

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

February 9, 1822

I am not quite sure, My dear Maria, that you are entitled to an apology. altho I have been so long silent that I am almost ashamed of my self. and long most ardently to hear from you. you owe me a letter I believe notwithstanding _ but some how your conscience is not very sensitive on this subject and you are sure, transgress as much as you may, a letter will always make your peace _ I wish you had more curiosity about Phila. for then it would urge you to enquire what is going on, and you would oftener be induced to tell me something about yourself & son in return for the news I could tell you _ do you know the dear little fellow is free to make choice of a -nother mate. as the infant beauty. Harriet Bayard is no more! whether she fell a victim to religion or vanity is not determined the priest who baptized her threw a large cup of cold water over her head. and her young mother, and doting grand mother could not resist the pleasure of exhibiting her to every visitor _ many a gentle slumber was broken. and warm night clothes exchanged for more becoming dress. to elicit hollow praise from evening guests _ till at length the tender babe fell sick and after a few days desperate sufferings expired, to the infinite distress of her parents _ it is nearly a month since, the family are just coming out again _

You have heard of the more dreadful calamity we have experienced in the destructive fire of the Orphan Asylum. and I am sure have sympathized with our distress poor little souls how sad their fate! one would scarcely think it possible such a total destruction could take place in so rapid a manner. there was not an article of any thing saved, except what was [round] the bodies of those who escaped _ we have taken a house in [end of page]

Market Street between Schuylkill and center square, until an Asylum can be rebuilt. the whole state takes an interest in our misfortune and as much money is already raised as will completely reenstate every pecuniary loss _ but the heartrending circumstance of so many having perished _ will create a new anxiety in the breast of the managers which while it deepens the interest takes off much from the satisfaction of their labours _ they have been much abused _ as public feeling rather than judgment operates on the first occurrence of a fatal accident _ but while sensible they were not neglectful of any duty _ they can only write their regrets. and confess that liable to such severe dispensations, these utmost endeavours are insufficient to rescue their helpless charge from every danger. Our brother Hyman has been staying at home for a whole week. in which time he has been cupped & bled & physicked _ but not cured

of his rhumatism. unfortunately soon after Chapman had undertaken his case, he was confined by a sore-foot, and has not been able to see him _ I hope however I shall be able to prevail on Hyman to keep in a little longer, as fresh colds will undo what little advantage he may have gained _

we keep a supply of novels for his amusement in the day time and play whist with him of evenings _ Mr. Hays comes sometimes to regale him with picquete but all this is very dull business to him and he threatens hard to break through his restraints and return to the counting-house. If we had your little darling here, the care would be altered, I think he would reconcile his uncle to the sofa for a month, for I never saw him so fond of any child _ you will say I never saw a child so attractive, I do not know, My dear that I ever did. we all have a great yearning of heart towards him, and so lament the separation _ It is cruel of you, Maria not to write oftener _ do you depend on Ben's letters? if so, know that I rarely see them, and tho' they do contain the welcome "alls well" _ there are so many dear etcetcas one wishes to hear, that you must really open a domestic callender for me _

Ellen could tell you of the [gaiety] of the city for she & Rosa [partake] pretty freely of them _ the latter enjoys it greatly _ all the charmes of novelty are in her favor. and she is a good [end of page]

deal admired _ Maria has been confined to the house all winter she has not been out three times in as many months _ Sister Etting has also been agood deal indisposed _ but they are both recovered tell My dear Ben, I love him truly and wish he could spare time to write to me but if you his better part will do this kindness for him. I shall be content to writ his pleasure. our brother Jac wishes room for a few lines. and so I shall only beg you to embrace your sweet cherub for me. give my love to your Mother and share with my beloved Ben the affection, of My dear Maria
Your attached Sister RG.

Feby. 9th. 1822 _

Hyman Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

February 9, 1822

Dear Ben

I suppose Becky has told you I have been at home for a week by directions of Doctr. Chapman I do not know that I have been benefited but I shall try it a few days longer _ I have not enquired what is doing at the counting house but not much [is doing] I expect _ [Morrow?] &

[Dudley] Dickey remitted \$700 on a/c their note _ I presume
they did not purchase any goods as [none] were
sent to Pittsburg [w Whiling?], you must endeavour
to get [morrow?] & [Dudley's?] note for \$900 _ my best love
to Maria

HG _

[Address:]
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
Lexington K.y_

[Endorsement:]
R. Gratz
9 Feb. 1822

May 12th 1822
[Ans?]