

Rebecca Gratz to Joseph Gratz

May 27, 1810

Philadelphia May 27th. 1810

My Dear Jo

I wrote [you] about a fortnight ago of our dear Richeas 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 reconciled 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 forever _

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 irksome 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 [end of page]

of the country you are visiting _ and all the etcetras affection conjures 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 awakend feelings the meeting a long absent friend excites, cousin staid with us a fortnight her deportment was most affectionate & amiable, she took a sisters 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 Shinah 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 womans chit chat only comes in to fill up an
[end of page]

idle home _ but then we expect to interest the heart _ and who
would not rather snatch such moments of _ sentiment & sensibility
than wait on set times for attention[,] unwillingly bestowed _ when the
thoughts are only called home for occasions of business _ and distracted
by various concerns _

Sally begs room for a few lines. I shall therefore only discharge
the many commissions of love and good wishes for you _ which
come from every member of the family including Aunt Bells
her [daughters] &c _ our dr. Sisters particularly _ and the blessing
of our honor'd Parent _ Adieu Beloved Brother

God Bless, & bestow on you every happiness prays [Yr.]

RG

Rachel Gratz Moses to Joseph Gratz

Accept my beloved Brother the warm affection of your
Rachel who thinks of you and prays for your prosperity and
happiness daily, as does my children every night they both
“say God bless my dear uncle Jo and send him safe home”
Oh how happy such an event would make us all; Heaven
Protect you my dear Boy I love you dearly and am your
attached RGM

Sarah Gratz to Joseph Gratz

In this small space, I can only say how ardently I love, how
fervently I Pray for you my dear Jo _ would to God! we could hear
of your safe arrival. then will our thoughts of you be free from
that great anxiety which at present [overshadows] them, accept the
best love of your fondly affectionate Sister SG

[Address:]
Mr. Joseph Gratz
care of Messrs. Parish & Co.
Hamburg

[Courier:]
favor'd by

Mr. [Valenium]

[Endorsement:]
May 27 _ 1810