

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**September 9, 1832**

Fret not thy-self, My dear Sister with evil imaginings for verily no one deals deceitfully with thee \_ what ever may have been the impression under which your “complaints” were indited I think I can prove that the cause was imaginary \_ (unless our brother Jo has offended in his reply to your agreeable letter, which notwithstanding his having kept it so secret for a week, I could perceive he was very well pleased with) \_ you were labouring under two mistakes. your letters are not like the general Epistle of James sent to all the tribes. and to be critised in cold blood \_ tho I confess some eyes other than mine own have been feasted on such as I considered well calculated to be useful & pleasant to our loving nieces and highly acceptable to our brothers \_ without in the least injuring your reputation as their author \_ but of this no more if you will it so \_ your letters shall be a closed book \_ and upon your own head, must rest the consequence, of making us (I mean your several correspondents) selfish \_ envious, & uncharitable to each other \_ for we shall never be able to see only one enjoy the privilege of reading a letter from you \_ and shall be as jealous \_ as we have hitherto been just \_ not caring to whom your attention is addressed, when we can listen to what you say \_ now I beg you to understand, that when a passage, or a whole letter contained any thing of a character not calculated to be given to any but the one to whom addressed \_ they have been kept confidentially. it is very rarely that any person sees my letters except our brothers, and household nieces \_ sometimes I read paragraph’s to our Sisters & Isabella \_ and this is all “The very front of my offending [hath] [its]” extent in this \_ no more” \_ I wish I knew what I said to give rise to your “new feelings \_” but this I am sure that the spirit in which I spoke had nothing in it to create them. your second mistake \_ is that your thanks & thoughts are not rightly received & understood \_ as to our brother Jo if he had means to match the Spirit of his generosity he would [originate] a new name for giving \_ I was struck with your gracious acceptance. and the graceful manner of expressing thanks \_ I always feel dissatisfied with my self about the difficulty of giving proper words to [my] feelings on such occasions \_ Mr. Verplanck sent [end of page]

me, one of his printed orations some time ago \_ I did not think it worth [while] to trouble him with a letter of thanks but when he came to see me, and I expressed my sense of his attention, he looked [so] awkward, and I felt so, [that] I was shamed of having put him to embarrassment in return for a Kindness \_

as to Jo, since you have brouched the subject I may say my thoughts without fear \_ he really verifies the poets words \_ 'does good by stealth and blush to find it fame' every child in the family has been sharers in his liberality \_ and our sister blesses him for many comforts which her limited means would deny her \_ and you know how I revel in the indulgence and generosity of all my brothers \_ don't you hate My dear Maria to have your letters answered so minutely? well then burn this and forget that you have been troubled with it \_

as to your own health My Sister, since the arrival of your letter it has been my constant thought & anxiety \_ our Sisters both tell me, they have been in similar difficulties \_ that rest and nourishing [are] the remedies to ensure safety \_ Richea says you must not pursue your usual plan of dieting but take some strengthening ailment between breakfast & dinner, your unusual size, accounts for your weakness, and they would fain comfort me, out of their own experience \_ with the hope that you will have no extraordinary suffering \_ and be well again in good time \_ [pre...?] symptoms My dear Sister, when attended to, have invariably prevented an attack of cholera \_ and that is by far a worse disease than you have ever seen \_ attend them strictly to your precious health \_ set [the] talents of your cook in requisition for some palatable condiment by way of lunch every day \_ and let it be substantial, or at least of a strengthening quality \_ will not your dear Mother bring the boys home soon, and stay with you, until you give her another babe to love? how I wish it were my lot to be near, and help to make confinement less irksome to you \_ Ellen has had [end of page]

an attack of dysentary and is still confined to her chamber \_ she has great anxiety on her husbands account too, for he is very much depressed in Spirits and on account of the disease prevailing in Baltimore was not able to get a meeting of his creditors \_ he goes back to morrow, to endeavour to effect that purpose \_ I sincerely hope he may succeed, I never saw a Man bear misfortunate with so little fortitude, and I know not what will become of Ellen, if he does not get over such unwarranted depression \_ she has troubles of her own to encounter too, being in a family way \_ Josephine is quite a fine child \_ fat and smart, but not generally interesting as she is very shy & not pretty \_

I saw your friend Miss Peters yesterday she is consoling Miss [Delaney] for the loss of her Sister \_ Miss D has been at [Darby?] [all] summer, attending her sister, and only [returned?] last week after her death \_ for a little while the friends will

change characters. Miss P's solicitude does not diminish her eloquence \_ and I fear if grief be ever so deep she will search it out \_ our city is almost free from cholera \_ now & then a case occurs, but the fear of it has passed away, and all things begin to wear its usual appearance, the weather is delightful and our streets begin to be filled with gaily dressed ladies \_ Harriet makes a charming house-keeper she is cheerful & hospitable, and makes every body welcome. we all send a great deal of love to our dear Ben, and caresses to sweet Cary \_ with affection to the bigger boys \_ we think of them all in their own sweet characters and never tire talking of the visit to Phila. [ask] my dear Brother if he will not write, when the exertion is too much for you because we shall be so anxious to hear frequently about you, until you are well again \_ Adieu My dear Maria you will have my prayers, and my thoughts constantly asking all that affection can desire, for your well doing ever  
your attached RG \_

Sept. 9th. \_ 1832.

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky