

## Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

September 12, 1814

Why, my Dear Ben, are you so sparing of your letters? do you not know how necessary a few words by these frequent opportunities are to our comfort? in any separation we should desire it, but under present circumstances where we are subject to continual alarms and you to new hardships, we more anxiously wish for communications \_ a soldier called this morning to inform us you were well \_ Thank Heaven,, your excellent constitution enables you to bear the privations of a Camp life \_ but we should like to hear how you bear them. It is reported here you are too strict a disciplinarian \_ I hope the tale is exaggerated \_ the severity of a camp must be hard enough to all. but an officer may support his own dignity and yet soften the toil of his soldiers by suavity of manners \_ and gentle [dep...] he will thereby gain their affection and make all more happy around him \_ pardon me, my dr. Brother for this hint. my love for you, makes me jealous of every thing like [censure?], even on the side of virtue, for perhaps that would be the term, an old Officer would give to the fault complain'd of \_

Our poor, Dear Sally is again suffering under the effects of that distressing nervous irritability that distressed us so much last winter \_ Dr. Kuhn attends her daily, but I have no expectation of his subduing the disease until it has exhausted its violence as on former occasions, she commenced writing to you this evening but was interrupted, and has gone to bed. there is nothing new in town \_ there is scarcely a man who is not engaged in military [end of page]

duties to be seen, and the Ladies are appalled at the arrival of every bidet \_ the news to day is quite agitating \_ a large force is said to be landing at North point \_ and 12 or 14000 marching from Baltimore to oppose them \_ I hope none of your camp will be required to march. I have sent the things you write for. if you wish any thing else let us know \_ Your Cott, crackers \_ and chest are preparing for the next Opportunity \_ do not incumber your self with unnecessary baggage but consult your comfort & convenience and send for what ever will conduce to them \_ [wost...] stockings would be better than those sent \_ Mrs. Meredith is knitting night caps for you, which she will send by Mr. Willing to morrow \_ Sally, Adeline and our Brothers send you their affectionate remembrance \_ we are all charmed with your Aid, who is as Zealous a patriot as any of you, and proposes adding his [suite?] of strength to the general stock at work, in a days labour at the fortifications \_ our Sisters with their families are well & send love \_

Adieu My dear Ben,  
take care of yourself and May the Almighty  
God. write you in the book of life \_ and happiness \_ prays  
your Affectionate RG \_

Monday night Sept 12th. 1814

[Address:]

[Leiut] Benj. Gratz  
Camp Bloomfield  
Kennet Square

[Endorsement:]  
Rebecca Gratz