

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

June 13, 1833

What word of comfort can I have for you
my own dear Sister _ when my heart is a prey to sorrow
and anxiety? _ no letter for two days after your kind
promise _ would have created alarm _ had not the papers
too fatally accounted for it _ I weep for your dear venerable
parent whose life was a blessing to all who love [to]
goodness _ and grieve for your grief my sweet Sister _
whilst apprehensions for you all. surrounded by the
dire pestilence fills me with tremors I cannot express
nor controll _ God alone _ when in his wisdom has afflicted
will I pray in mercy, console & preserve you _ may this
one precious life be sufficient _ & your husband &
children be spared to cherish & to comfort you _ for
their dear sakes, endeavour to strengthen your mind
against this severe trial _ and pray my beloved Brother
guard your own life by every care that prudence & precau
tion can suggest _ but alas, all human power or prudence
[avails] nothing when this mysterious scourge is sent to
[stalk] ravage & destroy _ may the Almighty God be your
shield & preserver _

There are no Lexington papers or letters in town today
news of the 6th. & 7th. reachd us from Washington _ I only write
to tell you how entirely my hearts is yours in deep sympathy
and all engrossing love _ God Grant to morrow may
[end of page]

bring better accounts from your city _ and relieve
my aching heart with intelligence that you
all are safe _ dearest brother & Sister my prayers
and tenderest love are yours

RG

June 13th. 1833 _

[Address:]
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz
Lexington Ky.