

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**July 22, 1832**

July 22nd. 1832 \_

I was rejoiced My Dear Sister to receive a letter from you again and written in such fine spirits too I am most willing to sail round the world \_ or through your drawing room \_ you shall be pilot and if I lack knowledge of a single phrase nautical or blue you shall enlighten me with one of your own illustrations \_ [our] friend Miss Peters says her criterion of good Society is [made] by reflecting on her return home whether she has carried any thing worth remembering away \_ I am very sensible that your letters always put to this test satisfies my heart & my understanding that I have been in good company \_ and I am happier and more agreeable for days after their perusal Mrs. Macallister has not yet arrived in Phila. we shall certainly find her out as soon as she does I think there can be no doubt of her receiving a kind reflection from her husbands family \_ tho I do not know what impression they will make on her \_ the eldest Sister Mrs. Slater who I know most of has sailed for England \_ they are very kind people \_ but have too much pretention & nonsense, to be very easy companions \_ a Bride may submit to much of that sort of parade as a part of the pagentry always attendant on a first induction into a new family \_ but as she is not to live among them it will be scarcely felt. her Ohio Sister is much liked \_ and Eliza is expected to stay with her part of her visit. I hope she will soon arrive for at present our city is very healthy. we enjoy this blessing with fear & trembling \_ as the mediciners tell us the Cholera will certainly be here, and the daily reports from New York are so distressing. that should it make its appearance, I fear she would have but a melancholy time of it. Mr. & Mrs. [Yeatman?] are here waiting for an opportunity of getting to Boston, but dare not pass through the infected districts, they wanted to place a daughter at school there, but I suppose will fix her here \_ Mrs. Y. brought me a very kind remembrance [from] dear Mrs. Erwin, for which you must thank her, and tell her I love to think of her and think of but to love her \_  
[end of page]

do Maria, when you see Mr. Clay ask what was meant by an allusion to "Moses Myers the jew" in one of his speeches \_ I read it without understanding, and several persons equally dull have asked for an explanation \_ our respectable old friend from

Norfolk, dined with us yesterday, and made the same enquiry \_ he had no suspicion that he is the object of [s...er] remark \_ poor old Man! affliction has almost riven his heart in pieces \_ I never have seen such a monument of parental grief he has but one son left \_ and two daughters \_ out of a family of nine. and they all grew up to maturity \_ and were the pride as well as the staff of his age \_ Mrs. Myers died of grief after the loss of her two youngest sons in rapid succession \_ she was under the apprehension that she should be left childless \_ such an idea might prove fatal to her husband \_ did he entertain it with equal force \_ but Stern was right \_ “God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb” \_ and He does not leave the mourner without consolation \_ Myer is going to Norfolk to reside \_ and thus fill up the gap \_ and cherish his aged Father \_ and this has given him something to look forward to \_ & to Bless the name of him, who giveth & taketh a way” \_ I received a very affecting letter from my neighbour Mrs. Rutledge the other day \_ she is now with her Mother in Middletown \_ and is going in Oct to Charleston to reside with her husband’s \_ Mr. Rutledge died poor \_ and if the climate is unfriendly to her children \_ she will have nothing but her own exertions to depend on \_ The Old Lady is a noble spirited affectionate woman, and I hope they will be happily situated in Carolina \_ for her relations in Connecticut are not able to assist her.

Gratz has finished his college studies and is preparing for the commencement \_ he has chosen the character of James Lawrence for the subject of his oration, and written a very pretty little sketch \_ which he is reciting he says to the fishes in the Delaware, from whose shores the echos are very flattering \_ he is with Campbell at Devon \_ Ben Etting & Harriet & Miriam, are at the Yellow Springs to whose waters Chapman has commended the rheumatism [end of page]

I sincerely hope he may leave it there, he found the cold bath very comfortable, and the Dr. predicts a cure from that circumstance \_ Isabella is much as usual \_ two months ago I did not think she could have survived so long \_ now tho much thinner she does not suffer more than when you saw her \_ they expect Henry next month \_

Sam Etting has again been unfortunate as they say when a man has difficulties in his business \_ but I believe this second failure is the consequence of his first \_ as it is caused by old obligations \_ which the profits of his new business did not enable him to meet \_ it is very distressing to poor Ellen, who has neither ~~neither~~ health nor spirits to encounter so many evils \_ her excellent Mother does all she can to strengthen her resolution \_ but the shock was very great, and she looks dismal, under

it \_ however she has such an enduring love & confidence in  
her husband, that she will for his sake soon be able to  
rally her spirits \_ and if it does not take her back to Balt.  
I think she will not be very unhappy \_ as she is a strict [econo?]  
-mist [with?] too much good sense to let a curtailment of fortune  
over come her \_ Josephine is growing quite a fine child, consider  
-ing what she was \_ tho she neither talks nor walks firmly yet \_  
O the Barry \_ how could you minister to her vanity? but you  
heaped evals on her head \_ by your amiable consideration.  
and Julia must have blest you for it \_ we never expected  
they would pass for wise, in the west \_ but certainly the exem  
-plary Mrs. B. may teach by her example \_ the whole duty of women  
in more beautiful practical illustrations than could be derived  
from books \_

I heard a lady (an old maid) say that the worst husbands always  
had the best & most loving wives \_ and she cited Mrs. [Bache?] & Mrs. B.\_  
we disputed the point, and I had contrary instances in abundance.  
but in very sadness was obliged to own that those ladies had keen  
trials \_ yet, the bright and cheerful countenances of both, at the mo  
-ment came to my recollection, and I concluded, the more difficult  
the duty, faithfully performed, the greater was the intellectual reward  
and therefore these ladies were gifted by providence with an in  
spiration. which enabled them to extract  
[end of page]

the bitter from the poisoned [chalice] \_ and enjoy a  
happiness \_ one from the best of children \_ and the other  
from a mothers love \_ [whilst] they retained charity & affection  
with the memory of what they had enjoyed \_ as you have not  
a bad husband, Maria \_ and my opponent had none at all \_  
pray let my argument stand \_ even if you do not approve  
Jo desires me to present his love \_ and hopes your matts have  
arrived without being rubbed on the journey \_ as they are the newest  
fashion from the Emperors palace at Pekin \_ embrace the  
Dear, boys for me \_ how I should love to come to you. if I had  
not so many immovable ties in this quarter \_ but now danger  
surrounds them I cannot get away \_ I hope another year will make  
up for the disappointments of this \_ 'tis thus dear Maria, we cheat  
[our] selves, and grow old without accomplishing our desires \_ but [if] I  
live, I hope to see Kentucky and all the beloved ones there \_ God Bless  
you all \_ believe me most fervently your attached RG \_

I shall not send you the books you can have  
from your bookseller, unless you wish to possess  
them \_ the bearer will carry one or two vol: not named  
in your letter \_ adieu my sister

The children desire their best love to you & the boys \_ we talk of you every day

our selves & their girls all embrace you, tell dearest Ben his portrait has been feasting  
the eyes of his friends abroad \_ and, arrived safe home last week to its most welcome place

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky.