

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

January 3, 1842

Philadelphia Jan'y 3rd.

It seems long My Dear Brother since I have written but no day has passed without my thinking of you, and praying that your mind may be restored to that composure which arises from reflection, when the first poignancy of grief has passed away _ and to no one can reflection come with more healing power. for in every period of your life you have been making happiness for those around you, and in fulfilling those sweet offices, have laid up stores of consolation, which can never fail _ we knew too feelingly by oft repeated experience, how soon our brightest hopes may be blighted, but dear brother, nothing can take from us the joy of knowing we have fulfilled our duty, and that those we loved best, accepted & approved of our offerings _ with this conviction, the smile of heaven will shine on the path before you and the love of your dear Sons, reward your care, and anxiety for them, we expect dear Howard here on Friday to pass the vacation as I suppose he will stop one day in Borden town to see Mary Boswell, she returned this morning to School, under the care of Becky Nathan, who
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has been spending one week in Phila. while she was here we heard that Isaac was recovering from another severe illness, with [which] he was seized immediately on his return [to] Mobile _ Gratz's letters are very hopeful, he has been kindly received, and has already been [professionally] employed he is full of gratitude to you, for your aid & affection, and thinks when he gets his family to St. [Louis] he shall be quite happy our Brother Jo has been confined several days by a cold & inflammation in his Eyes _ he is better however, and abroad again tho' not able to use them freely, he will write in a few days _ Jac went to Harrisburg on Saturday night, your friend Mr. Crittenden has been in town & called to see me on Friday, all Kentuckians have an interest in my regard according to the estimation in which

they were held by my dear Sister _ and a crowd of assoceations
were brought up by Mr. C_

You have heard of poor Horatio Ettings bereavement _
I have scarcely ever seen any one more desolate _
his three infant children are objects of so much anxiety
as well as love, that he seems scarcely to have even the
privilege of grief (to be quiet) so constantly are they in
his arms _ Harriet has taken the infant to her own
house, and proposed to have them all _ but their Father
could not part with the boys, and I do not know what
will be his final decision, whether to keep house with
them, or go to his Fathers _ but he is very wretched,
Frances' death was so sudden & unexpected, that
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[no] one was prepared _ a few hours before she was
considered quite safe _ in good spirits _ and antici
pating so much happiness with her little daughters
while all her sympathy & apprehension [were] engaged
for Sally Hays _ Sallys infant was born one day
after hers _ and she is well _ she dined with her
family yesterday _ and I hope her life will be
spared to rear her family _

will you please remember me affectionately to
Sarah Bodley, & Mrs. Bledsoe, I hope Mrs. [Relfs?]
health has improved _
how are your dear boys? My heart yearns to
see you _ and them _ tell Bernard his cousin
Sara is disappointed that he does not write to
her _ but it is so long since they have met, that I sup
pose he feels it difficult to renew their old famili
-ar habits _ she bids me present her tenderest love
to her dear Uncle Ben, and her pets as she still calls
them, Ellen too begs that I will assure you, of her
true love & sympathy _ which she would fain, express
in writing, but her hand fails, when she remembers
how feeble words are to approach such sorrow as
yours _ her Mother gave me this message, and with it
her own love to you _ to which I may add that of every
one of the family _ for all are bound to you my dear
Ben, with affectionate & deep interest _ May God
bless you my dearest brother, and send you conso
lation, and give you happiness _ such as He alone
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can give _ and make your children rise up
and call you blessed _ believe me most devotedly
Your Attached Sister RG_

[Address:]
Benjamin Gratz Esqr.
Lexington Ky

[Endorsement:]
Rebecca Gratz
Jan_5. 1842
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