

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**August 22, [1831]**

My Dear Maria

Hyman has just told me of an opportunity to Lexington. and tho' it is a very warm afternoon and I have nothing very well worth sending so far. I cannot for the life of me, let it pass without saluting you with an affectionate greeting if it be only to say God bless you. and this I do say mentally every day. and I think of all the pleasant hours we have recently spent together \_ and look on your sweet picture. which seems to be meditating on some such things as used to light up your countenance when we sat in social converse before the winter fire, \_ Mrs. Barry came to see me on Saturday. she looked at your portrait & said it only wanted a voice to be your very self \_ the good lady talked very pleasantly for some time, and on my enquiring if she could give any [tidings] of your Sister, said she would write to Mr. Barry, to mention Mrs. Blair when he wrote and would let me know where & how she is \_ but I have written twice myself to Mr. Blair, what he may think very troublesome. Henry Etting wished an introduction, and fearing he might arrive before we could hear from you. I forwarded a letter to that effect \_ Montgomery is gaining favor with the Cadets. [Stockdon?] has been home on a visit. and says he has become very much attached to him \_ for his amiable & agreeable character \_ the girls were greatly surprised by the news of Caroline Frazer's Marriage to \_ Murat on wednesday last \_ Becky received a note from her sister Jane written at the bride's request to inform her how it happened and excuses for not apprizing her &c \_ she says it was expedient to have it  
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altogether private \_ they rode over to Trenton, and were married in the episcopal Church by Dr. Beasley at 8 o'clock in the morning returned to breakfast and after a few hours, set out on a journey to New York & the black river \_ the Count did not give his consent to the marriage \_ but he received his [niece] amicably when the [knot] was tied \_ and the charming Caroline has reached the height of her ambition \_ it has been a long attachment \_ but whether the french Prince will make an american husband is the question, about which wise acres shake their heads \_ he has a farm about 2 miles from Mount Breeze, and sits daily at the Counts table \_ your interesting little Madame [S...é?] will gain a companion at the palace at any rate. and the Frazer's seem quite satisfied for the good prospect of their darling \_ I wish them every happiness

they are an excellent family and deserve it \_

Dr. DeLamotta was but a few days absent \_ he returned at the end of the week. not satisfied that he had done all that might be achieved by an ardent lover \_ he called [at] Mr. Ettings \_ Miriam did not appear during his visit \_ and he has given up the pursuit \_ he inflicts his company on the girls every day who I suspect will be very glad when he gets over his disappearance \_ or takes his departure \_ nothing can be more irksome than the sadness, occasioned by such conduct. particularly when so elaborately detailed and repeated [...] & over.

Aunt Bell has been very sick again with an inflamed Eye \_ Miriam Moses & Myself are [their] only visitors out of the family. they have offended the rest \_ but the old Lady always enquires kindly for you & Ben she was concerned for our dear little Hyman \_ Dr. Black's account of him was very agreeable \_ I hope he is quite well by this time, and will receive a Kiss from his Aunt [end of page]

Becky who loves him very much \_ Sarah sends you her love, she will write very soon \_ we have had a long spell of exceedingly hot weather, and the mosquitoes are as numerous as the [flies] of Egypt and as great a plague \_ I have not been out of the city since we came down the Delaware together \_ and think it probable shall tarry at home during the remainder of the summer \_ Jac bids me say he will write to you on his return, he is going to Harrisburg & Lebanon on Wednesday. his golden prospects have turned to iron \_ in Schuylkill County \_ and sits rather heavy on his spirits when he casts his thoughts in that direction \_ poor Jac! he is so sanguine \_ and so little of the world in his calculations \_ that disappointment is ever treading on the heels of his adventures \_ I wish he had taken a Wife when he came home from Canton some ages [a] gone by. and hoarded his gains and [ha...] in [a?] little domestic circle where his affections might [...] [g...] [...] home \_ but we have not the privilege to go over misspent time, and he must make the best of what remains \_

What does Dear Ben say about the Kentucky Election? \_ has it satisfied him \_ I have tried to read the Whig, on Mr. Clays account \_ but really I have no taste for politics \_ the long discussions of venal writers are shocking to our moral characters \_ they make monsters & idols equally wide of truth of those honest men they wish to honor and not knowing how to translate their slang into veritable facts \_ I lay down the paper as ignorant as I take it up \_ Kiss the dear boys for me \_ and tell me about them all when you write \_ Adieu, My Sister \_ God Bless you all \_ prays your own true Sister & friend RG \_

dont let sweetest Cary forget me \_  
Aug. 22nd.

**Hyman Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

our sister Rebecca has left me a little room today  
Old Kentuck has dissoppointed her friends on this side the mountains we  
expected a different result in her election, had she been true to herself and  
given a majority of Clay members to Congress it would have had a  
great effect upon the election in our state, many who were  
[wavrering] would have joined us at once, they are still undecided  
and looking out for the strongets side \_ we are doing all we can  
to withdraw our State from Jackson \_ and if we can succeed  
Clay must be the candidate of Penny. until your returns

reached us we were going on admirably well. it will be necessary  
for greater exertions to be made to regain what has been lost by  
Kentucky \_ it is so long since we had tidings from you  
that we feel anxious to hear you are all well and that  
my namesake is recovering tender to him [and] all my  
best affection and Love, with a large portion to yourself  
& Husband \_  
Your Brother

H Gratz

[Address:]  
To  
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz  
Lexington Ky

[Courier:]  
Mr. Hawkins

[Editors' Note: The year of this letter is based on the marriage date of Caroline Fraser and Prince  
Murat.]