

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz & Maria Gist Gratz

September 26, [1830]

My Dear Sister & Brother, yesterday we heard of your misfortune and our hearts weep with you, alas, how painful is absence from those we love in visitations such as this a thousand apprehensions assail us for you both while we sincerely mourn for the lively boy who was the first object of your parental hopes. May God comfort you! he, in his wisdom has seen fit to try you by this affliction _ in his Mercy he will afford consolation to your wounded spirits _ I know not in what words to address you _ I feel that sorrow is a sacred thing. and that it is a theme on which we commune with our own hearts when we cannot [give] it utterance _ may the rest of your beloved sons fill up their brother's place to you on earth; and, he a treasure in Heaven _ draw their young hearts to love celestial things by thinking of their dear Gratz among the angels of light _ it is thus my dear Sister, that "death loses its victory even whilst we keenly feel its' sting." the eye of faith pierces through the gloomy passage of the grave to brighter hopes beyond. these consolations will be yours when time has [assuaged] your grief. I can only pray that you will be sustained, my anxiety will not cease day or night till I hear from you again, dearest brother, let us not [be] long without hearing from you _ you know how truly we share in all your sorrows _ Adieu I embrace you both with the tenderest affection, and pray God may bless you and your darling children, with health & long life
ever your own sister
RG_

Sept. 26th.

[Editors' Note: The year of this letter is based on the death date of Rebecca's nephew, Benjamin Gratz, in 1830.]