

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**June 18, 1826**

The Whooping Cough!! well my dear Maria there is comfort in knowing this is an evil which does not return \_ but if you could only bring them across the mountains what a power of medicine it would save \_ for you know travelling is the best remedy for that disease \_ then much as I desire the privilege of assisting you in all your troubles, I would not have you make the journey under such circumstances \_ my dear little Bernard will learn to be patient tho', from feeling how much lighter the spells of coughing are whilst under its influence, than when a vexed spirit aggravates the evil \_ tell him Horace had the whooping cough when he was a little baby, and did not understand half so well as he does \_ that when he felt it rising in his throat he got very angry and began to cry \_ that this naughtiness made the cough a great deal worse, that the more he cried the more he coughed, and sometimes was almost choaked before he grew patient, and learned to bear it better \_ while little Sarah who was about as old as Bernard used to stand still, and let somebody hold her head while she coughed, and that she got over it much easier \_ poor, dear Children, how I pity them and you my dear Sister as much as them \_ for I am sure you suffer quite as much as they do. and your little infant if he has it will give you more anxiety tho' he may have it lighter \_

It is well under such trials to look over the other pages of parental duties and pleasures \_ to anticipate the joy of their recovery and take the consolation of knowing how many recover, without any injury  
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this is a favorable season too. and what gives me comfort is, that my [Dear] Sister has the faculty of making the best of every thing \_ and will not allow herself to be cast down, whilst any exertion of hers can lighten the burthen \_ From what you say I have hopes that Hyman will soon turn his face homewards, for I assure you we want him very much, tho' by the bye if he grows fat, and is free from rheumatism, I should be ashamed to express such a wish, lest we might purchase our pleasure at too dear a rate, to be sure home is rather dull, compared to what it was last summer when we had you all with us \_ and to morrow Jac is going to visit the Canal and will leave another vacancy \_ My employments dear Maria would give you few hints to improve your domestic economy \_ nor any very bright picture to arouse your fancy \_ I continue the occupation of pedagogue to Horace in the morning and have to exercise some patience in the art of making a little learning palatable to him, he likes to read amusing books \_ but [Ex..ton] words are as great a terror as greek

and algebra are to bigger boys \_ I try to spirit him on to some ambition by telling him how Gratz will get before him. and this has given him a desire to open a correspondence with you, he has just been urging me to write a letter for him, and when I asked him what I should write he tells me to send you a line of the multiplication table \_ do you not think he will be a poet as he would already write in numbers? he is not smart for all that \_ being alone and having only old people to talk to, he sometimes catches up ideas unusual with children, but in a few years we shall find what is due to his capacity

I suppose you have had Woodstock by this time. and I hope you like it \_ Sir Walter has a great love for the house of Stewart and he makes an interest for them in every one whatever may be the figure they make in the pages of history \_ Charles the 2nd. like his father & grand father is revived in [ones] memory with many embellishments from his genius \_  
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I have always forgot to enquire what my dear Ben thinks of the removal of Mr. Holly \_ whether he will be regretted in the University? and if you regret the loss of his society? our friend Mrs. Meredith for whom he is not sufficiently Orthodox \_ seems to take great pleasure in his quitting your vicinity she considers him very dangerous in many particulars \_ and was afraid [he] would do Ben no good \_ for my own part I have never feared the influence of any mans religious or political opinions in corrupting him \_ The mind must be very feeble that could hold no communication with these opposites without receiving contamination \_ and from what I saw & heard of Mr. Holly I should not suppose him so dangerous a character \_ besides which he has nothing to gain by making converts \_ as he has given up his clerical functions \_ I cannot imagin what motive one erring being can have in striving to set the fashion of another's worship \_ when they have known the same great and Almighty God is the object of Adoration \_ but some of your high Church people are rather aristocratic \_ they must have all things their own way to be right \_ and are apt to think Unitarians no better than [Pharaohs?]

I have lately read a Hebrew tale intending to depict the manners \_ [re...] and [customs?] of the ancient jews whilst inhabiting the land of Canaan according to the inheritance of the various tribes \_ with the habits of their idolatrous neighbours \_ the worshipers of baal \_ and the abominations of their works, it is a very interesting but imperfect picture \_ and does not equal your expectations \_ more over it proves how difficult it is for a writer to be entirely disinterested in religious matters \_ he has made those Israelites whose characters are good \_ a mixture of Jew & Christian \_ that is he has blended the creeds together \_ and in the contrast he has presented a mixture of idolatry with the hebrew worship \_ if you should meet with "Sephora" & "Helon's pilgrimage to Jerusalem" I think you would be pleased with them, when you would like to read novels on Sunday \_ they are both full of psalms & holy songs \_ our children are all busily engaged with silk-worms the little boys have secured some \_ Sarah & Horace have been winding off Cocoons all day and Sarah insists on my enclosing a specimine

to her dear Aunt Maria \_ she sends loves & kisses to all the dear children \_ her  
Uncle & Aunt \_ wishes she could nurse darling Howard now he has the Whooping  
Cough, & sing him to sleep  
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The girls also send a multitude of fair [speeches] and promices of  
speaking for themselves speedily \_ our sisters & brothers write in tenderest  
affection to you all \_ Aunt Bell celebrated her 71st. birthday yesterday \_ she  
sends you and Ben her blessing. when you can spare a few minutes, pray  
my beloved Maria let me hear how our darlings are \_ and May God Bless  
you all and [proportion?] your strength to the trials you have to encounter  
and restore your darlings to perfect health again Adieu believe in the con-  
-stant affection of your attached Sister RG \_

June 18th. 1826

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky.

[Endorsement:]

Answered July 15th. 1826

Rebecca Gratz