

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**April 20, 1823**

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My Dear Maria

Our Brother Jo has returned home so full of delightful anecdotes of you, & Benj, and your boys, that I almost defy absence to separate us. Ellen & I kept him up till midnight for almost a week until we had gained all he had to relate, and we enjoyed dear little Gratz's smartness as much as his parents daily do. and fancied his very look and manner as exactly as most lovers of children do, when they either read or hear tell of their entertaining indications of genius or cleverness \_ o, what a pity one could not live always near those they love \_ since the world is so big and so full, it would surely be the best arrangement to change plans with those who do not care to be our neighbours and get next to those who do \_ but perhaps a little patience may bring that about, I will live in the hope it may be so, and in the mean time, try to be satisfied with hearing how happy you are, and how many sources of happiness are growing within your reach. next Year Jo, promises us a visit from you, and he sometimes talks so earnestly of changing his single state for a better one, that I have taken a notion he means to employ the present one in seeking a wife, ~~and~~ [means] hopes go introduce her to you when next you come to Phila. Jo had no sooner arrived, than Hyman took his departure to Pittsburg, and Jac threatens to be off tomorrow for some canal business. I will give it in charge to him, when he is in the best possible humour while contemplating the most beautiful objects in nature, at [end of page]

this most beautiful season, to think of your young son. and fix on a title appropriate \_ but as you have threatened to make a Jacob of him, do not let him commence by stealing his brothers birth-right. and ere the name comes from Lebanon. have one prepared for the elder born. Gratz is certainly a very pretty name, you have chosen it for life and I have retained \_ but I do not know that it would be improved by doubling \_ and we are too far removed from Patriarchal life to adopt the simpler [style] of transposing the surname of the father \_ and make him Gratz the-son-of-Benjamin,

Our Sister Rachel is full of nursing cares \_ her four youngest children have the whooping cough. and as her usual habit involves her in more trouble than most mothers think necessary

to bestow on their children. you may suppose her present burthen very much encreased. Gertrude is a lovely little chubby girl & bears it much better than Horace. who has a lordly spirit, and has been accustomed to full health, good eating, and his own humour. he feels very much insulted at the tyranny of the cough [&] is obliged to leave his meals untasted, [and he] gets into a great passion as he is carried away from his plate. Sarah does not suffer much, and she has a pride in bearing it well, and managing for herself, while the rest are coughing under the care of nurses \_ for you know the sympathy which [like] [gapping], sets them all coughing at the same time \_

have you ever seen 12 or 13 hundred people all laughing? [æt] this is certainly the most amusing sympathy, and if you have never witnessed it, I hope the first winter you spend in Phila. Mathews may be here likewise, for then I could ensure you such a sight \_ the most grave & dignified personages in this grave community have been in this predicament. Dr. Physick & Judge Tilghman were in the same box. Rufus King & a [brace?] senators in another \_ all with distended jaws shewing their teeth, or lack of teeth. before the [end of page]

irrisistable comedian \_ and what is more astonishing him [alone]. he varies his figure, his voice, his characters with such rapidity and is so excellent in all, that you can scarcely realize that he is not a whole company \_ but I hope you will one of these days have an opportunity of seeing him too \_ I saw your friend Miss Warfield, but not so often as I wished to, she ran off to New York just as a number of agreeable parties might have enabled her to spend a fortnight in the gay circle here \_ and returned about passion week. and Passover. when neither the fashionable world, nor ourselves were able to offer any thing worth looking at \_ but Mathews made up for all as she will tell you \_ she is a nice Girl, as Jo says, and was much admired by Dr. Hays and his Academy friends, to whom she made her self very agreeable by giving them an account of the geniuses to the [West] \_

I suppose the noise of Genl. Cadwallader & Dr. Pattisons' [d...?] has [reached] Lexington. if it has not tell Ben, the Genl. refused [the?] Dr. a ticket to an Assembly. that the Dr. returned to Baltimore. his friends looked cold on him for receiving such an insult. he returned. sent a challenge. and fought. wounded Cadwalader. and was greeted with the most unbounded applause on his re-appearance at home \_ [while] the poor wounded man continued a fortnight in Delaware before he was able to travel. and people were in the mean time very free in animadverting on the inconstance of giving gentlemanly satisfaction to a person he would not allow to partake of Gentlemanly amusement \_ and more over [he] had prevented Dr. Chapman from \_ accepting an invitation of a similar kind \_

You see My Dear Maria, these lords of the creation can some times be as silly as the most whimsical of the weaker sex. but they can no doubt

find some apology in the court callender for matters of such high moment.  
poor Mrs. C. with all her family have been at Newport until Friday but  
subject to much trouble, inconvenience & expense \_ and her husband has  
been so unfortunate as to [lose] more reputation than he gained in the  
[rencountre?] \_ embrace your darling boys for their Aunt My dear  
Sister, and tell our beloved Ben, how tenderly I love him; how fondly  
I think of him, and how gratefully I cherish you for the happiness [you]  
bestow on him, and all he loves. ever dearest Maria Your Sister RG.

[Address:]  
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz  
Lexington  
Kentucky

[Endorsement:]  
Rebecca Gratz  
Answered June 8th.  
1823