

Rebecca Gratz to Benjamin Gratz

July 3, 1855

My Dear Brother

I am sure you must be anxious about us all at home, in this season of affliction, and I come, to tell you how we all are _ The Telegraph which announced the Death of our Dear Niece Rosa, said that her remains would arrive on the following day. It was her last request that they should be interred in Phila., but not carried to her Mother's house, Alas! it was the knowledge of her Mother's illness that accelerated the fatal tendency of her own disease _ the Dr. thought in the weak state of his Mother's health _ a shock might be dangerous _ so up to this time, Sister does not know the loss she has sustained Poor Ellen who is the most affectionate of Sisters _ as well, as the most devoted of daughters has borne herself admirably _ she came [end of page]

as soon as she heard of her mothers illness, and had watched at her bed-side night after night & through many anxious days, when news of Rosas extreme illness arrived, which was quickly followed by her death _ the Funeral moved from the Drs. from the Arrival of Charles Marx with the remains, till the hour of its removal, Ellen sat by her Sisters Coffin in the greatest grief _ but when all those last offices were done she returned to her post. and has struggled on, without once betraying herself to her mother _

Sister is now considerably better, she sits up a part of every day _ her sight & memory partially restored. her characteristic benevolence _ warm affections & religious fervor, strong and ever predominant _ scarcely a day passes that she does not enquire, when we have heard from you, always desiring, that her love

may be sent to you & Ann & the dear children
yesterday she said Sister Ann's promised
letter has not yet arrived, her great
anxiety is to hear from Richmond _
[end of page]

but until she has a little more strength
or until Ellen is better able to bear
the conflict we must [postpone?] the sad
recital _ Jo has not yet returned from
Bellefonte, Jac had a letter on Monday
when he was well _ Jac has greatly improved
he is down stairs greater part of the day
& shines at table, where he sometimes
jokes with little Mary & is quite cheerful
Bessie arrived on Friday in very good
health, the Sisters enjoy being together _ Mary
has grown much & improved _ The weather
has been exceedingly hot _ Thermometer as
high as 91 _ & higher we were all very happy
to hear of your return home, after such an
agreeable & satisfactory visit to your sons.
you deserve that they should prosper
before your Eyes, My dear Brother _ your
wise & generous conduct towards them
gives you the strongest hold on their
affections _ they confide in your judgment
& rely on your experience. _ may they prove
blessings to you _ I love them Dearly _
Hyman has recovered and looks well.
I hope in a few days to hear from Dr. Ann
in the mean time give her my best love
[end of page]

and many Kisses to the dear
little Girls _ when I heard last Ann was
very anxious about her Sister Ella _ I
hope her condition is improved _
Miss Williamson sent Anns Dresses
more than a fortnight ago I hope they
have been recieved _

If Jo [c...?] you a sick list in
our family _ I am happy to say they
have all recovered to their usual
health _ our brothers send you
their love _ God Bless you my own
Dear Ben, believe me with devoted
love, your ever [Affectiona...] Sister

RGratz

Horace is going to take Rosa Mordecai
home to Washington to night, on a visit
to her Mother _ who promises she or
Laura shall return to their Grand
Mother _ who is exceedingly attached
to them _

July 3rd. 1855

[Endorsement:]

Becky Gratz

July_3. 1855

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15 And.