

I have just come to abuse you, you
Pitiful Man

Philadelphia September 22nd, 1800

Bth Hamilton
You know Bthky's aversion to pity she could not bear that you should
consent to be pitied — that is my true nor shall you ever forget
so that you think I am very imperfect to be made — this is so like me

Begin Here — You have drawn your Character my dear Harriet but others
have drawn it with more justice. has taken it in another view, have loved,
estimated, admired, but never thought of Pity. so my friend do not pretend to ans-
wer in my name to such questions. unless you first take a view of my heart &
opinions. when you will find Harriet Fenn's Dancer by the hand of friendship & truth
and too firmly fixed ~~there~~ to be moved by your artfully displaying shades, which
does not change one feature, unless to make it more interesting and Amiable.
Your Wit shall return it was never injudiciously used. and your friends
rejoiced that you proposed it, if you will become scholar I beg ^{you} find a more faulty
object and do not deform one whom all the world finds it necessary to
commend.

The post has just arrived it brought your letter to Rachel
and one from Sally. they both have affected me I feel very melancholy
but hope your wishes may be answered and your dear Brother speedily re-
stored to health. Rachel is more anxious than ever to be with you, I sincerely
pray she may find you all well & happy. the situation of Baltimore is
more dreadful than you can imagine. Sally says every day some distressful
tale reaches them, her letters are tinged with the gloom the times inspire
we know not when to expect them. Mrs Etting is ill at this house &
my Sister's health very delicate, her mind has never gained its natural
tone since the loss of her darling Daughter, and the calamity she is in part
obliged to witness, makes too deep an impression. Mrs Etting's & Miss Kennedy's
distress opens a fresh these wounds, which time had but yet closed.
What a World is this! How changeable! When I was in Baltimore I thought
it did not contain a happier woman than my Lrang. surrounded by
a darling Husband & four lovely children. her only Grief, for whom her active
mind was ever planning scenes of happiness, is snatched from her and her for-
titude is unequal to the stroke, she thought she divided her affection impartially
but her loss has convinced her, how large a share was bestowed on Isabella.

You ask my opinion of St Leon his character is very natural
the Old Man struck on his ruling passion. Ambition and rather than be thought
under the direction of his wife he accepted the gift which he knew might
destroy his happiness by opening the confidence in which he lived with his
family. Maigwite was the most perfect woman I ever read of. St Leon
was under the greatest obligations to her. after her death, I felt less interest in

his fate, and after his transformation I could not realize the scenes in which he was engaged. his visits to his daughters & afterwards his encounter with Charles appear equally unnatural. Did you ever meet with such a character before as Bethlem Gabor? I cannot discover the Authors design, could his fortune or injuries convert a virtuous man, into such a monster?

My feelings & opinions underwent the changes you describe - and I concluded the Philosophers Stone and the Elixir of Life by no means desirable. I would rather die like Marguerite, than live like St Leon.

I have not seen R H, since the visit I mentioned, he apologized for not coming sooner. I gave him a general invitation which he said he would profit by, and asked permission to bring a Brother with whom I was not acquainted, which granted, he took his leave, & has never made his appearance since.

Becky Hamilton came up to me just now. she saw the word Duty in your letter & read her what it alluded to. and she took the pen from me to write what you see on the other side. her spirits are very good generally. we see her every day. a few evenings ago we had a complete romp. Alving came here and Becky assisted to tie him to a chair we accomplished it. gave him snuff and were wicked enough to laugh at him. when he had not the power of defending himself. My mother was out of Sister. Becky spent the day here, she was disposed to be gay, and we could not have found any body so easy to conquer. she is gone with Mr Lytle to dine at the Woodlands.

S B - has finished Beckys Character & given it to Rachel, he brought manners at the same time, but I do not think he has discovered ^{as much} penetration, ~~as when~~ he sketched yours. he does not seem to have found out all the qualities, tho. he does justice to Marias disposition. he says of B- that she is ever varying yet ever uniform. lively without levity & serious without despondency - but you shall see it ^{all} when you come & I will not give you it by little lines, 'tis too long to copy in a letter. besides which. perhaps he will correct some points which Rachel told him, he erred in.

I would not ask him for mine, because, tho. I should like to know his opinion yet in such a piece of writing his propensity to be more candid than polite. and I fear he would feel awkward about complying. or else refuse - which I don't feel disposed to hazard.

My mother tenders you her affectionate love. Sister Mary begins to think of returning to town & means next week to make preparations. The weather has been rainy these two days, we have not been able to.

find you here on her return, which will be delayed on account of the
fever in Baltimore, I have not words to tell Rachel's delight tak-
ing your letter this morning - her tears express much she bids me
say she will answer it very soon. And sends you a great deal of Love
God Bless you my dear Harriet take a large share of esteem, Love, Affection
good wishes, and all that is most worthy in the heart of Becky Lynch

PAID
Sept 24. 1800

Miss Harriet Fenn

New-York.

Becky Lynch

