

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

[During the War of 1812]

My Dear Ben

You can scarcely conceive our surprise & concern at hearing of your departure, or the impatience in which we hastn'ed home, very little better in any respect for our journey. Sallys disease has assumed much the same character it bore last [Winter] and the bustle & continual change of travelling from place to place. crowded steam boats and company encreased it to a very distressing degree _ I thank God we are at home again _ 'tho' hasten'd to it by alarm and danger _ we found Jo here on a short visit but he return'd to camp this morning. and we feel forlorn without You and him, I hope it will be in your power to come home for a short time too _ Your military zeal is very fine _ but I hope your wishes will not prevail _ an armistice would be more glorious to the country than all the laurels its heros can gather _ Adeline Myers is with us _ John departed south this morning to join his General they do not know where the family has gone _ but all the female and other useless inhabitants of Norfolk had retired some time _ we sit and bewail you much more like women, than patriots and turn pale at the thoughts of a battle. let us know by Gratz if you are in want of any thing more. and tell him also when we may hope to see you _ shall we come down to you, or will you be able to come to the city? Sally & Adeline _ all our sisters, and the Cohens send abundance of love to you _ Mrs. M has written, and so it was my intention to do _ but have been prevented till the eleventh hour _ and am in the utmost haste _ God Bless you

My dear Brother. amid all the perils & chances of war, May you be shielded by the Omnipotent _ and return uninjured to your
sincerely Affectionate RG_