

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

September 21, 1833

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It is three week my own dear Sister since I have written to you _ but my thoughts have visited you every day and my love accompanies you every hour and dwells with you all unceasingly _ since my return home Elizabeth has been ill and is still in her chamber _ my household has been damaged for the want of servants and the duties of nurse, [superceeded?] to that of overseer _ has kept me busy and made me stupid _ so I had compassion on you, and kept silence _ perhaps too, I was not willing to appear before you under such disadvantages for you have said so much to raise my vanity _ that I could not more effectually prove how I had profited by your commendations _ than by keeping my dullness out of view _ but there are times, dear, when the veil must be dropped and our real characters be seen in all their [real] deformities _ such a period for self examination approaches _ To morrow will be the day of Atonement _ and tho' I believe the Eye of God is upon us every day with the same unerring judgment _ the same pardoning Mercy _ it is well when we search our own hearts, and desire to acknowledge our sins _ that we look for motives as well as actions, and when I thought of offering an apology to you, the truth came so straight before me that I could not help telling you, your praise was so sweet to my heart, that knowing it was undeserved was hardly enough to make me relinquish it _ and I rather chose not to write at all _ than to do it in a manner to tire you quite _
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Now my home anxiety has abated _ I begin to feel a little concerned for the want of your accustomed letters and tho' Dear Bens letter to Hyman informed that you were still at Cane wood _ and I can realize how fully & enjoyably your mind is occupied in scenes so hallowed to tender recollections _ so full of the tenderest and dearest thoughts & memories _ yet my Beloved Sister I must covet a little very little of your attention _ just to say that your mind [is] recovering its equanimity and that your dear boys & yourself are well _
Jo returned about 10 days ago _ and Jac, this

afternoon _ so our family party is complete _ & Sally Minis [is] still our guest _ her brother was charmed with his visit to you, and brought away such impressions, as you never fail to make on your visitors _ I am ashamed to confess that I have seen little of your country woman Mrs. [McIlvaine], for in truth Elizabeths illness has prevented my receiving any company & I have not sought her again _

I received a letter from Mr. Blair the other day. and expect to have your niece in Phila. this winter as a pupil to Mrs. Sigoigne. Sarah is delighted with the anticipation of [having] her as a companion _ tho' I believe she will not return to School again _ there seems to be so much required at home to complete education _ that a year or two is necessary to devote to study before a young Lady makes her debut and all Sarahs' class mates left her last winter she is full of vivacity & enthusiasm & I believe a boarding
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school _ is too much an epitome of fashionable life to be the safest place for regulating the taste & feelings of a girl approaching womanhood _ God Grant I may be successful in this arduous task with my sweet Sarah she resembles her mother in so many points that I am constantly reminded of my promises & my loss _

Julia Barry is expected soon in Phila. I hope to hear from you by her _ by the first opportunity you shall have a copy of [Mrs. Stolls/Stotts?] cap _ I should have sent it before, but even the sempstresses dispersed this summer, and the person, this benevolent patroness employed was not within reach of her needles _ how comes on your Orphan Society? a Young Woman several years Teacher in ours (Miss Haydock) who was every way qualified to take charge of an institution is some-where in your state _ she went to visit a Brother living in Smithland or Smithton K_y _ and just when we were expecting her back _ received intelligence that she was going to be married _ should she be in [Lexington], she might be induced to accept a situation in your asylum & would be very valuable _ I did not hear the name of her intended husband _ and mention her because if she visits your city she will probably make herself known to you _ and may suggest some useful hints in the way of her profession _ tell my beloved brother & your children how devotedly I love them _ and accept dearest Maria the warm affections of your Sisters heart

Adieu Yr. RG_

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky.