

**Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz**

**February 26, 1826**

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Thank you My dearest Brother for your kind letter \_ and a thousand thanks & congratulations for the heart cheering intelligence it contained \_ our dear Maria's communication threw us all into extacies but \_ with my usual ingenuity [to] in cases of such deep interest \_ I began to entertain a multitude of fears \_ lest her exertion in writing might have injured her \_ and your letter was a most welcome [assurance] assurance of safety \_ long may you My dear brother be so happy with your lovely family. and may every addition prove a new blessing \_ and May God prosper you in all things \_ and keep you worthy of all He bestows \_ my heart overflows with gratitude & affection as the picture of your domestic comforts is presented to it \_ your admirable wife, is [greatly] beloved by all your family and the gratitude we owe her for your happiness, brings her daily & hourly nearer to our hearts \_ the children are quite in amaze that Howard should have a younger brother \_ and Horace was very much concerned at hearing some one say his "nose was out of joint" and came to enquire of me "if it hurt him" \_ every day he talks of his little cousins and is very much afraid as Gratz goes to school that he will soon get before him in learning. They are all well, and cheerful. Becky very desirous of a few additional inches in height for which I [believe] she would willingly perform a pilgrimage. both she & Miriam have improved in good looks \_ our sisters are well and except Isabella \_ all have recovered from the influenza \_ Aunt Bell & the Girls beg you & Maria will accept their love and good wishes. Aunt Bell has passed so anxious a life since Abrahams lameness that  
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she looks as if ten Years had been added to her age \_ she is however well \_ and I am rejoiced to tell you that our Brother Hyman is much better and begins to look well again. If it were not for the journey to Pittsburg in perspective I should have hopes of his continuing to improve \_ he talks of going next month. stage travelling & tavern fare do not agree with his rhumatics \_ Simon has been laid up with the gout for a week past \_ but is better \_ he was in town on Friday

our Brothers I suppose keep you informed of all that is doing out of doors \_ and a gloomy record no doubt it is of the merchantile world \_ Two rich men have gone off the Stage last week \_ paid their last debt \_ and left large fortunes behind them \_ Com. Dale & Harry Wikoff \_ and thus \_ as Shakespeare's fool says \_ "the world wags" the latter lived meanly from loving his money too well to enjoy it \_ and has left it \_ ~~[with his manner-branded]~~ \_ in a manner that reflects

no honor on his memory \_ one is easily reconciled to live without fortune \_ when such examples shew that riches sometimes fail not only to make ones own life happy & comfortable \_ but destroys the noble pride of making it serve the purpose of benefitting others \_ and transmitting an honest fame \_ what short sighted fools men are, My dear Ben \_ who hide their vices from those around them \_ and blazon them forth to their successors so that if they have any virtues to redeem their faults they do not take the benefit of them. if another generation hears of Harry Wikoff it may only be to know how badly he bestowed \$130-000 \_

I begin to hope that Jo has given up all thoughts of New Orleans for this year \_ he has ceased to talk of it \_ and the winter being over he will have no further complaints to make of the climate \_ indeed we have had so little cold weather that I doubt whether he could have been better off in a more southern latitude.  
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our little friend Sally Minis begs you & Maria will accept her love she continues to visit us weekly and becomes still a greater favorite with the family. Mr. Moses sends his congratulations & love to you both \_ It is difficult to vary the expressions of such messages and I am charged with so many that I must either give you a catalogue of names or trust to your family register \_ and only say all send an abundance of affection -ate welcome to the little stranger. God Bless you My

dear Brother. My sweet nephews \_ and My well beloved sister \_ I embrace all the precious groupe. and beg to live in their affection as they must ever in the heart of Your

Sister RGratz

[Address:]

Benjamin Gratz Esqr.  
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[Endorsement:]

Rebecca Gratz  
Feb. 1826. \_