

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

July 31, 1832

If you have no postage to pay for this letter
My dear Maria, do not account it cheap until you
have come to the end, and not then if you find the
time and patience it consumes worth more than its
contents _ Hyman tells me there will be an Opportunity
to morrow _ and I miss a little book of Bulwers which we have
read & liked _ and had [laying] on the table for a month
waiting for somebody to hand it to you _ Montgomery Blair
has been sitting with me too & talking of you _ so that
my needle will no longer sew swiftly through the muslin
and my thoughts will run, be they ever so weak in a
[westerly] direction _ and sometimes you know when you
permit them to wander where they [list?] they become stronger _
or are lost, and their place supplied with what answers
just as well _ Montgomery has grown taller and looks
healthy _ he retains the same agreeable frankness of man
ner, which no acquirement would compensate for the loss
of _ and he has passed a Year at the Point so profitably
that he is distinguished _ & beloved this I know will be
agreeable intelligence to you & Ben _ even if you have heard
it before _ and the influence you possess over him, is by
no means weakened by absence _ for he strengthens himself
in argument by quoting your opinions, and talks with so much
love & gratitude of all you have done for him _ and the happiness
he owes you, that [he] desires new graces by his sensibility on
the subject _ I have just sent him & Sarah Hays to look
at some of Mr. Sullys pictures, they will return to dinner _ and in
the Afternoon Montgomery and another Cadet, will proceed by the
mail stage onwards to the Point _ we prevailed on them to hand
[end of page]

in the mail _ in order to avoid New York, by taking a boat from
the jersey shore and reaching the steam boat in the river _ to day
there is some alarm here too _ several cases of Cholera have occurred
and some deaths _ you will hear so much about it before it
reaches Lexington, that I hope you will have made all the
preparations on which the prudent depend for safety _ I am
going out to the asylum to put them in order, or rather to put
them out of order, as Mrs. Hall will think _ that is to convert the
chapel into a sleeping room, and divide the number in
each dormitory, that a whole some ventilation may be obtained
[the] Sanitary Committee are sending off the inhabitants of the

Alms house into the country _ and have an infirmary apart from the old building _ indeed they are taking very liberal measures to stay this dreadful scourge and I sincerely hope it may not ravage our city as it has done New York _ the Physicians do not recommend inhabitants to leave the city _ but to tell truth they seem the most alarmed portion of the community _ “when ignorance is bliss _ tis folly to be wise” and perhaps that is the only ground on which we are exempt from fears _

I have been to see Mrs. Macallister but she was not at home it is a bad time for bridal visitors _ people would be shocked at the idea of a Party _ but the college students have had a full company of pretty misses and they bore them selves bravely _ a few of them dine with Gratz at home _ as they were afraid to indulge in a real commencement dinner _ I think you would enjoy Mr. Moses’ exultation on this occasion _ you have observed this strong & good [point?] in his character _ he is an excellent father _ and Gratz promises to justify his proudest hopes _ dear Maria, can you wonder that on such occasions my heart is full of sadness _ the recollection of My beloved Sister _ the exquisite love she bore to these dear children _
[end of page]

her sudden and early fate _ and the duty I have adopted of watching over those she so tenderly loved! does Maternal love survive this frail Nature? _ from its strength & purity I should think it might _ but on earth it is so full of anxiety _ that unless it might be so beatified as to befit a heavenly spirit _ it must be among the richest [conquests] spoils of the conqueror death _

I have sullen so lately that I have no family news to tell _ we are all in usual health _ the Ettings not yet returned from the Springs _

give a great deal of love to your dear boys for me [and?] tell dear Ben our Brothers think [too?] long [since?] he has written _

Adieu My dear Sister
you know how tenderly you are regarded
by your Affectionate RG

July 31st. 1832

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
Lexington Kentucky