

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

January 20, 1835

Tuesday night Jany 20th. 1835

Last Friday My Dear Maria your box was dispatched by the Mail stage to Pittsburg _ to the care of Mr. Hutchinson, with orders _ that if the navigation was not open _ to forward it on by the mail stage _ so that I hope you will have your dress before the arrival of this letter _ I should be very glad indeed to hear that your Bonnet & Cloaks were in use long since _ they were sent in the steam boat Lady Marshall, to January & Huston Maysville with other packages for Crutchfield & Tilford and sailed from Pittsburg on the th Decr. _ if you have not received them Brother had better write to the persons above mentioned at Maysville about them _ I expect my dear Sister when you open your present importation you will be reminded of the Irish servant, who being sent for a physician, called also at the undertakers as one whould naturally require the other _ having purchased you a gown & Turban I thought you would require a cape to suit a walking dress _ and one to make it complete for an evening and so I exceeded your order by these articles _ the Blonde looked so pretty with its coloured bows that I would not have them exchanged _ knowing you could substitute the little scarf belonging to your dress while you wear black _ and I hope most sincerely you may enjoy health & happiness and wear them with a light heart _ we heard a few days ago _ that Henry [end of page]

Hart was to be married immediately _ I congratulate you on his success _ for I knew you have a mothers interest in his welfare _ and that his Lady-love is one you approve of _ I suppose he will exchange his naval honors for the garb of a gentle cit _ or country squire _ unless the warlike spirit of our chief should be caught by the congress _ and bring about something for our navy to do _ [if] the season were more favorable I should recommend his making a visit with his bride to his friends here _ Mr. Brown has been confined all winter _ he has long been infirm and I should fear from reports of his situation _ that he must be in a very declining state _ Susan looks very pretty in her maternal character _ she has a sweet little girl _ and she is matronizing her young relation Ellen Ware in her debut into Society _ the unfortunate situation of

Mrs. La Ratch, cast a gloom on them all during the first part of the winter _ but she has partially recovered _ and tho still but the melancholy wreck of her former loveliness _ is able to walk abroad, and wears the semblance of re-animation _

Gratz Etting was at home to day _ and has been well for several months. he employs himself in bringing his former business to a close, but rarely goes out _ by a new arrangement of the managers of the institution, he is more [constantly] confined within the bounds of the hospital _ and I think it is evidently an advantage, for his attacks are less frequent & of shorter duration _ but his hopes of a final restoration fade as year after year passes without producing a change _ it is pitiful indeed to hear him discuss so feelingly _ so sorrowfully the blight of his young days _ yet piously resign himself to the will of him in whose hands are the destiny of all _ he reads a good deal _ and his choice of books are serious, & instructive in the intervals when he may safely indulge himself in reading.
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Jo has recovered, and begins to look better _ he is [re...ting?] himself with a few friends at the Whist table _ he & Jac abandon tea parties altogether _ Hyman sometimes goes _ I more rarely still _ for the last fortnight the city has been regaled by a succession of fetes _ but as Sarah does not go out this Winter I am not called on to bear a part, and only appear occasionally _ if Julia Hoffman, who I expect in a fortnight is disposed to share in such scenes I suppose we shall be drawn into them _ the Theatre they say has been very attractive but my time for such amusements has gone by _ I have not been to see a play since Fanny Kemble retired _

I am reading Hannah More's life _ and I hope it has reached you by this time _ it is full of interesting letters, and incidents _ she filled a high station in the literary circle of her day _ and was honored for her talents _ her piety [and?] her benevolent activity in improving the moral & religious [charac?] ter of her neighbourhood _ Becky Cohen is getting better _ and our dear Isabella is also improving _ she cannot get beyond a certain point _ but when suffering [more] than any one we ever saw, it seems as if her usual state was health _

It seems long since we have heard from you my dear Sister _ and you see, you gain nothing by it, for this is the third letter you have been troubled with since you have written _ I am charged with so many affectionate messages from our nieces & nephews _ (Horace particularly) our Sisters & brothers that if they were to be individually delivered it would take more space than I have to spare _ Hyman says I must tell our dear Ben that he will answer his letter in a few days _ I heard last evening that our friends in Washington

are well _ I gave an introductory letter to a gentleman, who came
[back] delighted with the attentive kindness of Mr. & Mrs. Blair
he thanked me for the most useful document he carried, he wants an
office, and Mr. B_s influence he thinks will do it for him
[end of page]

Elizabeth was quite a belle on Saturday Evening at a Ball
she is so full of brightness & vivacity that it is impossible not
to be attracted _ the party was at Pembertons _ and fixed on Saturday
as the only evening she has permission to go out embrace
the dear boys for me _ and present my unbounded love to my
dear Brother and his better half _ Adieu May God bless you
both with every blessing each could ask for the other _ ever
My dear Maria, Your own attached Sister RGratz

Sarah desires her best love to her dear Aunt _ Uncle & her
little pets _

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington Ky.