

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

December 29, 1821

At length my dear Maria, we have the happiness to know that you are at home again, and in health. and I trust your darling boy has not suffered _ nor made you suffer during your long and tedious journey. it appears an age since you left us yet we have not ceased to regret you. as the season advances when Phila. has most attractions for strangers, we wish your visit had been planned so as to have partaken of its amusements. I called to see Mrs. Bayard a few days after a grand ball had been given by Mrs. Meade, after enquiring very kindly about you, she lamented that you had not been there. said she could not help thinking what a fine figure you would have made among them. and in her usual style of saying pretty things, passed some of her well timed compliments with so much judgment, that I went away quite charmed with her politeness, and scarcely doubting her sincerity. what a pity thought I, she is a Chew. one might else have been delighted with such candour _ she is very beautiful too, and their house is among the gayest of our fashionables, they have already given one large party and are going to have a dance soon. Mrs. John Sergeant has invited us to see the old year end at her house _ and the Assembly's commence the first week in the new one _ but what is all this to you or I? if you were here I should buckle on my old finery again for the pleasure of accompanying you. but as it is, I do not mean to go any where. except to matronize Rosa Hays on her debut. for to tell you the truth such scenes are "stale, flat & unprofitable" to me _ the companion's of former days have either passed away. or have lost their interest in my heart and the idea has so much of melancholy in it to me. that
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a ball room seems more like a memorial of lost pleasures than an incitement to new ones _

We have had recent letters from our Brother Jo, who appears much pleased with Gibraltar, and the society _ he fears he shall [not] be able to make a tour thro' Italy as he intended, having been so long detained by business _ but expects to go to France & England.

Ellen has at length lost her friend Ann Lee, who was permitted to return home last week, she [was] much grieved to part with her _ but bids me send love & kisses to you and the darling. I assure you no child was ever more lamented than yours _ he is quoted on all occasions as the loveliest, the best, and the prettiest of his age _ poor Horace suffered desperately in the comparison. but he is now taken into favor again _ he has regained his beauty and begins to smile very sweetly _ but I dare say your boy will walk and

talk as soon as he will, I beg you will not fail to let me know all his accomplishments. his first speech, which will no doubt be a fine specimen of natural eloquence _ and the ingenious substitutes by which he already makes him self understood _

I please my self with the idea that there is a letter on the way communicating all these interesting particulars. our dear Ben's rarely blesses my eyes _ we are told they are business letters _ tell him when he has leisure he must write to me, as otherwise I derive no benefit from his epistles _ I called to see his friend Mrs. Meredith this afternoon. who desires her love, she told me some time ago that she meant to write to you. she is very much interested in poor Seixas' affairs, and among his best friends you have no doubt seen his appeal, and felt concerned for him. I hope he will be justified _ and if innocent, made to appear so before the public. the legislature will no doubt cause an investigation to be made _ at present Mr. Clerc is in his place in the institution. both he & his wife are dumb she is a pretty interesting woman. with very fine manners [end of page]

and intelligent countenance, their child only 20 months old, talks very plainly to her nurse _ and makes signs to her parents which are really wonderful. she appears equally intelligible to both. had they come here for any purpose but to supersede Mr. Seixas I should have thought them an acquisition to the Institution. but after he had devoted himself to establish such a school, to be turned off, destitute on the World. I think so cruel, that unless he were guilty, it is unpardonable _

Our Sisters & brothers all send you their love, they are all well. Fanny has not been to town since her husbands return from Baltimore, but she was made happy a few days ago by letters from her sons at Canton. Maria Hays is the only invalid in the family she has been confined four weeks to her chamber, trying the effect of blisters for her deafness to day she dined below. and means to relinquish further experiments since she is unable to determine whether her [...] have been productive of any good _

embrace your son for me, and give my best love to my dear brother. I cannot apologize for my stupidity in any Other way than by saying I am very busy as the closing year demands that my annual accounts for the O. Society should be rendered in. and this gives me a distaste to my pen, for at least a month _ I will try to do better when I have had the happiness to hear from you _ but believe me My dear Sister nothing interrupts the pleasures & affection with which my thoughts ever turn to you. May you be ever blest with health, and every domestic comfort _ present my regards

to your Mother & sisters _ I hope you found your Aunt better
and that you may long see all you love around you _ Adieu.
believe me Your affectionate Sister
RG _

Decr. 29th. 1821.

[Address:]
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
Lexington K-y.

[Endorsement:]
R. Gratz
29 Dec. 1821