

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**September 5, 1824**

Phila \_ Sept 5th. 1824 \_

Yesterday was our dear Ben's birth-day and as the glass circulated round the board and each one had some affectionate wish to express for his happiness \_ and long life and continuance of merited blessings. I conceived the wish to send him these congratulations and to tell you how grateful I feel to heaven for this restoration of your health My dear Sister, and the sweet little boy who makes up your trio \_ from all I hear of his brothers, I can only wish he may resemble them. and tho' I dare say you would have welcomed a girl with equal joy \_ I am sure for the poor child's sake you should be more happy, as in the arrangements of this working-day world the men have honors & glory \_ while the weaker vessels are most heavily laden'd by care \_ in your family what ever dear little girls may succeed will have a brave escort of brothers to assist & bless them \_ I can appreciate such treasures most justly for them. as my experience has proved their value \_ I wish you were all here just now that your Gratz & Bernard might see the wonders this busy city is working for the reception of La Fayette, they would talk of it through life \_ it will be a memorable epoch in our annals \_ little Horace puzzles his brain with anticipation of the illumination of which he has no distinct idea and as he has a most romantic attachment for his [cousin] little Ben Gratz. he associates him in all his schemes of enjoyment, and never speaks of the soldiers, and music and La Fayette without saying how Ben Gratz & he will act on the occasion \_ Mr. McIlvaine has promised to dispatch him as soon as he returns to Kentucky and has raised him very much in Horace's estimation by telling him of his growth \_ which he says [surpasses] Horace in [height] [end of page]

I suppose having got over the first difficulties of naming your sons your third will not have to wait long for his, let me beg my dear Sister soon to be informed what you call him \_ and any thing else respecting your domestic concerns. we seem unmeasurably distant from each other while you do not write \_ for Ben, my dearly beloved Ben never condescends to dip his pen for my information \_ and all I hear from Kentucky \_ is that a business letter has arrived \_ and as no particular mention is made we must suppose his family are well \_ we nevertheless talk of you very constantly and make up the want of certain information by a great many ingenious supposes \_ Mr. McIlvaine has told us something \_ Mr. Ralston came home charmed with you all \_ Lexington stands next to Phila. in his estimation \_ and Mr. Holly in an

evening visit to Mrs. Meredith talked [more] about Ben \_ so that from various sources we have culled, much sweet discourse of late \_ which I assure you we make good use of and rehearse again & again \_ but now your boy is old enough to admit of your writing I shall hope for a letter \_ and if you can prevail on Ben to write also in lieu of the visit of which (I will not say how much he has disappointed me) I shall be [greatly] delighted \_

Our Brother Hyman within the last week has greatly improved in his health and good looks \_ but you would think he still looks ill. for he is much ematiated \_ Jo is absent. gone up again to [...?] on business. he is generally very tired of his visit to that country before he finishes. the cold weather overtakes him in the northern climate and winter being very unfriendly to his feelings \_ added to the trouble his tenants give him makes him impatient of this annual tour \_

Jac is home for the present. but we scarcely begin to feel the pleasure of his return before he talks of going off again \_ and he leaves us uncertain as to the length of his stay \_ sometimes he threatens to go on to the West before he returns \_  
[end of page]

I wish it were possible to keep together for the brief time we sojourn here \_ what a delightful world it would be if all we loved could be collected into a circle. to be seen & visited when ever we desired it \_ how often would your threshold my dearest Brother & Sister be pressed by friendly feet \_ how fondly would your boys be caressed daily \_ but perhaps so many more ties would bind me too powerfully to existence and render the transient scene too alluring \_ I hope & pray another year will not pass away without my seeing you all \_ Ben must pay us for this summers disappointment by bringing you here in the next

our Sisters are well \_ and so are our nieces & nephews [Isabella?] does not improve much \_ but she has [no returning?] [disease?] and has been intending to go down stairs [...] [...] \_ I hope she will soon be able to effect it \_ they all send a great deal of love to you \_ the girls often talk of writing but are deterred by the fear of getting no answers remember me affectionately & respectfully to your Mother \_ and believe me My  
dear Maria most affectionally your Sister RG

[Address:]  
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz  
Lexington Ky