

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**August 6th, 1826**

| \_\_\_\_\_ Aug. 6th.

One misfortune has followed so swiftly on the heels of another My dear Maria in our once happy family that if I had not to tell you of our dear Brother Hyman's safe return in much better health than he left us \_ I believe I should not have had resolution to address you again so soon \_ altho your affectionate letter reached me yesterday and filled my heart with gratitude. I know too that you will have heard before of the fall of this house, and both you and our dear Ben will want to hear how it has been borne by the lesser as well as the greater sufferers \_ Well then I believe the anticipation of all evils is hardest to bear. [It] is "the dreadful note of preparation." and the human mind when prepared may sustain the worst that is permitted \_ for a fortnight before last Saturday poor Simon's distressed countenance almost broke my heart, the more so as I dare not speak a word on the subject of his impending ruin \_ but when the blow was struck I felt as if the worst was over and if I could afford him no more consolation than even Jobs miserable comforters, it was some relief to speak & be spoken to \_ they have received too so universal a sympathy \_ so much respect & consideration from the whole community as well those who might expect to suffer by their misfortune as those who only knew them as enterprising citizens \_ that their hearts must be steel not to have melted it [with] kindness \_ indeed we have shed more tears of gratitude than grief. and I [begin] to philosophize on the subject \_ and examine the question whether poverty be so great an evil, as it is represented to be  
[end of page]

time may enable me to form a judgment, at present I must confess my ignorance \_ but as I have implicit faith in scripture and believe as firmly in the integrity of my fathers \_ I do not fear that we shall be forsaken, moreover My dear Sister there are a goodly proportion of working men & women left to put their hands to plough & distaff if necessary and one of the "uses of adversity" is already manifested in the improved state of My poor Sister Richea and her mourning daughters \_ while they had no other grief \_ the loss of dear Maria, threatened to break down all their strength \_ Sister & Sarah Ann seemed ready to sink & I was affraid would lose their own health \_ now they are roused to comfort their father \_ and prepare them selves for such exertions as their altered fortunes may demand.

When you come to us again My dear Maria, (for Alas! I fear we shall only meet now on this side the mountains \_ however delight

-ful to my imagination a visit to you might appear) \_ you shall still find us a cheerful & contented race \_ and I doubt not just for variety. we shall consider a humbler [home] full as pleasant you always loved the quiet little Library where I am now seated and sometimes I have preferred it to every other part of the house. so a snug little parlour will be our Library and the dear boys' merriment will make our hearts glad & our ears tingle

Hyman talks delightfully of you all \_ Howard is I find now the pet. sweet fellow how I should love to hear the music of his voice in articulate sounds \_ I thank you, for giving your youngest our dear Brother's name \_ may they both bear it unsullied to the skies. and leave it an honor'd example to your grand children embrace My dear Gratz & Bernard for me and tell Howard  
[end of page]

[Aunt] Becky loves him dearly \_ I am sorry My Brother Ben ever feels "sad & gloomy." but it was not on his own account he was so \_ tell him things are not so bad as they appear at a distance. that the worst is over and we now look forward with hope to better times \_ the commercial world has been terribly rent in pieces \_ but the fragments are not totally lost. they must be gathered, and patched \_ and used more prudently in future, and they will still be fit for service.

God Bless you both \_ with every comfort & happiness \_ may all your affairs prosper. and your sons grow & flourish, and encrease your happiness daily & hourly \_

Jac is waiting for my letter \_ and if you have never seen Jac in a hurry you can have no idea how impossible it would be to write a letter under such circumstances therefore I will release him & you at the same time

Adieu, My best love to My dearest Brother & Sister  
now and ever \_ their Attached RG \_

excuse the paper, it is some of our Brother [Jacs?] counting house trash \_

[Address:]

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz  
Lexington Ky

[Endorsement:]

Rebecca Gratz  
Answered Sept. 1826

