

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

July 11, 1844

As the newspapers are filled with accounts of riots & bloodshed in our once peaceful city, I have no doubt my dear Ben, you will feel some anxiety to hear something of a private nature of the where abouts of those you are most interested for we have been in a fearful state of excitement and mortification, and feel as if we were [...] in the power of a mob _ but all is quiet, and for the present secure, for there are 4000 troop collected and the Governor is in town, determined to ferret out the head & front of these disorders and to over rule them _ last sunday was a sorrowful day for Phila. and the night marked by horrors _ the sound of [artillery] rung through the watches of the night and at every sound told of the death or damage of some fellow citizen _ transformed into enemies or defenders _ and “spilling the blood of war _ in peace.” [at the] very threshold of domestic habitations _

our police have been too long blind to the danger of disturbances of the peace, and have been too lenient against offenders _ of whatever character they assumed _ till at length the laws lost their terrors, and military force was [decried?] a mere bug bear _ so that when called out on a former occasion, it was looked on, with as little fear, as on parade days _ and the work of destruction went on, in their presence _

The present out break is an attack on the Catho
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-lic church, and there is so much violent animosity between that sect and the protestants _ that unless the strong arm of power is raised to sustain the provisions of the Constitution of the U.S. securing to every religion the privilege of worshipping God according to his own conscience America will be no longer. the happy asylum, of the oppressed _ and the secure dwelling place of religion _

Intolerance has been too prevalent of late _ and many of the clergy of different denominations are chargeable with its growth _ the whole spirit & office of religion is to make men, merciful & humble & just _ if such teaching was preached by the pastors to their own congregations and the charge of others left to their own Clergy _ God would be better served, and human Society governed

more in accordance to his holy commandments _
but this is not what I intended to say to you My
dear Brother, I thought you would like to hear something
from the scene of war and sat down merely to tell you, that
we were safe _ St John's one of the threatned chapels, and
our very near neighbour is still standing, and we depend
on the measures now taking to secure it. tell Bernard I do
not believe he could have staid at home so quietly had
he been here on Sunday night. and yet I should not have
consented to his going into Southwark, "where many a tall
fellow was laid low"

Miriam & her husband left us about a fortnight
ago, Sister Hays has not yet returned, and suppose Ellen
will keep her in Baltimore, until all is quiet again,
Our Brothers are well _ Jac absent at Bellefonte _ I received
a letter from your dear Ann the day after I dispatched
My last to her, for which I beg you will give her my best
thanks, and my love _ the accounts she gives of your
daughter is very sweet and interesting. and with all
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very modest, for she says _ she expects she will be _ "fast
to look upon" rather than that she is so, and a Mothers
eye generally sees _ all that to another may only be
fore shadowed _ but she does not tell me by what name
she is to be known. and that is always a fertile subject
of curiosity with friends as soon as a new candidate
for affection appears _

I am delighted to hear that Hymans arm is well, and
your other son's well, Sara had a letter from Frank Blair
lately, giving very good accounts of Howard _ but we have
received no letters from Dr. Moses, since the flood, and are
anxious to know what effect it may produce on the
health of the city & neighbourhood _ the papers say that
the river is falling _

please give my love to Mary Boswell, we all [were?]
sorry she could not come to us this summer, but
I hope she will be induced to do so before the
winter sets in _ unless the certainty of Mr. Clays
success should postpone her visit to the season
of inauguration, when we made a [...?] of engage
ment to meet at Washington.

give my best love to My dear nephews, I have no hope
of engaging either of them in a correspondence, as
Cary did not write to Bernard while he was here, and
Bernard could never be prevailed on to give me such
a promise. I trust however I shall see them, and be remem-
bered, for they are very interesting to me _

God Bless you My dear Brother. accept the affection
ate remembrance of all our family to whom you are
very dear. and believe me with devoted affection ever
truly your Attached RGratz

July 11th. 1844

[Address:]
Benjamin Gratz Esqr.
Lexington Ky

[Endorsement:]
Rebecca Gratz
July 12. 1844
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