

**Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz**

**November 20, 1832**

Most sincerely My Dear Brother do I regret the loss of your Infant son, and sympathize with our dear Maria & yourself on the sorrow & disappointment this trial has occasioned. I hope my Sisters fortitude will not forsake her \_ and that her speedy restoration will console you for the privation, it has [pleased] the Almighty to decree \_ May your other lovely boys continue to bless you with their growing excellences, and thus surrounded, you will not repine, that the tender babe, you were beginning to love, was recalled before your hearts were too Fondly fixed on it. I pray you write soon again and let us hear how our dear Maria improves we shall feel more anxious, as the Cholera seems to be surrounding you, and appears from the news paper reports to be very fatal at Frankford, I wish you were all here this winter, as the pestilence has passed over this region \_ and we should be so happy to have you away from its fears & its influence. in Summer we were recommended to use flannel garments as preventives. I should suppose at this season great precautions should be used to avoid exposure to the cold, but your Physicians have the experience of half the world to aid them \_ and you have still better \_ the care of providence to shield you [end of page]

In the Orphan Asylum, there were about 100 inhabitants we separated them as much as the [dimensions?] of the house would permit \_ and had an infirmary provided so that the sick (should any occur) might be properly cared for \_ several of the children and two or three adults, were attacked \_ but they all recovered and were nursed without any difficulty or alarm in the institution \_ it did not appear that they caught it from each other \_ and a child who was sick with another disease, and took the cholera was cured of the latter, and continued in the infirmary whilst the rest were sick \_ without being the least affected, by those who were around him \_ should the disease prevail in Lexington, and in your factory \_ if your nurses & patients are not too much alarmed, the chance of recovery will be infinitely greater \_

pray my dear Brother, be careful of your self  
in your dress, food, and exposure to either  
fatigue or foul weather \_ in every emergency  
& danger it is a duty to use [precaution] & defence  
and then we may rely on God for his full &  
sufficient aid. human exertions are obviously  
the means by which a benevolent Providence often  
pursues its ends \_ and to be watchful \_ when such  
an enemy a “walketh at noon day” \_ and in mid night  
gloom \_ is recommending your self to the divine pro-  
tection, to my beloved Sister offer my tenderest  
affection \_ I pray for her health, both of body & mind  
[end of page]

embrace the dear boys for me, and believe me  
always, My dearest Ben most fondly & affectionately  
your Sister RG \_

our brothers & Sisters send  
their affectionate love to you both \_  
I had a letter from Washington to day mentioning that  
Mrs. Blair & family are well \_ it was from Henry Etting  
[who?] is greatly endebedted to her kindness \_

Novr. 20th. 1832

[Address:]

To

Benjamin Gratz Esqr.

Lexington. Ky