

**Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz**

**November 19, 1841**

A thousand thanks, My Beloved brother for your kind letter, it relieved our anxiety for your & our dear boys health \_ and our feelings went forth to meet yours in the most sympathy \_ indeed we all so loved, your best beloved \_ and so fairly estimated her high and noble qualities, that your grief became our own \_ in the loss you deplore

Howard and Mary Boswell are here, and we have been a mourning family. each pouring out the recollected instances of affection, benevolence or wisdom with which every heart is stored, and all ending in lamentations for you the greatest sufferer \_ and for your Sons who share your bereavement. But God does not afflict without leaving us consolation in the duties & responsibilities we are called on to [fulfill] \_ and yours my dear Brother, are of a nature to continue the tie of love, which can never divide you from the Memory of our dear Maria, her children are your care and the objects of your fondest love, and their progress in life their characters, and filial love will fill your heart with what would have filled hers, had she been permitted to continue with and share your labours of love to them \_

I thank you My dear Ben, for giving me an account of her last days \_ I longed to know every particular  
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and wrote to Sara Bodley for information which I feared would be too painful to relate \_ I thank God that she breathed out her pure spirit calmly \_ and that her bodily sufferings were mitigated. in a little while we shall be reunited, and this life will not be too long to remember and cherish the love of those who made our happiness [here], and will even brighten the joys of here after \_

our Brother Jac is at Bellefonte, from whence you will no doubt hear from him, Howard is quite well & hopes by this days mail to receive your letter, which will be brought from New Haven \_ he appears to like his situation there, and I hope will derive all the advantages you anticipate from his residence there; yet I cannot conquer many woman's fears for the dangers & diffi

-culties that encounter a youth, among so many, and various characters, [that] and often influence their own \_ Howard is a great favorite I hear, and possesses qualities to retain favor \_ he will probably return in a few days, and so will Mary. her vacation is over but she has staid home, because her feelings were too much exercised, to apply her mind to study

Give My Affectionate love, to my dear Nephews, I hope sweet Cary has entirely recovered \_ Gratzs last letter mentioned that he was suffering with cold.

I regret the necessity that obliged Gratz to receive his family from Phila. his wife is an excellent woman, and we love her very much, he has two sweet children too to endear them still more \_ poor Mr. Moses will be left desolate again, for none of his children live with him \_  
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Horace has been away eight Months \_ and is not expected home this winter. If Gratz succeeds we shall have no right to complain, because his first duty is to advance the prospects of his own family \_ but it is no small trial to an aged Parent, to part with one after another of his children \_ and have to look forward to a cold and solitary old age.

our Sisters are well, and send their most affectionate love to you \_ they & our good old brother Reuben sympathize with you most truly \_ Sally Hays we hope will get safely through the winter. our own Sara desires her tenderest love \_ she has a good deal of influence with Howard \_ who loves her very much. how constantly My dear Brother do I wish to be with you \_ and so does our niece, but wishes cannot effect their object and we must strive to be content.

May God bless & comfort you my dearest brother, prays most [fervently] your devoted  
Sister RGratz

Friday 19th. 1841

[Address:]  
Benjamin Gratz Esqr.  
Lexington. Ky.