

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

January 20, 1823

The joyful accounts of your safety my dear Sister fills my heart with gratitude and after returning thanks to the Almighty for your preservation I come to express my gladness to you, that you have added another blessing to my dear Brothers portion _ and to utter my hopes that your Boys may ever be sources of comfort and happiness to their Parents _ in ancient times you know sons were considered the best of all inheritance for our sex [was] not so important in society as we are at present _ and with all the advantages modern civility gives us I cannot but [believe] you will allow sons have greatly the preference to daughters, in your family particularly _ as your first-born will there by obtain a name and a companion, where as had the second been a girl, little Sister would not have impinged on his rights in the least _ and he might have been Gratz alone till the next appeared _ I assure you the stranger took me quite by surprise as I did not expect him for some time _ but I hope to profit by his early appearance, as he will be of a good travelling age in the spring. and his young cousin Miss Gertrude will if she continues improving be quite a belle for both the Kentucky boys _

we have had a most pleasant winter thus far, very little snow or cold weather and as our fashionable world is very sober, it is fortunate they have the comfort of pleasant [end of page]

as a substitute for gaiety & dissipation _ the only novelty of the season is the Countess [Servillier], or "Princess" Charlotte Bonaparte, who makes her first appearance here in society _ at home the Miss [Morges?], daughters to an eminent french Physicians, are her maids of honor _ who do not sit in her presence, and treat her with royal distinction _ but as these ladies do not go much into society. the Princess is patronized by Miss Keene and Mrs. Lenox _ the report of La' Mere's death is not credited by Joseph, as he had letters from Rome but a few days previous to the date of the account _ at which time she was well _ and being desirous of presenting his daughter it would be very inconvenient to credit it _ she is a diminutive personage, but very accomplished _ speaks a little english _ and appears pleased with america _ The Count is much admired _ for his urbanity of manners _ and amiable conduct _ Your friend Harry Sergeant has lost his incon-

-stant mistress. Miss Caroline G. has bestowed her fair head on Mr. Croxal, to the utter astonishment of the beau-monde Her father came home at Christmas _ and not intending to leave his seat in the Legislature again during the Session the marriage was hurried on, ~~that~~ [the] public business might not suffer from his absence, the bride left town a few days after. and is now daily expected home to receive the congratulations of her friends. she passes one year with her parents and then takes up her residence in Trenton. where her husband is to practice the Law _

we have had great anxiety about Gratz Etting, who continues so much indisposed that we fear it will be necessary for him to return home, as soon as an opportunity offers to get [end of page]

a conveyance _ the rest of the family are well _ and no change likely to take place among the young folks _ except the little ones growing up very pretty & very clever your favorite Becky Moses is a charming little girl, and the life of our family parties _ she is so merry and animated and full of glee _ Isabella is at present with us _ the Girls at Willington often talk of you _ Caroline asked me Yesterday if I should not like to go to Kentucky _ [were] she me _ she should be delighted to pay you a visit they all desire to be remembered _ and wish you much joy of your son _

Tell Ben, Mr. Jo Sims has made an assignment of his Estate!! this a few years ago would have appeared as improbable as that Stephen Girard would stop payment _ and [...] could scarcely be a more striking [instance of?] the [mutability] of fortune_ [and] in his old age to be [...] [stripped] of wealth, which he enjoyed thro' a long life is truly a melancholy thing _ his wife has had a stroke of palsey and is an invalid for life _ so that misfortunes are multiplied upon his head _

our brothers & Sisters send you affectionate love _ and beg you will embrace your children for them _ Ellen and Isabella beg you will accept theirs _ Adieu My dearest Maria, may you be blest with a perfect restoration to health, and long enjoy every happiness is the constant wish of your
attached Sister RG

January 20th.

[Address:]
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
Lexington
Kentucky

[Endorsement:]
Rebecca Gratz
Jan. 20. 1823