

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**November 13, 1832**

Novr. 13th. 1832

It is one month this day My dear Sister since the date of your last letter \_ and tho I have written but seldom, you are never out of my thoughts, and all the anxieties & tenderness which we so continually feel in periods like the present occupy my heart as surely as if I were beside you. I watch the mail hour with double interest, and if only a newspaper directed by dear Ben arrives it affords assurances of your health, and an apology for his not writing, for I know he is engaged in public matters \_ which would not be the case, if home concerns were not fair & bright \_ we are fortunate in this political warfare, that which ever side succeeds some of our friends will be benefitted and when all hopes of our own wishes being gratified are lost, we may find consolation in knowing that private good is enjoyed by some of [those] we care for \_ our Brothers are [deeply] interested. Jo says he will write as soon as he can tell of some returns from Delaware. I shall be glad when the great struggle is over. for I hate the sens [-sibilities?] of party, and the excitement our youngsters are involved in \_ Mr. Moses has taken the girls to New York and they are delighted with the novelty \_ his health has been bad all summer and I was very glad when he consented to go, they write that he is much improved The Italian Opera & Miss Kemble induce them to dissipate and he is obliged to accompany them \_ this delicious weather is a source of enjoyment in itself I never saw a richer Autumn \_ and almost envy those who live in view of the [...led?] forest \_ Sister Hays walks a good deal with me and the exercise both gives her health & Spirits \_ she never looked better \_ since gray hair adorned her head \_ than at present [end of page]

We were greatly surprised by the arrival yesterday of Sam Etting and his family, it was his plan to remain in Baltimore until he could adjust his difficulties, and Ellen was to have come to her mother for the period of accouchment. but he has now determined to live at lodgings in Phila. I am really grieved for poor Ellen \_ not that poverty is the worst evil that could befall. but this want of decision and energy in her husband indicates less character than is required to lift her out of it \_ and she is so changed that I doubt

whether she has exertion enough to rouse him to a sense of his obligations to her \_ he pines over the disappointment and difficulties she suffers on his account, and prays to Hercules instead of putting his shoulder to the wheel \_ but it is wicked in me, who never liked him much to point out his faults \_ believe me, I never was half so much interested for him as now, and if I could only do him some good, to redeem the slight of my former opinion, I should rejoice in it more, than if I had always loved him \_ Ellen is delighted to get back to her mother, and her advice & example, will certainly be a blessing to them all \_

what an excellent mirror other peoples faults are to us when we happen to be suffering under the effects of similar defects, on looking at what I have said of Sam Etting I am struck with the likeness to my present circumstances for the last hour I have been in suspense about a piece of business which my want of decision induced me to postpone last evening \_ and I am now doubtful if it will ever be settled to my satisfaction \_ \_ \_ at the moment of writing the last sentence a ring at the door bell announced the arrival of my \_ not very punctual, woman of business \_ and her decision aided me to a better conclusion than I anticipated. the moral of my tale would have been more complete perhaps had I been disappointed \_  
[end of page]

but as I have recorded it, I will endeavour to have it in mind. and improve my character on the hint \_ what do you think of Miss Leslie as a tale writer? can you in Lexington comprehend the merit of "Mrs. Washington Potts \_" if you cannot it is a compliment to your society \_ here we think it excellent and might almost fear the whole was authentic \_ when Sarah read it, she thought it extravagant \_ how could a Lady send a note to interdict the company of one she had invited \_

I told her of a lady who sent out invitations to a party one note was carried to a wrong house, where [the] family name was the same as that of the invited lady, and the mistake not discovered, until an acceptance was received, she did not happen to be quite so fashionable as her name sake, and the real Mrs. Washington Potts \_ took means to [inform] her of the error and decline the pleasure of receiving her. \_ it is so many years since this actually happened in Phila. that I do not suppose Miss L. ever heard of it \_ or if she did, that it afforded her any aid in her design \_ but the story brought the circumstance to my memory, which I recollect struck [me?] as absurd & impertinent when it occurred \_ how [are] the dear boys, [they] do not know, and I can hardly tell how constantly I think of & long to see them \_ measure their growth by others

of their age. and embrace the dear things that [put] me  
in mind of them \_ little Emily Boyce ran up to me yesterday  
to ask for Becky Moses. she used to play with sweet Cary  
and was younger. her voice and articulate speech, brought  
the dear fellow before me \_ and I kissed her a dozen times for  
him \_ now dear Sister tell them all love me, and let me have  
a letter from all that can write by New Year \_ Horace sends  
them a great deal of love and I believe there is nothing either he  
or Sarah desire so much as to see them & you \_ Jac has not  
yet returned from Centre county. our other Brothers are well &  
desire their love. Sister Ettings family are in their usual health  
Gratz at home. Isabella much as usual \_ Miriam quite gay  
and Ben, under the care of Dr. Hays & thinks himself improving  
[end of page]

of Rosa & Sarah I ought to say something \_ the latter scolded  
Uncle Hyman on Sunday for not letting her know of an opportunity  
to Lexington as she had a something to send \_ she has been in the  
country for a fortnight, with her friend E [Ingraham], who has the  
prospect of bestowing the poor mans blessing \_ a house full of children  
her fourth was born last month \_ a son \_ little Josephine has  
become quite a healthy girl \_ and is very intelligent, but not  
pretty \_

Give my best love to dear Ben I hope the time he  
has spent & the mortifications he has met with \_ will be made

up to him in some other good \_ even if Jackson does  
prevail which I believe is little doubted here \_ that foolish  
antimasonry has destroyed the energy of the party \_ I quit  
politics as soon as I heard the compromising spirit of the con  
voction \_ God Bless you, dearest and best. my most earnest  
and holy wishes \_ are for your safty & your happiness ever Yr. Sister

RG \_

I fear you will not be able to read  
this \_ my pen scrapes dear Miriam is in N York

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz  
Lexington Kentucky.