

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**June 18, 1833**

Your letters my dear Sister almost break my heart \_ yet they are more welcome than the light \_ our dear Ben's of the 11th. was due yesterday but it did not arrive \_ I cannot tell you the agony of apprehension & anxiety we endured \_ nor the gratitude that filled our hearts when this days mail brought the blessed tidings that your precious family were safe \_ alas alas! your sweet home has indeed been a scene of death & desolation but the God of Mercy has not forsaken it, and will I hope restore peace & happiness to its walls when the pestilence has passed away. and my noble, beloved brother is permitted to collect his treasures around him, to reward his humane exertions in behalf of the poor sufferers \_ Dearest Maria how I love and admire you for the fortitude you evince in these terror striking times, I am sure your husband could never perform such wonders of goodness if you did not exert your self and encourage him with the hope that you would bear up against the evils around you \_ the dread of infection makes the timid, cruel \_ I see by the papers that the inhabitants of Wheeling had to go over to a neighbouring village to bury the dead and nurse the sick \_ who were all deserted, by their own people \_ but even this shocking circumstance did [end of page]

not run such a chill through my veins as the thought that my poor Sister & her children had to seek a second refuge \_ when her own house was given up to disease & death \_ I hope your poor Milly will be saved, she is a faithful creature \_ and the bereavements she has suffered will make her cling more fondly to friends who have cherished her in her affliction \_

I have read no history of Cholera so heart rending as yours \_ is it My dear Sister because I am so hardened that my own flesh must be pierced before I can feel as I ought? I shall never again hear its name with indifference. or without gratitude to God for your preservation \_ indeed I pray & weep hourly. when my full heart can vent its feelings in no other way \_ sometimes the apprehensions of what may be your condition [for] the [six] or seven days which elapse while your letter

is travelling almost over comes me \_ but the conviction that God directs all things. and that his word can make the direst pestilence harmless give me confidence. in committing all I have into his hands \_ he has chastened you, My beloved, May he guard your life, and the lives of all you best love \_

    tell my dearest Ben of all my love. which his heroic virtues has elevated into reverence \_ I cannot express what I feel for him. embrace your dear  
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boys for me \_ yes dearest I cherish the hope you so sweetly express \_ we shall meet again. and may God forever bless you, for the comfort you have given to your devotedly attached Sister RG \_

June 18th. 1833.

**Joseph Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz and Benjamin Gratz**

**June 18, 1833**

    what can I say to you my dear friends \_, or can I advise those who know so well how to act? \_ I duly wish that I was with you, to assist and comfort you \_ my [heart] and mind is fully and constantly absorbed \_ and my confidence in your [firmness?] gives me hopes that you will escape \_ I heard from the officers of the Bank that you had the additional charge of their establishment at Lexington \_ which I hope will [not] be too much cause of anxiety to you \_ as you may suppose the Post office is surrounded by those who have dear friends in places which is afflicted with this dreadful [disease?] \_ and you cannot \_ Oh yes you can [Conceive?] the [sincere] disappointment of those who do not get intelligence \_ You are very good my dearest friends in this [respects] \_ but we are sometimes a day without [receiving?] the letters \_ then comes two of different dates at once \_ God protect you  
JG\_

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