

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**July 14, 1828**

July 14th. 1828.

When I promised to write soon to you My dear Maria I was in hopes soon to have more agreeable communications to make \_ but as every page we turn in this voluminous affair seems the more perplexing I had better hasten lest when the finale comes it may crush all hopes together \_ and leave me less to say that is agreeable than even now wiser heads than mine might [ache] ache to find out what our judges mean \_ in their usual decisions \_ any one that knew our Mother would know that she would not have suffered such a disposition of our Fathers property to be made \_ while he was sick and suffering in his chamber \_ and she his daily companion and nurse. a small domestic establishment within the limited expenses his estate would warrant was what she would have dictated had she known every disbursement was booked to his charge \_ but our brother has practiced this injustice, and the law will support him in it \_ therefore we must submit \_ I should not care for it half so much, if it did not mortify and depress the boys so much \_ Jac is appall'd \_ Jo worried out of his [flesh] \_ and Hyman concerned & disappointed but says nothing \_ we are still in his house, but shall certainly move during the next month. we have one or two places in view which in a few days will be determined \_ it is an aggravation of these evils that our brothers have all been two years kept in preparing these accounts \_ without attending to any business \_ that their spirits and time have been [wasted] and now the necessity occurs of making a living they are embarrass'd by unsettled accounts and [end of page]

with little spirits or energy to attempt any thing new \_ but this is a sorry picture to draw of your husbands family \_ that one brother should rise up to crush the rest. that brother in whom the most implicit confidence \_ the most enthusiastic attachment was centred [in] \_ My dear Maria it is humbling to the pride of human nature. that such things should exist in a character where [great talents and the semblance of a high sense of honor, united with benevolent affections ever displayed themselves \_ I must still believe his nature has recently changed \_ or rather been perverted \_ we know that the indulgence of one vice \_ undermines the foundation of every virtue \_ the malevolence of his disappointed children has [weaned] him from all previous attachments \_ and made him what

he is \_ I mourn over him \_ as if he were more unhappy than wicked \_ twice in my life I have seen him melted down to more than womanly softness \_ once, shortly after our Mothers death. he wept on my shoulder as tho' his heart would break \_ our loss justified his grief \_ but I thought there was a mixed feeling \_ and pitied the remorse which I attributed to him \_ again, since his failure in relating a circumstance of favor he received, which I mentioned to you \_ perhaps too it was the last of family sympathy he would accept or exchange \_ since that an estranged countenance, and total avoidance \_ has been kept up towards all his sisters \_ and more angry feelings expressed towards the rest \_

We hope soon to hear from our dear Ben, his counsel and opinions are greatly depended on \_ at any rate if they can do no other good (and what redress can be had against [d...s?] of this nature) they are acceptable and eagerly desired \_ give my best love to him and Your dear children \_ I hope these troubles are not always to last \_ and I cannot but indulge the anticipation of seeing you all again, and being as happy as your sweet society has always [end of page]

made me. Ben's last letter speaks of your health as not quite good. I hope it is restored ere this. dearest, take care of your-self \_ our friend Mrs. Meredith continues very much of an invalid she is at present in Burlington, a very distressing cough was left on her, by her last sickness which Dr. Physic pronounced a cold but a few days ago they discover'd it proceeded from an abcess on her lungs. which broke on friday \_ since then she has been better. but I feel more alarmed from the nature of her disease, than when [she] suffered more from rhumatism. her constitution has been very much impaired. and should she have a recurrence of the affection on her lungs I fear the consequences \_

Mrs. Meade is in town she is the most afflicted person imaginable \_ business obliged her to come \_ and she has resolved to see her daughter Elizabeth, her husband told her once, that as he found she could not be happy without it, he would take off his interdiction [wi...] to her \_ the mother had a right to see her child \_ his death [was?] so sudden & unexpected that no time was given for any favor to be asked. in consequence of which, tho' at liberty to express her forgiveness and to see Elizabeth \_ she does not mean to open an intercourse between her & the family \_ Mrs. Dallas is with her mother, and they all will reside at Washington \_ Our Sister Fanny is in Baltimore, she left home on friday to spend a week with the Ettings, Henry accompanied her, and she will meet Ben there on his return from Virginia \_ I suppose a time is fixed for Ben's marriage \_ as he comes home this time single. it is such a distance for lovers visits from Phila. to Richd. that I was in hopes he would have made a private wedding this trip. Ellen Hays has had another attack of dyspepsia, but is getting

better, I do believe, "hope [deferred]" creates other diseases as well as making "the heartsick" \_ the rest of the family are well \_ except Becky Moses who wishes you were here to take her to Long branch \_ she is debilitated and an excellent subject for sea-bathing \_ give my best love to my dear Ben and his dear wife \_ and their dear boys \_ and accept warmest wishes for all their happiness from Your Attached Sister RG.

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky