

Washington: April: 3. 1841.

My dear Rebecca.

I avail myself of Henry's
readiness to do obliging things, to thank ^{you} with
this note for ^{your} very agreeable letter - doubly
so, as it promises me the pleasure of your
company & Sarah's to make us still happier
on Mary's return, than we expected to be
in having her restored to us in health. Her
return & recovery, after the sad foreboding
which attended my voyage to Cuba, ~~and~~
~~afforded~~ enough to fill me with joy; with you
Hara to enter into our sympathies, all
the joys of the world, I assure ^{you} ~~me~~
not have the power to dash it - I shall ex-
pect you, therefore, with very bright feelings,
if ~~the~~ it will be among ^{the} pleasant con-
comitants of the sweet Spring time - which all
never fails to bring to me all ^{its} cheerfulness
which is inspiration of birds and flowers and ~~and~~

every sweet thing in nature. ^{prompts} ~~and~~ me to appropriate
a greater share of ^{it} as a rational being of greater
& higher perception - My sweet bird, however, will
be later coming to ~~us~~ than some of my other
migratory favorites - I have already the Blue bird
very happy in my garden, just returned from
its sojourn in Bermuda - My Cuban Thrush
poor thing, cannot return until the last of
May, & then I fear she cannot venture to sing,
as she used very sweetly to my parental ears -
This is interrupted now - but from her last letter
I hope she will yet be able to touch the cords of my
heart again, with her simple notes. She sings in
her letter of the 20 all just received "my health
is quite good - I have no cough, and was the only
one in the family that did not take cold from
a sudden change of weather a few days ago" Her
letter is cheerful thing -

Our city will be the scene of great
events next June - I fear our new president
will be no more. I will leave a new state
of affairs in our ^{government} which may be pregnant
with difficulties of ~~a fearful~~ ^{feared} portent to our experimental
Instructions - It will be a crisis to bring out all
the genius of our Statesmen & I would have you
here to witness some of their displays
Yours affectionately ^{from} J. P. A. Rice

431.77
 17.06
 414.71
 439.77

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F. P. Blair
 1871

Miss Rebecca Fratz
 Philadelphia