

Rebecca Gratz to Joseph Gratz

May 12, 1810

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 Richea has had the misfortune to lose her lovely infant Bernard Gratz _ he was snatched from her arms in almost perfect health _ this day a week he had something like _ 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 mothers arms before any assistance could be offere'd _ 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 loveliness 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 [end of page]

when last I wrote, I told you that Eliza F & J 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 Kinswoman _ she is amiable, agreeable & affectionate _ she has conducted herself with truly sisterly attachment to our dear Richea during her misfortune, and is indeed in every respect, all we could wish her to be. Maria Hoffman & [Wash], Aunt Shinah have both promised to see 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. She unites with our sisters Sally & Rachel in best wishes and sincere affection for you. our Brothers have written to you within two or three days _ they likewise send their

love in which Cousin Rachel, Aunt Bell & all the girls unite _

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

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
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arrived _ Dear Brother you know not how much anxiety we have already experienced _ but this is the penalty affectionate hearts must pay for the happiness they possess in such dear runaways as you _

Your friend B Henry has just recovered from a dangerous illness, he is here and only waiting the recovery of his health to go on Board the Syren _ of which W. Reed has just [got] been appointed the commander _ Pemberton. we never see unless by accident _ but I suppose he writes to you, "his whole course of love." if not I can furnish you with a flying report that he is prosperous _

Cousin bids me tell you if you were at home she would strive to conquer your reserve & make you more friendly than you were in Balt _ And I can answer for it, that you would never be able to resist her amiable & condescending [manner] again she bids me send you her best wishes _

Adieu May God Bless & prosper you, in all your undertakings, and grant you health & happiness.

ever My dearest Jo, Yours Most truly RG

[Address:]

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

[Courier:]

Mr. W. Craig

[Endorsement:]

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