

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

September 29, [1830]

What words of consolation can I offer you my dearest brother! my heart partakes of your sorrow, and weeps over your disappointed hopes _ your bereaved affections _ the sweet boy you mourn, had so many of his Dear Mother's noble qualities in his character & disposition that I do not wonder he was your pride & delight _ alas, that he should have been so soon recalled by the almighty whose judgements are just. and whose ways are past finding out." so young and pure was your darling son _ that he was fitted for the joys of heaven. and He who has given you many treasures to love and to cherish has drawn you nearer to Himself, by placing this precious one among his angels _ My dear Sister's afflictions is never absent from my thoughts _ would I could be with her when my love & sympathy could avail to [soothe] her anguish _ how anxiously have I anticipated the coming winter hoping to have your happy family here, but my dearest Brother, bring what you still have _ and you are [still] rich in blessings _ a change of scene may be salutary to you all. and we claim the privilege of sharing your feelings and administering to your comfort _ many trials we have borne together _ and we first learned to love your dear Maria when her young heart was rent by grief _ come then my Brother my dear Sister, bring us your sweet children, and be assured [end of page]

whether it pleases God to visit us with joy or sorrow _ in all conditions & at all times you will find nothing but love & sympathy in your ever faithful, attached Sister RG_

Ellen is better, tho' still confined to her bed _ she unites with our Sisters & brothers in tenderest love to you & Maria the girls & Horace embrace you likewise, they have wept they still weep for their angel cousin _

Sept 29th.

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