

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**June 12, [1831]**

This is the first glad day I have passed My dear Sister since your departure \_ for it has brought me your charming letter from Pittsburgh \_ telling how pleasantly you have passed over the most wearisome part of your journey \_ that your dear Children have suffered so little \_ behaved so well and entertained you so agreeably \_ and it has moreover told me, what I felt every day, and prize beyond all price that you love me \_ I shall not tell you how sad and solitary I have been without you or how I have striven by active occupation to drive away vain regrets \_ but I am afraid I succeeded badly for Jo told me the other day at dinner that I had better have gone with you to Kentucky & returned with Jac. now I had not uttered a complaint and so conclude I must have looked [forlorn], indeed I have been so happy and am so full of gratitude to you and my dear Ben for coming with all your treasures, and leaving me such a heart full of tender & agreeable recollections that I do not know how I can seem otherwise than contented \_ on Friday evening we had the pleasure of welcoming your Montgomery. [he] presented his fathers letter with such an expressive smile, that he quite won me, and we became sociable before he had met any one else of the family. he stays with us until to-morrow. and Gratz has taken upon him self the charge of shewing him the lions \_ he arrived very opportunely to put him in good humour with a soldiers parade life \_ as the hospitality of the citizens is in full exercise on the [Boston] troops. tell Howard, Emma Stockton has sent for Montgomery to introduce him to her brother at W. Point [end of page]

and that he gained so many of the young ladies hearts that they are disposed to like his cousin for his sake.

If I could only tell you all the gratifying things I hear about you \_ and the sympathy your friends express for my deprivations, I should leave room for nothing else, Miss Peters is foremost, and so sincere an admirer, that it would be unjust not to make her an exception \_ she called on wednesday morning to make an engagement for the evening and took me to hear some good music \_ in return for which I was to send her the first information about you. and she talked of you so sensibly \_ & so justly that I liked her better than ever, and think it likely I shall lose nothing in her estimation for I can listen [with] uninterupting pleasure as long as she continues on that theme \_ but

I promised to read her some of your letters in consideration of the infirmity in her optic which deprives her of the delight she should have had in requesting your correspondence \_ Mr. Sully too \_ you have made him wish to take a summer tour over the mountains \_ I paid him my last visit on friday \_ and next week he commences his journey \_ I hope you will be satisfied with his labour \_ I cannot judge of its success but I am sure he is very glad to get done with me \_ Montgomery is charmed to find so fair & faithful a representation of you, and thinks I ought to be happy having you always smiling before me \_ but it is in the soul-speaking Eye I love to look and fancy a [sympathy] in what ever may be most interesting to me at the moment \_ that abstracted look is certainly most favorable to a picture it is so intellectual and to you so habitual. and I have so often read in it unutterable thoughts & feelings, and responded to them, that I have acquired a new [series] [end of page]

of communication with you through your picture \_

I have had a visit from Miriam Etting & two notes since you left \_ the girls told me she was so sick and unhappy that I offered my nurses in any way she required \_ I spoke to her parents about the Dr. and found they knew every thing \_ her father is averse \_ but not violent (for him) and says he leaves her entirely in her mothers hands \_ Fanny says her child's happiness is the first & most important consideration. that she knows so little personally of the Dr. and that the parties know so little of each other, that the utmost she can consent to at present is to allow of his visits, when he arrives. and not to oppose their wishes if it appears their attachment continues on further intercourse, this is very rational, and may lead to a better state of things than they could plan for them selves \_ M requires some discipline of her mind & heart \_ she has a sickly sensibility not at all allied to good feeling. and which would worry a man out of love if he has his senses, \_ and out of happiness if he has not \_ she seems to think it necessary to be very miserable tho' I can see nothing to make her so \_ unless she has set [herself?] on some romantic plot, to become the heroine of \_ and if the Dr. was not a little peepostorous, and very much in love \_ it is probable she would work her own ends \_ and have to lament a disappointment of her own making \_ poor Isabella! declines rapidly she has wretched nights \_ and the hot weather affects her greatly \_ and there seems for her no balm in gilead, or no physician there to administer it. our other nieces are well and glad to shew kindness to some one you love, are making much of Montgomery \_ Henry Hays goes with him tomorrow to New York and will shew him the city \_ for the little time he can stay there. Sarah & Horace send so much love that I do not know how to tell it \_ poor

Sarah has been sadly affected by your departure \_ she some times weeps for dear little Cary \_ and the boys \_ and then for her dear dear Aunt \_ she draws every day \_ and goes to bed as soon as she can to dream of you all \_ or forget the loneliness of her feelings \_ Alas why must the mountains rise and the waters flow between us. says she when we might be so [end of page]

happy [together] \_ but it is time to send my letter to the [office] \_ give my best love to my two dear Brothers \_ embrace the dearly beloved children and accept My darling Sister the devoted affection of your own RG \_

Sunday Morning June 12th.

our Sisters & brothers send their tenderest love \_

[Address:]  
Mrs. Maria C Gratz  
Lexington Ky

[Editors' Note: The year of this letter is based on the year Thomas Sully painted the portraits of Maria Gist Gratz and Rebecca Gratz. June 12, 1831 also fell on a Sunday.]