworth" is the latest literary favorite, and as you have it before this, it has no doubt "beguiled you of your tears." and gratified your imagination _ the splendor of Elizabeths' court is finely represented _ and her character admirably drawn _ but the sweet little unfortunate countess _ the ambitious cruel Liecester, and the noble minded Tressilian are worthy of their renowned Author _ we have prevailed on your brother to become novel-reader, and have supplied him with Scott volume after [volume], which he takes as eagerly as a boarding-school miss _ and I doubt not reads with as much enthusiasm _ tho' he rails very learnedly against the practice _ and will do penance when

he lays them aside. if he returns to the custom of condemning them _

Give my best love to my dear Ben, and thank him for the promise of writing. you will make him your amanuensis when it is inconvenient to do so your self _ he will certainly not be lazy in your service. and knows you could not employ him for any one more tenderly interested than I am.

Hyman will be at New Orleans I hope when this reaches you. I shall be impatient to hear that he has left

Kentucky. for Mr. Blair seems to think him as good as settled there, and he has some reason to argue thus when a year & a half has gone by since he took up his abode there _

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to your Mother & Sisters present my affectionate regards I claim this privilege with the latter, from the many fine pictures drawn of them, by the skillful hand of one who knows them _ Ellen begs she may be permitted to have a place in your circle, she loves you & her uncle dearly _ and expects Mr. B. will make her welcome with the rest of the party _

I think of you dearest Maria, with a sisters solicitude and a sisters hopes, and pray the Almighty may bless you with all your heart desires _ a little season, and your tribulations will end in [joy] & gladness _ which I trust will confirm the happiness of My dear brother & yourself and thus delight your Affectionate

RG _

March 30th. 1821.

[Address:]

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