

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

[April 22, 1827]

It is useless My dear Maria, to be always complain-  
-ing of the burthen of cares which we are allotted to carry in  
our journey through life \_ I believe if the experiment were practica-  
-ble, we should [find] as the Spectator affirms, that however  
the nature or quality of our trials differ, we should find ourselves  
equally uncomfortable under the weight of anothers load \_ as that  
which is appointed for ourselves \_ "and since we needs must bear

"[endureing] patience makes the burthen light \_  
no other alleviation has taken place in the affairs of our  
family concerns and yet I do not feel so unhappy as I  
did a few weeks ago \_ and I beg you not to permit your tranquil-  
-ity to be too much interrupted, your sympathy is indeed grateful  
to our hearts, we know you & our dear Ben partake of all that  
affects us. but we must not permit your [fineer?] prospects  
to be over clouded, by the gloom which at [present] envelope  
us \_ Dr. Caldwell paid us a long visit this morning, and  
tho' I trembled for my literary reputation on his entrance \_ I  
was pretty well satisfied, that the Dr. was too much occupied  
in his own oratory to be a critic. and have no doubt he  
considered me a good listener, he has fortunately got into  
a situation, to display his conversational talents to a distinguish-  
-ed audience, at Miss Boyds, where there is a brilliant circle  
of fashionables \_ and among them a literary Lady. Miss Hart  
[end of page]

of Seabrook \_ who has written two books \_ is very beautiful &  
accomplished \_ and just enough of an invalid to excite  
interest, and sanction any display of excentricity her caprice  
or genius may direct \_ the Dr. does not seem much disposed  
to admire the changes in his native city \_ he criticised the drama \_  
and disapproved the Arcade, but I assure you notwithstanding  
my dear Sister, you would be astonished & pleased with the many  
& very beautiful ranges of new buildings which improve our streets  
and I hope \_ (notwithstanding all our troubles) I shall ere very long have  
the happiness of shewing them to you \_ how you delight me, by your  
description of my nephews \_ sweet Howard! I often think of the dear  
little fellows growing love for me \_ I long to see Hyman. who is just at  
the most interesting age \_ Gratz & Bernard are ever before me \_ a thousand  
agreeable recollections are rehearsed by the children daily \_ some one  
looks like them \_ speaks like them or does something just like them \_  
Sarah brought me a letter on her state this evening addressed to Gratz \_  
she & Horace frequently compose epistles to him, tho' the latter can  
only follow Madame DeGenlis' plan of copying printed characters

so badly that it is difficult to decipher them \_ but as it keeps up an intercourse in their minds with their dear little Cousins, I am pleased to encourage it \_

Sister Hays has recovered her spirits and they are all well \_ they are going to move next week, into a house in eleventh Street near Walnut, at no great distance from Sister Ettings \_ as to Ellens prospects I believe she [h...] has received no intimation of a change \_ she has need of hope, faith & charity in the exercise of which if her love endures it will come near to that divine spirit which sustains saints & [Mar]-tyrs \_ Miriam Etting has gone to pass the summer in Baltimore, & Edward goes in a few days to Bellefonte where he will probably be fixed [end of page]

our dear little neighbours, are well & cheerful \_ and grow more interesting by daily improvement. Simons family I have not seen for some time, until yesterday the girls passed me in the street without speaking \_ they left off visiting me some time before these unhappy affairs occurred \_ and I have not been at his house since the beginning of March \_ but as nothing ever passed to justify such rudeness I confess I was surprised \_ & mortified \_

Alas! My dear Sister it is hard to reconcile such a state of things. I should have thought it treason to have suspected my brother of injustice \_ and have struggled through much opposition in the hope to oblige or serve him \_ God grant he may be turned to a better way of thinking \_ and tranquility be once more restored \_ our Brothers & Sisters all desire much love to you & our dear Ben Jac wishes to write a few lines \_ therefore Adieu, May you & Yours always [be] happy, is the wish My dear Maria of Your Sister RG \_ thank my dear brother for his letter.

**Jacob Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**[April 22, 1827]**

My Dear Maria

This is a late time of day to commence a correspondence with one for whom I have so ardent an affection as you my dear Sister, & altho' I have heretofore been so backward in making this serious acknowledgment, in an epistle; I am confident you will not attribute my omissions to any slumbering of my affections, until roused, by the discovery of the [inaccuracy] [of] recently exhibited, from another quarter, where 'twas least to be imagined, & therefore consider it necessary to bespeak a confidence for my own heart; no indeed I should despise myself did I imagine, that to any of my friends, it would ever be requisite for me to give a [guaranty], [but] I promised Becky that I [would?] add a little postscript to [tire?] you, that by Mr. Morrison who left now a week ago a packet of letters was entrusted for your husband which gives him as complete a view of the present uncomfortable condition of affairs, as can be com-

municated; & to excuse myself for my apparent inconstancy and cruelty towards you & the children, by the desire I expressed in my letter to him, that the period now exists, when his presence here might be attended with a good effect, I know Ben, so entirely that what his opinion will be  
[end of page]

I am already in possession of, but his [own?] interest may be promoted very considerably by his being on the spot, which tho' but a feather in the scale, where so much happiness is to be weighted, he will, if possible & he gets your consent make an effort & try what may grow out of his fraternal interposition \_ I will know that I have demanded of him a great boon, to leave a partner who cherishes his happiness with such assiduity, & children who are cherished with tenderness & parental anxiety, as a sacrifice of no ordinary kind, & I could not reconcile myself to [make] desire it, until every other avenue had been unsuccessfully attempted \_ you must therefore absolve me from an imputation of cruelty & inconsistency \_ I yearn most anxiously for the time to come when we shall talk over these affairs [an] "en passant," for I

assure you, they shall not occupy many of these valued moments, or interrupt more agreeable conversation, we will just glance at them as the fortunate mariner looks at the frightful rocks [...] with which his bark has been in contact & escaped from, all around them is rage & foam, whilst he pursues his career, until all [...] of their dangers exist only in his recollection, God ever have you in his immediate charge, your happiness & the prosperity of your troop of boys, is one of the first wishes of the heart of your sincere  
brother Jac \_

[p.1 margin:]  
Give me a [form?] [...]  
[...]  
[...]  
[or grace?]

[Address:]  
To  
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz  
Lexington  
Kentucky

[Editors' Note: The day and month on the date is based on the postmark; the year is inferred from the ongoing conversation of the family crisis.]

