

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

November 12, 1841

Phila. Novr. 12th. 1841.

O My Dearest Brother; how does my heart weep for you, and with you for the bereavement it has pleased God to visit upon you _ the unexpected calamity came upon us, with a suddenness that encreased our grief _ for we knew nothing of our Beloved Maria's illness until she was past recovery. May He who is most merciful, support you under this greatest affliction of your life, and visit you with consolations which can alone come from him _ the blessings that surround you, in the dear children she has left, will [bring] comfort to your heart, and the love she has bequeathed you in them, will still speak of [the] happiness, [begun] here, to be made more perfect, in that state where no separation, can rend it from you _ would! that I could know how you and the dear Boys are and, strive to minister to your comforts _ I am grateful that Gratz Moses was near, with his affectionate attentions, in the hour of trial, and that he had the privilege of seeing one we all loved so much.

I wrote to Howard, as soon as I heard of his Mothers illness and told him to come home, he suffered so much among strangers, when she was sick last summer that I was unwilling to have him exposed to the same feelings again, and I think it quite probable he will arrive to day. poor fellow, Sara received a letter [end of page]

from him last evening, he was well & happy _
when you can make the exertion, My dear Brother pray write to him, or get one of his brothers to do so, I trust too it will not be many days before we again hear, if Gratz has left you we shall be grateful to some other friend to let us know how you all are _ the distance seems interminable now _ when our whole heart and spirit longs to be near.

I cannot dare speak of my sorrow, tho you know I have a true & loving Sisters share, and few have been so blest in Sisters [as] I have, or mourned with keener grief their loss _ but you my beloved brother, fill my heart with sympathy _ even in proportion to

the estimate I had of your married happiness _
and the worth of your now sainted Maria _

May God Bless you, and your children
is the constant & ardent prayer of your
affectionate Sister

RGratz

Sara Gratz Moses Joseph to Benjamin Gratz

Dear dear Uncle _ I cannot let this go without a word from
Mary Boswell (who is here) and myself _ but what [can] we say _
except that she [who] ever treated us with a mother's
fond affection _ is now mourned by us as though she had
instead been that dearest relation _ we can only prove our
love and gratitude to her _ by showing our affection to her loved
husband & sons _ I can say no more but that I am fondly your niece

Sara

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