

{ Rebecca Gratz
Sarah Gratz
Rachel Gratz Moses

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Philadelphia May 27th 1840

My Dear L

I wrote ^{you} about a fortnight ago of our dear Rebecca's misfortune in losing her youngest child - Bernard Gratz - who was suddenly taken from her, after so short an illness - that we were scarcely prepared to consider him in any danger. You know the sensibility of her heart, and the devotedness of her attachment to her children, and therefore can judge of her sorrow on this occasion.

I however have the satisfaction to assure you that her health has not suffered, and that her mind is composed. She is resigned to the dispensation which she knows it is her duty to submit to, and has the consolation to believe that the unsullied purity of her child is promoted to regions where it will flourish for ever.

We begin to wish the period had arrived when we may expect to hear of your arrival. no one can tell, who has not felt it - the pain of anxiety - the restless, unsatisfied feeling of long deferred expectation - two months and a half - appears an age and yet another may elapse before we receive a letter. when once assured of your safety and health, I trust your absence will not be so welcome to us, for we shall then only deplore the loss of your society. at present a thousand apprehensions assail us - the dangers of the sea - the state

of the country you are visiting - and all the stately affection
conspires up to scare itself with - are ever present to our mind -

one line from your pen My Dear Brother, may dissipate
all these phantoms, and I pray to God to enable you to send
it to us - we have written to you very often. so I hope you
will not suffer any anxiety about home. our dear Father
continues in his usual health. he is very anxious about
you - and very often speaks of you with the utmost tenderness.
he was much gratified by his niece's visit - and since her
departure expressed those awakened feelings the meeting a
long absent friend excites. Cousin David with us a fortnight
her departure was most affectionate & amiable. she took
a sister's share in ^{all} our concerns, and lamented that you were
not here to learn to love her too. Sister Fanny is recovering. she
walks to see our Father, and rides out occasionally. The rest
of the family continue as you left them - we expect Aunt
Shirah to pass some time here this summer. and Maria Hoffman
will make her visit next week - I write you of all these
trifles that vary, and make up the scenes of domestic life.
because they bring you home - and I know you expect no other
kind of letters from me. our Brothers give you information more
important - a woman's chit chat only comes in, to fill up an

May 27 - 1880

Mr. Joseph Gratz
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