

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

September 21, 1834

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My dear Maria

on entering the dining room last Thursday my eye was caught by a letter addressed in your writing to our brother Jo _ and the gentleman had not yet made his appearance _ so managing my impatience as well as I could, by remembering your praises of the virtues of self-denial, & self controle, [&] taking to my self all the credit you grant me in those points, I waited his arrival, and the habitual leisure in which he enjoys a perusal & reperusal of passages that please him _ before I ventured to ask for a share of the treat _ all this time dinner was placing on the board, and I was apprehensive that its announcement would postpone my pleasure _ when a hint of your intentions to make [us] a visit spread such an agreeable disposition over the whole party. that I had full time to read the conditions _ before a single movement indicated _ that I had the appetites of all pre-sent in my keeping _ I cannot tell you dear Maria, how we enjoyed that meal _ nor how delightedly we dwell on the anticipation of seeing you [here] _ Jo bids me tell you when he received your letter, which has been long delayed, or you should sooner have heard that when he talked of [going] to Kentucky this Autumn, he rather expressed his wishes than expectations. he bids me further say your commissions are executed. and that _ no, he must explain [himself] how this mistake arose when he writes him self, or when you meet _

how happens it, my dear Sister, that in your last letter, you say nothing of your journey? on the 6th. Inst. you should have been in the midst of preparations _ yet not one word about them is there set down _ but I hope Sarahs letter ended your doubts about Jo's movements, and that you are using this delightful weather to the best advantage _ we have had at least 10
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days rain on this side of the mountains, and vegetation looks as fresh and beautiful as your eye would delight to behold it _ pray My dear Sister, let me hear from you immediately _ when you will start _ what route you will take _ and when we shall see you _ my heart bounds at the thought of embracing you all once more _ My dear Brother _ and the boys! Bernard & Howard [should] not be called children, I measure them by Horace & Fred Cleemann _ but Hyman, & Dear little Cary, on horseback is advancing quite beyond my calculations of three years growth _ Henry Hart will of course be of your

party, Kentucky would not be home to him without you _ and we shall be very glad to see him again, and hear of his foreign travels _ your account of your summer jaunt, determines me to visit no meaner springs _ than the Olympian _ and I shall think the [Fates] against me, if another summer does not shew me your country. when my hopes _ & wishes & dreams have so often transported me _ Ben returned from Virginia improved but not cured _ Harriet could not accompany him to the springs, and he thinks the time would have been better spent by going into Kentucky _ last week Henry & Sarah Hays were thrown from a carriage and both so much hurt as to be unable to leave their beds _ they had no fractured limbs but will [probably] suffer as long as if they had, Henry was driving [and] perhaps was as much in fault as the horse. this accident came very inopportunitly for our Sister, as Ellen was sick _ but she is one of the best nurses in the world, and has so much energy and regulation of mind _ that her trials, are quite a lesson to us who witness how effectively she performs all her duties.

I have been enquiring for some pretty songs to send you _ along with Fanny Kemble's book ([I] like that name better than Mrs. Butler) when it is out of the press _ but now shall keep them ready for you here _ and Maria dear _ Sarah has an instrument that would make you a musician without a master, with your taste and instruction to learn _ then the Winters morning can afford an hour or two to practice _ and your old acquaintance Mme. DeOrval would be so flattered to have you for a pupil _ that I think Ben would
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enjoy the idea of your cultivating music _ we have better schools too for the boys, than when you were last here _ Horace is with Mr. Sanderson, and Bolmar has an excellent School at West Chester where Mr. Minis has placed his Son _ we would not part with your boys for the latter, but I am sure you could place them much to your satisfaction for the winter in the city. there have never been so many new establishments for education _ several Eastern [proffessors] are about opening seminaries Mr. [Cl...land?] has a great reputation and will get the best patronage _ we expect Elizabeth to return next week, I have written to Mr. Blair that Madam S_ is ready to receive her _

Mr. Hanna introduced a Mr. & Mrs. Coleman by letter _ whom I have tried in vain to find at their lodgings _ so I pray you bear me blameless to him should they leave town without my meeting them _ I expect they have been sight-seeing ever since their arrival, and will not take time to return visits _ I called twice and did not find the Lady at home _ Mr. C told Hyman he heard Mrs. Hanna was dead _ is there any truth in the report? _ poor Mrs. Hunt is severely tried in the loss of her children! she has been so long a sick wife _ that her Husband will probably part with her more easily than her mother _ not My dear Sister that I should think that a good argument with all men _ but

Mr. H seems to shuffle off his cares with so much ease. that I cannot imagine him long disconsolate on any occasion _

To morrow we begin the agreeable work of painting & house cleaning so that we shall not be in turn to be hospitable for a week or two and all I can do for Mrs. Coleman will be done out [of] doors _ Frank Barry has returned quite charmed with the West, he calls himself a Kentuckian _ has voted there and claims citizenship _ thus you win the minds & hearts of all who dwell for a season among you _ he too has bidden us to expect you, and most gladly we obey him _ Embrace my beloved Brother for me dear Maria, and and tell the dear boys I hope soon to embrace them myself it would fatigue you to go through the [numerous] messages of joyous anticipations that hail you from all quarters, so I shall only say our united love and good wishes for a safe journey and happy greeting _ May God Bless & guard you by night & by day _ my dearest prays your attached Sister RG_

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky