

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

June 8, [1827]

A few lines my dear Sister, just to express the gratitude with which my heart abounds, is all I shall intrude on you at this time, as I know you will hear all from the lips of your husband with more delight that I could impart _ that which is joyful coming from the source of your joy _ and being the result of his toil will be most welcome, and to recount it to you, his best reward that he has cheered his Sisters heart & been the light of her eyes, during the period of his absence will be a consolation to your generous spirit _ and when he tells you of the estrangement at which my nature recoils _ you will know how to sympathize with me _ yet I do not despond of experiencing a return of my brothers affection, and shall live the happier on that hope. at any rate, the blessed effects of Ben's exertions has removed a load of misery _ and now not another word of complaint. altho my lip quivers with the anguish of Adieu to one so truly & so tenderly beloved _

our dear little nieces & nephews have been so happy
[end of page]

in their Uncles society & so flattered by the interest and notice he [bestow'd] on them & their concerns, that we shall have the pleasant recollection of them to talk about all summer _ oh how we have wished for you & the children! before he came, such a thought never entered my brain for I could not desire you to partake my uneasiness _ but the scene was quite changed under the influence of his benignant presence. and I am now convinced wherever he is, you may safely be _ I shall never again wish you separated. so my ever dear Sister do not think me selfish in the hope that another year will not pass without bringing you all across the mountains _

I am grateful for your kind wish to have me visit you, and assure you nothing would give me more pleasure at present my home affairs and home feelings could not be transferred _ tho' none of the pleasantest _ but as I and my children talk constantly of making a Grand tour _ if we ever find it possible to effect our wishes

you may be sure we shall [direct] our face's Westward
Beckys imagination is constantly on the wing. and Dr. Syntax
like she is in search of the picturesque & romantic _
Miriams sober judgment always carries her in the vicinity
of her Uncle Ben _ so I think for once these women might
[end of page]

be unanimous in their decision on a rout for a party of
Pleasure, I believe they are both writing to you _ they have
been twirling their fingers, and amusing [themselves] very
merrily over some bead work for you & Ben _ and then fearing
it is not pretty enough to offer for your acceptance _ I almost
envied them the pleasure they took in the work _ but as my occu-
-pations & taste were not quite conformable _ am obliged to
beg you will receive the work of other hands from me in
-stead of home [manufacture] _ assuring your self if I could have
worked a cape as well, or made as pretty bracelets, I should
have been the gainer of many pleasant hours in doing
them [for] you _ I promised to write you but a few [lines?]
and _ but I beg your pardon My dear Maria, for almost
filling a sheet, it is hard to count ones words, in some
company _ Horace is sitting by, and sends his love to the boys
and his dear Aunt _ kiss the dear fellows for me _ Gratz &
[Barnard] will remember me _ but my sweet Howard, cannot _
God Bless You all My dearest Sister _ when you
read this you will be happy in the society of [your?]
Beloved. and reward him for all he has [generously?]
suffered for his & your Affectionate & Grateful

RG

Friday June 8th.

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Lexington KY

[Endorsement:]

Rebecca Gratz

Answered _

[Editors' Note: This letter is dated 1827 because June 8th fell on a Friday in 1827 — the year that the conflict between the brothers came to a head.]