

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**October 29, 1833**

I have been very patient My dear Sister and waited at least ten days longer than I might reasonably [expect?] a letter from you, but none has yet [arrived and I?] begin to grow uneasy at the unusual silence. [...] dear Ben has not written either \_ Sarah whose hopes are most buoyant, conjectures that you may be on the road, and are going to give us an agreeable surprise, she & Elizabeth Blair have so many bright visions afloat in which you are always conspicuous that they talk themselves into the belief that they will all be realized. and I almost regret, that I cannot cheat myself into the same persuasion \_ but when one has trodden so long the beaten path of life, it is hard trusting to wishes that have no sure foot hold, so pray you, give me a little ledge of hope to step on, and be sure I shall meet you half way \_ and not give place even to our glad nieces in happy anticipations \_

I have been reading Hamiltons "Men & Manners" and am quite provoked that he should have lent his talents to such an unfair purpose as that of misrepresenting America for political Views \_ because [it] seems as if no English traveler can speak the truth of us. Trelawney has been entertained here too, and will no doubt issue a book of caricatures as soon as he crosses the Atlantic \_ it is quite amusing to hear our young ladies from the sea shore & Saratoga, talk of the foreigners they met with in their summer excursions \_  
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one told me of a Young Irishman just arrived in July and went down to Long branch, where a large party were collected who enjoyed themselves in their own way \_ and were as merry as good health good spirits and freedom from all restraint could make them \_ until he arrived \_ but he eyed them with such inquisitive glances \_ was so observant, & sinister, that they felt whenever his attention was [directed?] towards them, as if an invisible note book was [recording every?] word & gesture, \_ and these they made as [noteable?] [...].

I went to see Mrs. Clay when she was in town, and was very kindly received by her, she spoke affectionately of you all, and there was such genuine frankness in her manner, that I felt drawn towards her, and if she had not been surrounded by the great folks of our great city should have been pleased to keep

my seat, as long as decorum permitted \_ however, I suppose Mr. C\_ will sojourn longer on his return from the north, and then hope to see her again \_

Should our young friend Charles Hoffman find his way to Lexington this winter let me bespeak your kind offices for him, he is on a Western tour \_ for literary pursuits that is, he is going to write letters for [publication] in the American of which he is junior editor \_ he goes through Ohio into Michigan \_ and return to the Ohio river \_ thence down to N. Orleans. but his sketches will be incomplete if he omits Lexington and other towns in Kentucky, not immediately in his course & I think he has too much taste to pass them by \_ you will find him so agreeable & clever that I do not hesitate to put you to the trouble of entertaining him \_ poor Julia has not only to part with him, her chief companion, but is kept at home to nurse George, who in a deer hunt, deposited the contents of a gun in his own arm \_ tell Bernard when he teaches Howard to shoot, he must manage things better \_  
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Our brother Jo is in New York, Sister Etting on the list of invalids with [inflammation] in her Eyes \_ Isabella no better than usual, but Ben is, and his wife is as cheerful & busy as any lady need wish to be, she has had one of her Sisters to pass a month with her \_ and is in expectation of another, to take her place. all the girls are well & merry \_ never so [noisy?] as when they wish Aunt Maria was here to [s...] [...ted] point nor so happy as when they indulge [...] she is coming with her darlings to pay us [another visit?] \_ The Girls at M Segoignes had a fancy party last Saturday Even'g \_ Sarah was invited, and put on the dress of a french peasant \_ Elizabeth personated a Sailor boy. Miss Cass a [gipsey] \_ and little D'Orval an old gentleman. this was a school room frolick, which ended at 10 o'clock, your niece has already found her way to Mrs. S's heart, and is a general favorite, at school & at home, [for] she is [permitted?] to pass two days with Sarah every week, & sleeps with her Saturday night \_ our dear Ellen is again, comfortably & handsomely settled in her own house, & her health is improving. there is every appearance of success about them, & I hope it may be permanent. her husband has a very good taste in furnishing &c \_ but they [neither?] of them care much about company \_ so quietness & order [is] uninterrupted in their household \_

Pray My dear Sister let me hear from you soon. I long for some sayings & doings of the sweet boys \_ some account of my brother & your self \_ your intentions for the winter \_

\_ give us the blessed hope of seeing you all here \_ at any  
rate My own dear Maria, let me hear that you are well  
and happy. present my best respects to Mrs. Bledsoe  
are you still at Cane Wood? to my dear Ben give my best love  
embrace your children for me, and believe in the entire affection  
of your attached Sister RG.

Oct: 28th. 1833.  
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Horace begs I will let his name be in some part of  
my letter \_ for he loves you all so much he does not  
exactly know what words are warm enough to express  
himself in

[Address:]  
To  
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz  
Lexington Ky \_