

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**November 11, 1825**

Your letter from Maysville arrived here this morning, My Dear Maria, and filled all our hearts with joy \_ it is a long journey \_ indeed! but thank God you have performed it safely \_ and are now enjoying the sweets of home \_ with the benevolent satisfaction of having gratified those who dearly love you \_ and awaken'd a thousand new interests in the hearts of your numerous relations here \_ there is not a day passes without some agreeable recollections in which you are associated \_ the children talk of you perpetually. and are constantly recurring to some kindness or some pleasure they owe to dear Aunt Maria \_ Horace tells over & over again how dear little Bernard kissed him for good bye \_ how much he loves Howard \_ & how sorry he is that his dear Gratz is not here to play with him \_ he is determined as soon as he is big enough to ride on horseback he will go to Kentucky \_ Sarah's eyes fill when she talks of her love & regrets. she is learning to write and her first letter is to be yours she composes every day something to be put in it. the bigger ones are equally eloquent, and if they were as prompt to do, as they are to plan you would be daily visited with letters \_ they have so much to tell you of their jokes and their concerns \_

our Sister Hays' health has improved since you left us \_ she walks out occasionally \_ and tho' her spirits are still depressed I hope she will [insensibly?] be weaned from her grief, and her health be finer than it has been for years \_ Ellen has lost her friend Sarah Coleman, she died last week \_ they were preparing to take her to a warmer climate for the winter \_ when a sudden change took place which indicated a speedy termination \_ and her Physicians forbid her removal \_ she was apprised of her danger \_ and evinced great composure & resignation \_ her character never appeared more lovely during her bright & prosperous career than when her Youth & beauty [was] fading away. and all the gay visions which wealth [end of page]

& indulgent friends spread around her \_ were to be yielded up [she] was only 23 Years of age \_ Eliza Ridgely came from Baltimore at her request and was with her during the last week of her illness \_

We have been living for the last fortnight in the Library while the Parlours are undergoing the necessary operation of painting & papering \_ Hyman is very tired of this arrangement, but I have become as much attached to the little sofa as you were \_ and shall regret my quiet mornings passed in this retirement \_ I was silly enough to feel quite disappointed that I was too late for an opportunity to send you a pattern of my new wall hangings \_ in the hope you would approve & send for the same when you repair your

house \_ what a delightful faculty we possess of bringing those we love home to us, in the minutest concerns of every day life \_ no matter how distant our bodies are \_ the mind can leap both space & time \_ and enjoy sweet communion \_ here am I now, in the little room, you used to occupy a month or two ago, (on Saturday Mornings) \_ the clock just striking nine \_ Jac asleep on the sofa \_ and no one else at home \_ so agreeably chatting with you My dear Sister, that it would not require much stretch of imagination to trace your countenance on the paper or even hear the tones of your voice \_ in reply to me \_ tho' I acknowledge it would be more satisfactory in some cases, such as whether you really have got home without suffering much more from the cold you took on your journey \_ [and] if you feel no other inconvenience from your long ride \_ to be positively assured by your own lips of the fact \_ well since I can not have your answer for several days \_ I will hope for the best, and suppose you as well and as happy as possible \_ surrounded by your Mother & Sisters & nieces and all the joyful groupe whom your arrival has made glad \_ they shall tell you you look so much better that you must come again and breathe the salt sea air. and your sweet boys have been such good travellers \_ have grown & improved so much, that you are every way rewarded [end of page]

for your kindness to your husbands grateful family \_ the girls all bid me send their most Affectionate love \_ Miriam says, mind you tell Aunt Maria \_ that Mr. Seixas has gone to Charles-ton to reside \_ and that Mr. Cohen is engaged to be married to Ellen Etting[,], so we have lost the two beaux she used to laugh so much about \_ Becky means to write herself & tell you all her grievances & Ellen flatters herself that she shall soon have courage to do so too \_ so you must prepare your self to hear the burden of such crosses & cares as bewilder the imaginations of young Ladies and give a zest to the joys of life \_ Becky appears now to have no evil she cannot laugh away. Sally Minis never fails to enquire about you in her weekly visits and begs you will accept her love \_ she is at present greatly concerned for her friend Miss Taylor \_ whose brother has been guilty-[of] and is convicted of Manslaughter. in an affray at the Kinderhook school \_ he is a youth of 15 \_ Horace begs you will ask his Uncle Ben to lend the boys his horse. that they may both pay him a visit. he says they can ride Kate, as the boys in his book [...] the Ass two or three at a time \_ Gratz can see how that is in Mrs. Barbaulds book \_ but if I write down all the messages I have received & promised to deliver. I should have no room to tell you that Jo has returned home from a three weeks visit to the state of New York \_ that I have had a short visit from all the three children of My friend Hoffman \_ Julia is an amiable interesting Girl \_ she returned home on Tuesday \_ and will make me another visit in January. at which period her Father attends

the Albany Court \_ Hyman has been suffering again with his old  
disease but the attack appears to be going off \_ he looks much worse  
of it tho' \_ Jac is well & they are never more animated than when  
speaking & thinking of our Beloved Ben & his family \_ the few months  
you have passed with us will gild a Year's retrospection and  
we only want to hear that you are really at home and all  
well to complete our satisfaction  
[end of page]

God Bless you My dear Sister embrace your darling boys for  
me \_ and offer my best affection to My dear Brother \_ then assure  
your self of the ardent love of your affectionate Sister RGratz

Novr. 11th. 1825

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington

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