

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**March 13, [1836]**

Well My dear Maria after waiting so long for a passage over the delaware, our Brother & boys are obliged to take to the Rail road to morrow morning. and on this 13th. day of March the streets are frozen as rigidly as at mid Winter but we cannot spare you much longer \_ nor bear to deprive you of the sons you so yearn to embrace, and so on Tuesday morning you will have the happiness of [embracing?] them in as full & perfect health as your own heart could ask \_ nor after this intelligence you will care for little else that this letter may contain and so I will fill it with business \_ after first thanking you for the two charming letters you have this week bestowed on me \_ You know, and so ought Mr. Blair that I think it as much an act of friendship to ask, as it is to perform a kindness \_ and am therefore always gratified when I am applied to, for a service it may be in my power to do. Mr. Foulhouze, has such a school as you enquire for, in the city \_ he is a French [catholic] \_ a very sensible learned man and a gentleman \_ he has several boarders and the french language is spoken in his family \_ Frederic Cleeman is one of his pupils and his father recommends him highly \_ Dr. Hays has promised to make enquiry for other situations in town & country \_ but I doubt whether any more eligible will be found \_ I will procure for you his card \_ terms &c. and what other information you desire \_ at Bulwars the french is not spoken \_ and his school is so large that it has outgrown the recommendations so liberally bestowed on it \_ [the] Latin & Greek are taught at Mr. Foulhouzes also \_  
[end of page]

I got Ben's linen & the pattern shirt yesterday and shall put them in hands forthwith \_ but am sorry My dear Sister, to disappoint you respecting the little boys cloths I can find nothing pretty in the shops \_ and every body tells of the abundant stock that are waiting until the ice breaks up \_ so I have concluded to wait until they are here and can send them to you by Dr. Mutter \_ who will be in Washington as soon as the river opens \_ the big boys also will post pone having their wardrobe prepared until they return, and this because they were afraid to trust so important a matter into any bodys hands \_ when they were not here to see that they had a right [fit] \_ your garden seeds are all [packed] and will be forwarded in a few days  
I am delighted to hear that our dear Ben will be here so soon

and hope you will enjoy your trip to Richmond and [be]  
back before he arrives \_ the first of April ushers in  
the Passover and I should like to have you all home by  
then, Julia arrived on Monday last \_ they are all at  
Sister Hays' \_ Howard among them \_ he is not less of a  
beau than usual, we shall miss them both very much  
and I long to see dear little Hyman & Cary \_ Henry E.  
mentioned that the latter had been indisposed \_ but I hope  
not seriously as you say nothing about it, you have been  
in such a vortex of dissipation & excitement all winter. that  
the sober quietness of home will require a change of seasons  
to be relished \_ at least by Becky \_ but even Washington  
will I suppose relax a little on the approach of easter  
some of our Young Saints \_ are shocked that the whole of  
lent should not be a restraint \_  
[end of page]

It was Sara's intention to write by this mail \_ but it will  
be late before her return home \_ and so I shall not wait  
her arrival \_ and she must make the boys the bearer of her  
dispatches \_ tell Mrs. Blair I will send what farther in  
formation I can obtain about a school for James \_ but think  
she need not fear to place her son at the one named, in  
case none better situated offers

I have just received a letter from Rosa. full of agreeable  
anticipations of seeing you \_ and Harriet too expresses  
the same hopes & the same desire. she is quite well again  
and has been out to spend a day at Wheatland \_

Give my love to the dear Girls \_ are you not going to  
take Elizabeth with you to Richmond? I am glad  
you have such [...] recent letters from Montgomery  
[Phillippa] Minis speaks of him in her letters \_ he  
has been at some parties where the braves are the  
favorite beaux \_ I trust they will have no more  
savage Warfare to engage in \_ Sally is well and  
always grateful for your kind messages she sends  
her love \_

I have no time to comment on Beckys  
conquests this evening but hope she will guard  
well her heart \_ and deal honestly in all her ways  
with the hearts of others \_ God Bless you my  
dear Sister. you know how fondly & truly I am your  
Affectionate RGratz

Jo just came home & told me that  
Sara has dispatched a letter from Hays' to tell you what  
this was designed for \_ so you may read this when convenient  
and then destroy it \_

[Address:]

To

Mrs. Benjamin Gratz

Washington City

D C \_

[Editors' Note: The year of this letter is based on a series of correspondence, during which Maria's sons are staying with Rebecca while Maria is in Washington, D.C. See RGC0411 and RGC0438.]