

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

May 27, 1822

I will not be long your debtor my dear Maria, for the charming letter I received this morning, for I have been some time wishing to write, and only waited until I could tell you that all were well again _ Gratz Etting came down to "the family meeting" this Spring and having spent the Passover with us, and lingered the full term of his intended visit took his departure and had proceeded but half a days journey when he was taken ill and obliged to turn back since which he has continued an invalid for four weeks, and is still a prisoner in his chamber. but is on the recovery _ Ben sailed for Canton on Saturday _ full of regrets at leaving home under such circumstances and indeed we all felt his departure as a great deprivation, while his mother was suffering so much anxiety _ but a little time will reconcile her to it as Gratzs recovery will afford occasion for grateful feelings _ and at present her attentions are all due to [him]-[Gratz].

I was much amused at your preparations for phrenology. you are quite [in] the fashion. and should your learned professor be unable to give satisfactory developments of the structure, you may not doubt get relief by applying to the agent of "the central Phrenological Society" of which Dr. Hays is a member _ Dr. Bell the lecturer entertained us last Evening with some strictures on the cranium of Dr. C. they mean to produce him to the Society. and if he finds any fault with your caps after being enlightened, by the splendid display of science they are preparing for him _ you may make him over to Gall him self.
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We are charmed with your account of Gratz. how I should delight to [see] the dear fellow running about, and hear his attempts to talk. he will no doubt be a genius _ do not I beg of you lower his head if he should have the family projection on the crown, which these new lights denominate the organ of obstinacy _ for you know firmness in a man is really becoming _ and then if he is taught to think right, there is no danger to be apprehended from perseverance _ I am glad My dear Ben begins to suspect it is time for him to write, as I may then hope when you find it inconvenient, he will favor me with a few lines _ our Brother Hyman is recovering from his rhumatism and begins to look well, Rachel rallies him about a visit Adeline Myers proposes to make me during the summer but he does not apprehend any danger from it _ and the

only effect I anticipate is his flight _ for he acquired such a Spirit of roving in the West that I feel no security in his domestication. Jo has been so constantly engaged with business since his return, that I believe he has made no arrangement for the summer. and Jac talks of so many that I feel assured he will stay quietly at home and amuse himself with talking of them it being impossible to execute them all _

I wish you were with us now, that all our brothers are home, Jo ought to see your son, and it would make us so happy to assemble the little darlings & their parents together _ Horace has grown a noble boy. but he does not talk _ he is smart enough and makes as many intelligent signs as other dumb persons and succeeds so well in making himself understood that there is no hope of his using his tongue very soon _

When people are very sensitive on a certain subject there [are] a thousand chances to one, of their being disappointed [end of page]

and chagrined _ and so it has been with me in the location of the Orphan Asylum _ however, to answer your question, My dear Sister, it is building on the old scite. and to be 100 feet long by fifty three deep. the plan of the building is beautiful [commodious] and convenient _ tho' not placed [on] the spot to shew it to most advantage _ a number of Seixas's friends have opened a subscription and are forming a new Institution for the Deaf & Dumb under his tuition. it is said they have collected 2000\$ and got him 8 or 10 scholars _ our brothers have not taken an active part in it, tho' much interested for him _ Jac has forsworne all societies _ since his disappointment & ill treatment in the first _ but will be very glad to see this succeed _

I have not made up my mind about Mr. Clay's election. I might have been disposed to vote for him, had he not made me an April fool _ and disappointed me sadly into the [...?], for I was mighty anxious to see him [...] was very polite to enquire for the Ladies when he [...] Dr. Chapman told me, he wished to see us _ no [doubt?] on your account _ Mrs. Meade if she might _ no doubt would make him President, and if a man of gallantry, he would be proud of her pretty vote. she spoke with great interest of him, and feared he was not sufficiently recovered when he set out on his journey _ I believe Mr. Clays visit to Phila. made him many friends, and if he does succeed will have no reason to be displeased with our citizens _ as our own poor Governor has. whose arrival is announced with the name of the tavern he stopped at _ and no further notice taken _ embrace your darling for me _ my best love to my dear Ben, and my dear Maria, for your self & them

the best wishes and the tenderest affection from the heart of
your attached Sister RGratz
[end of page]

our brothers & Sisters & nieces send their best love to you
all _ Adieu _ May 27th.

[Address:]
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
Lexington Ky _

[Endorsement:]
R. Gratz
27. May 1822