

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**March 22, 1829**

March 22nd. 1829

My Dear Sister

It is but two days since I received your letter dated the 5th. Feby describing your voyage down to N Orleans and we had been long wondering \_ and anxiously waiting for some [accounts] of your travels. fortunately the papers announced your arrival and so we were spared from any apprehension of your having uprooted the snags or been swamped in shoal water on the great river but then we did not know what you have so delightfully told, that your health is [~~so~~]much improved \_ and the charming account of your peregrinations had the most happy effect on the physiog-nomy of our circle, that you could desire \_ it was pretty late dinner hour too, before I came home and our brothers were collected, and growing impatient \_ Jac told me I had been keeping them long for the inside of the letter, and whilst Hyman rang the bell for dinner, I opened it and read aloud \_ when we had been twice summon'd to the dining room, I looked up and found my auditors smiling with so much satisfaction that I ventured to give them the sequel before moving to the manifest injury of a smoking beef steak \_ the perfume of which would intrude from the cellar kitchen and gave notice "that if it were to be eaten it were better to be quickly eaten \_

We have had a short visit from Ellen, and it would do your heart good to see how well & happy she looks her husband had a little business here which required his presence. and he brought her & Isabella home. to the surprise of all their friends who had no notice of their intention  
[end of page]

until the carriage stopped at the door \_ Ellen staid with us five days and had hardly time (altho all talked fast) \_ to tell and hear all that had been doing during four months separation however she is to spend the Passover with us \_ and is going to her own house in the beginning of May when some of the girls are to pay her a visit \_ they are anticipating a great deal of pleasure from these events. Ellen received your messages with much pleasure, and says she shall certainly write to you as soon as

she hears of your return home. and I have just sent her word by Etting Myers that we hope soon for that information.

You must not forget that every thing from N. Orleans will be new & strange to me \_ except dear Mrs. Erwin and of her I shall be more glad to hear than any thing else. for she took fast hold on my affections \_ and I often think of her sweetness and her sorrows with an interest which brings her still nearer to my heart, I hope she has another daughter to heal the wounds poor little Julia's death inflicted on her happiness \_ I am glad to see by Mr. Clays letter to the Baltimoreans that his health is better \_ that will be a consolation at least to his family for any political disappointment \_ we have had very amusing accounts to the great [babel] Washington \_ on the day of inauguration \_ scenes on the portico \_ the Senate chamber \_ the palace drawn by various eye-witnesses \_ but I would rather read Anna Boswells account of her southern winter \_ than twenty such pictures of intrigues successful & unsuccessful \_ where selfishness and all other ugly deformities are brought to light \_ instead of the natural wonderment and delight of a lively & innocent mind imbibing first impressions of the world on her debut into new scenes \_ and among strange people \_ by the bye I have just had the honor of selecting a dress & cap for your Sister \_ and as my order was for that which was fashionable, had the good [end of page]

luck to find at Made. Prats a sample of french taste in silk. of which but a few pieces were imported, your friend E Fisher took one & Mrs. B. has the other \_ butterflies, and every colour which adorns the wing of that beautiful insect is the ton at paris \_ and our ladies are nothing loath to adorn them selves as gaily as the airy tenant of the spring \_ I hope they will not be deemed too gaudy in Lexington \_ we have heard before of your young Jewish legislator \_ himself and a brother married two of David Seixas' sisters they resided at Cincinnatti \_ were both so unfortunate as to lose their wives within a year or two after their marriage \_ they were but a short time in Phila. I never saw them but they visited [at Aunt?] Bell's, and were much liked by the family \_

[Rachel] Cohen is beginning to improve in health \_ she [...] all [...] but is afraid to receive the least breath of air \_ [and] is [...] up in flannel, and covered over with shawls & kerchiefs like an old dutch woman \_ or [grecian?] shewing only the features of her face & her finger ends \_ the rest of our family friends are well the girls have had a very gay winter and a long one too \_ it snowed all last night \_ and since the beginning of March we have [had] nothing but winter continued \_ we old folks are consoled under all this severity by recollecting it used to be so in our

young days. and are stopped for once in our preference of old  
fashioned things \_ now unless the spring comes on as bright as  
the poets glowing lays we shall still proclaim that times  
are changed for the worse \_ embrace your dear boys for me \_ you  
cannot imagine how I long to hear something about them, I wrote to  
your dear Mother, more to enjoy the pleasure of talking, about them & you  
than from any hope of gaining information. I hope she excuses me.  
give my affectionate & respectful love to her \_ tell My dear Brother  
how delighted we shall be to hear from him at home \_ and believe  
me dearest Maria [your] & his most Affectionate Sister RG \_  
[end of page]

Hyman desires his love and bids me tell Ben, he will write to him  
in a few days \_ our other brothers & Sisters send their love \_ the children  
are well. and request that I will give their love to Aunt Maria & the boys.

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky

[Second Address:]

Miss Rebecca Gratz

To

Mrs. Benj. Gratz

Lexington

Kentucky

[Endorsement:]

From Miss Rebecca Gratz

answered

April 12th.

1829