

**Rebecca Gratz to Maria Gist Gratz**

**June 19, [1833]**

There is no Lexington mail to day my beloved Sister and my [anxiety] & disappointment is extreme. it is cruel negligence in such times as these where many families \_ like ourselves live on from day to day with no other comfort than the hope of a letter to tell them of the safety of their dearest friends. the anguish of separation. in periods of such danger is unutterable \_ Jo said to day he wished he was with you \_ and my own heart has reiterated the same a thousand times \_ when people say to me, how fortunate that you did not go sooner. a chillness comes over my feelings which contradict their well ment consolations \_ if my presence could soften our feeling of desolation or distress \_ or [relieve] our hour of anxious fatigue to either you or my beloved brother, how my heart would rejoice to be with you.

I cannot speak my gratitude to the kind [Bruces?], for their reception of you \_ I shall hold them in everlasting respect \_ and hope they may never want a friend \_ who thus know how to perform the offices of friendship. may the pestilence be kept far from their dwelling. and your residence there sweet Sister, bring a blessing, as the ark of God did to the house of Obed \_ I sometimes feel so strong a confidence \_ that your dear husbands exertions & your  
[end of page]

heroic endurance will be rewarded, that I can lift my heart & eyes to heaven in grateful aspirations but the horrors that surround you oftener shake my fortitude \_ & tearful supplications seem more suited to the times \_ I wrote [to] your Sister Blair to day for I could not help telling her how much I pitied her for suffering as we do the distress of separation and the anguish of every days suspense.

Jo sent our dear Ben a pamphlet of the most successful treatment of Cholera \_ in various places where it has raged violently \_ a case occurred here last week & was cured by Dr. Jackson, by the cold treatment \_ where known remedies fail I should think experiments of such as has been recommended by experience might fairly be tried \_ but I hope before this \_ the violence

of the disease has passed away \_ it flees  
like an evil spirit. suddenly \_ would to God  
it might be heard of no more \_  
our brothers & Sisters send their best love  
and so do all the rest of our anxious friends  
Horace & Sarah unite in congratulatory messages  
to your good Milly \_ they rejoice in her recovery  
and so do we all \_  
embrace you dear children for me \_ and tell my  
[end of page]

Brother every wish & every thought of our household  
is fixed on him, May the Almighty God protect him  
and you his dearest & best treasure \_ believe me  
with sweetest love your affectionate Sister RG \_

June 19th.

[Address:]  
To  
Mrs. Benjamin Gratz  
Lexington Kentucky

[Editors' Note: This letter is dated 1833, the summer of the devastating Cholera epidemic in Lexington, KY.]