

Rebecca Gratz

9.

Philadelphia May 12th 1810

My Dear Brother

This day two months you left the shores of America! What would we not give to know how & where you are now? With the blessing of Providence I trust you are safe & happy, ~~and~~ should this reach you, I grieve that I am obliged to give you painful intelligence ~~from~~ home, our dear Rebecca has been the misfortune to lose her lovely infant Benjamin Gratz. he was snatched from her arms in almost perfect health. this day a week he had something like a convulsion fits which alarmed us very much and ~~to~~ ~~which~~ prevent a recurrence of them the Dr. placed a blister on his breast. he was much better the next day. and we thought his disorder removed. on Tuesday afternoon he was again seized, and expired in his mother's arms before any assistance could be offered. his illness was not of five minutes duration. the shock was almost too much for our bereaved sister. for two days her distress was extreme. and threatened to overcome her fortitude. but God has given her strength to meet the blow, and piety enough to bow submissively to the dispensations of His will. she mourns as a parent but does not forget that God has given her many blessings, and recalled but a few. she bade me tell you so, and also to present you her best love. she knows you will sympathize in her feelings. and takes a melancholy pleasure in imagining the disappointment you will experience, on hearing the promise of so much blessing is withering in the tomb. Sweet Cherub! he has escaped a world of trouble. and gained one of endless glory - our regret is selfish for infantile purity, must be happier, where all is purity like itself.

When last I wrote, I told you that Eliza F. & I Paulding were with us
they have both returned to New York. but we still ^{have} some friends from abroad
here. you would never guess who they are. were I disposed to exercise your
sagacity, so I may as well tell you Cousin Rachel Etting & her husband
occupy your apartment. they are to make a visit of a fortnight here.
we are delighted with our kindswoman. she is amiable, agreeable &
affectionate. she has conducted herself with truly sisterly attachment to our
dear Richa, during her misfortune, and is indeed in every respect, all we
could wish her to be. Maria Hoffman & ~~her~~ Aunt Phineas have both
promised to be with us this summer, so we anticipate their arrival in
time to console us for the departure of these.

our Honored Father is well. he sends you his blessing and his love.
Fanny improves very slowly. she is not relieved from the tube yet
nor do I expect she will be for some time longer. The sisters with our
sisters Sally & Rachel in best wishes and sincere affection for you. our Bro-
thers have written to you within two or three days. they likewise send their
love in which Cousin Rachel, Aunt Phebe & all the girls unite -

I have been sitting all day in our dear Richa's chamber, and am not
able to write this evening so you must pardon that short letter. it
will have to reach you too, and therefore ought to be better worth
your acceptance. Mr. Cary is I believe bound to Rufus

the children of all families remember & talk a great deal about you.
would we could hear from you. two months has appeared an age
yet perhaps two more may elapse before we hear, that you have
been graciously preserved through the dangers of the sea. and are safely

no do

May 12. 1810

Mr. Joseph Gratz
Care of Messrs. Parols & Co
Hamburg

Mr. W. Craig.

