

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

May 4, 1822

I have waited & waited My dear Maria, to no purpose neither you, nor Ben will write to me, and so I must [...] write my self or forgo all communication with you _ now since the arrival of our Brother Jo & Benj Etting we have been so often called upon to speak of you and your boy. to tell all that occurred in which you were at all interested. that I have lived over the delightful visit you made us. and dreamed of my darling Gratz, his bright eyes & his cherub smile. and kept you both so constantly in mind that even your laziness has failed to separate us _ My dear Ben says in one of his letters, that you are not well _ have you weaned your son? perhaps nursing does not agree with you. such a heathy boy with a mouth full of teeth, does not require more than one years dependence on milk, and your constitution cannot spare too much. I hope therefore you will not pursue the Kentucky fashion of suckling children until they are named _ and waiting until the Young fellow is able to chuse his own title.

What think you of the proceedings of the Institution for the Deaf & Dumb. the election has just passed, & they have turned out every member who voted for D. Seixas. Jac, who was the most active & laborious & effective member in forming the institution procuring its charter and endowment _ and so devoted to its interest _ and Jo who was free from [the] offence of even knowing any thing about their quarrels has been also removed. to make room for partizans of Clem Biddle and the majority. they have published a most scandalous pamphlet, containing statements or rather misstatements from memory in which they make Seixas bad enough. but yet fail to convince people that
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they are right. Mr. Meredith & Dr. Patterson are also turned out, and are exceedingly mortified _ but the word of the matter is that Mr. Clerc has been recalled to Hartford and there is no competent teacher in the School to take his place. thus Legislative bounty and benevolent exertions are likely to fail _ from the malice & prejudice of a set of men & an ignorant woman _ but it is in vain to be vexed let those who have done the mischief look to it _ poor Hyman is at length reduced to the necessity of taking Mercury. his rhumatism will not be dislodged by other means. Chapman has promised with this agent to effect a change in a fortnight. he commenced last night [tho?] rest of our Sisters & Brothers with their families are well _ Ellen talks of writing to you. but she has not got over her Spring lassitude & head-achs yet _ Ben Etting returns to Canton in this month

he is anxious to improve the time for money-making while he is Young & I hope will succeed _ he [has] given me in charge for you a very handsome Tea-Caddy which shall be sent by the first safe conveyance. I hope too, soon to send you "the fortunes of [Nigel]" as I conclude the Pirate has not lessened your taste for Scotts novels. Your friend Mrs. Morris has a daughter, which she flatters herself looks like your child whom she used to admire so much she always makes kind enquiries about you, and really appears to feel attached to you _ Mrs. Bayard & Miss Conell are like-wise among your enquiring friends _ and Mrs. Meredith desires her love, she was much gratified by your affectionate message but bid me say she objected to your phrase, that you feared her tongue except in consideration of its being [a] provincial, she is a partaker in the mortification of her husbands dis-missal, and has sent in her resignation. after devoting much time and attention to the domestic arrangements of the asylum
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on looking at your last letter I find it dated 28 January I believe this is the third you are indebted to me for _ and yet have reproached my self for permitting so little intercourse pray ask my brother Ben if he will permit me to tax him with my letters. I do not like that we should only exchange [greetings] quarterly, and if you will not answer me, I shall be obliged to suspect (as the ladies say about visiting) that you do not care to receive letters _ now is not that spirited? but if you were to take me at my word, I should be sadly mortified, and perhaps endeavour to revenge myself by learning to write more agreeably _ I hear Mrs. Hunt & Theodosia are coming to Phila. this summer, what a pernicious woman Mrs. C. must be, to wound the fair name of this amiable girl _ but such an attempt must recoil on her self _ are you acquainted with Mrs. Craige? she told me, your son was the wonder of the [West] and her husband endeavoured to convince [me he?] was [greatly?] celebrated for beauty _ sweet fellow he [h...?] me out of a difficulty _ for neither of us knew how to [enter?] -tain the other, until we happily thought of Tony and then got thro' a visit very satisfactory _ every body here sends a great deal of love to you My dear Maria _ and if you would but bless me oftener with a sight of your hand, you would delight my heart, which ever dwells on you, my dearest Ben, and your boy with the fondest affection,

God Bless you all, with every
happiness & prosperity in life prays your
devotedly attached Sister

RG

May 4th. 1822

[Address:]
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
Lexington Ky

[Endorsement:]
R. Gratz
4 May. 1822