

Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz

June 16, 1833

your grief My dear Sister has entered my heart and I weep for what you suffer _ and suffer more than I can tell for the danger & desolation by which you & My beloved brother are surrounded _ nor human reason _ nor human aid can avail to speak of comfort or relief _ but he the great and Merciful God _ whose power & glory is manifested in the terrors of far spreading pestilence _ and “the succoring love which even in wrath remembers mercy” _ to him you have poured out your sorrows and I trust his peace has entered your soul _ yes my dear Sister, if ye are spared to each other to rear your tender offspring _ and imitate the excellent being to whom you have performed the last duty of affection your hearts will still glow with gratitude and be comforted _ the keenness of that pang which has separated you from a mothers’ arms will make you cling more fondly to your tender children, and guard your life for their sakes, & nothing in this hard world is like a mothers love! you & I dearest grew under its shelter and felt all its worth, before we were called on to resign the blessing. you have indeed been suddenly bereaved _ but you had the consolation of receiving her blessing and seeing her depart in peace _ in a good old age “removed from evil to come” _ Oh My Sister, grieve not for the few years which might have been added to your dear parents life, in the course of nature _ since it has pleased God that she should “rest from her labours,” before her
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strength yielded to infirmities or the energy of her mind diminished _ how dear to memory will all your recollections be of her be _ her last residence on earth was with you _ and your husband administered to her latest wishes the duties of a son _ for ever blessed My dear Sister, may you both be here & hereafter _ in the love & virtues which unite your hearts to do good wherever the power is given _

My dear Ben’s exertions to [relieve] the afflicted will I hope be visited on him for a blessing, may good angels guard him[!]

I hope tomorrow will bring me a letter from you written in more composure of mind _ endeavour to attain composure, as a preservation of health. I trust the

cholera is abating. it is now two weeks since its dreadful savages began and as so many have fled it can have nothing to feed its fury _ in thickly populated places its continuance has not been longer than a few weeks. I hope Milly has recovered _ and that all the rest of your house hold will escape _

the post mark of dear Bens letter was dated 10th & we received it on the 15th this would have appeared in ordinary times wonderfully quick _ but five days seems an age when every hour is marked by anxiety _ the family are all well _ all eagerly anticipating the mail hour and they send love & loving wishes to you _ God Bless you, My Sister & Brother, sleeping & waking my thoughts are with you, I reserve the other page for Jo _ embrace your dear children for me and believe me ever your devoted Sister
RG.

June 16th
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Joseph Gratz to Benjamin Gratz and Maria Gist Gratz

with all my soul I truly sympathize with you my dear Maria and with you my dear Ben _ upon the [severe?] bereftment of your Noble Mother - for she was truly so, I knew her long ago, and my respect and admiration of her character was in the highest degree _ I hope and pray you may be spared further affliction _ this dreadful disease has visited the western Valley with greater severity than in this country _ but its duration has been only one half of the time we suffered _ six weeks or 42 days was the general time of its [prevalence?] here _ but I understand that in the west 3 weeks or 21 days is its duration _ and now I trust you are free from it _ My dear Ben, I sent you about the 20 of last month 4 packages to the care of [Hutchmore?] of Pittsburg _ Our cask containing some Old [Java?] Coffee _ with some Green Tea for Maria _ & also a couple of cases of [Champagner], and two Boxes of Pecco & Souchong Tea. which when mixed I think you will find agreeable _ in these times of [all...?] I have always found money difficult to obtain _ [now] my
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friend if you want any _ draw on me at any [sight?] you think fit, for all that you require – five days [Sept?] or any other that will suit you best _ it will not put me to any [inconvenience] and you will not be doing yourself or me justice if you do not make use of me, should you require it _ I write this at Becky's desk _ but will address

you again soon _ Dearest Maria and you dear Ben
believe me truly your
Jo Gratz

[Address:]
Benjamin Gratz Esqr.
Lexington
Kentucky

[Endorsement:]
Rebecca Gratz
Jos. Gratz
16 June 1833