

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

November 7, 1821

Novr. 7th. 1821 _

Hyman told me, he would write the first letter to Lexington, & I should write the second, else My dear Maria, I should have thanked you by the last mail for yours dated at Harrisburg _ we have been disappointed and not getting further intelligence of your progress, but hope your whole journey will be equally pleasant with its commencement and that we shall soon hear you _ are safe & happy at home _ we daily & hourly regret you _ every lovely child reminds me of your darling _ and we are continually tantalized by the sight of Mrs. Powels little beauties, who have come to town, and inhabit the room immediately opposite our parlour windows. her Youngest is an infant not much larger than Gratz. and almost as lovely _ I wish they would go back into the country _

I can scarcely realize that you were three months with us _ so rapidly do pleasant hours flee away _ while the anticipation of three winter months seem to lengthen in the contrast beyond all calculation _ we have had several days of rain, which we hope will meet you at Pittsburg & prepare the river for your accommodation _ Why did not our dear Ben send a few lines from Bedford? indeed, Maria separation from him, is a severe conflict _ which the conviction that he is happy, could alone reconcile me to _ and that you [end of page]

dearest, make him so is a source of never failing gratitude to your Sisters heart _ may you long enjoy every felicity together _

little Horace is but just now recovering, his mouth has been very sore, Dr. Chapman says with the scurvy _ but his mother thinks calomel may have produced it _ the house they live in has been purchased for a new-married couple, and they driven out _ I am in hopes to profit by it, in gaining them for neighbours, Mr. Moses has applied for a house at the corner of 8th. Street _

should you see the death of Rachel Cohen announced in the News paper. do not be alarmed. tis not our cousin _ tho' indeed she has suffered great "extremity from love" & [grief] also _ but I hope she will survive the termination of her hopes _ poor girl she has lingered out a life of way ward expectation _ and deceives her self even to the last by imagining that ill health kept her lover absent, and not forgetfulness _ the whole family make constant enquiries about you _ and what is

very singular, you are a unanimous favorite _ Sally was here
to day and sends her best love _

I saw Mrs. Williams yesterday who gave a long string of
regrets & disappointments at not seeing you more frequently _
she was sick, and so unfortunate when [we] did exchange
visits _ and then she sympathized with me for your loss so kindly
and looked so prettily, that I am sure Mr. Blair would have
admired & excused her if I did not _ to day chesnut
Street has been a scene of gaiety _ on an occasion which would
make a moralist, or an observer of human affairs _ quite sad _
the splendid furniture of a ruined gentleman was exhibited
for [sale], and to-morrow will be distributed under the [auctioneers]
[end of page]

hammer to the [four] corners of the city _ the luxuries which wealth
and ambition & taste, had combined to render the most beautiful I ever
saw. Mrs. Waln's drawing-room was certainly more like an apartment
in an eastern fairy [tale], than a Phila. parlour _ I wish you could
have seen it _ for I confess I had no idea of its grandeur _ and
can not compare any furniture I had before seen with it _ alas
alas! her french carpets [were] this day trodden by many a clown-
ish foot _ and her mirrors reflected objects, which it would have
shocked her nerves to witness in the retirement of her dressing
room _ but "fallen from her high estate," she will I believe ac-
knowledge that happiness does not always [dwell] with riches _
she is more sensible of her powers to make comforts, than she
formerly was, to enjoy them _ activity has restored health _ and
adversity produced an energy she never called into action before _

our brother Hyman continues to suffer with the pain [in his]
[...] [resists] my entreaties to apply to medical aid _ [...]
[...] but bids me say she will write in a day or two [...]
[...] with Jac for inattention & threatens to appeal to you _
she told him, the other day, that she should tell you he had been
struck dumb by your departure _ Miriam Etting is with me for
the winter, the rest of the family much as you left them _
but all send affectionate remembrance to you and my dear
Ben. and kisses to your son _ but pray be merciful, for if you
perform all their messages you will devour him with too much
love _ present me affectionately to your Mother, my regards
to Mr. Blair _ and pray My dear Maria, think of us with interest
and pleasure, and try to wish that ~~you~~ may [soon] make us
another visit soon, which will confer happiness on your affectionate
Sister RG.

remember me to Milly _
love to my dearest Ben _

[Address:]
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
Lexington Kentucky

[Endorsement:]
R. Gratz
7 Nov. 1821