Boston February 22d

Do not believe dear Rebecca that I know so little of good and evil as to voluntarily follow your unfriendly example and let your last delinquency influence me in answering your letter; no one you have ever written me would find an easier avenue to my heart or a more welcome one from the bottom of my soul — but I am an idle thing that takes no note of time, I cannot tell you how three weeks have passed, and yet they are gone forever, each day I have remembered I was your Debtor and have said to morrow I will pay my pardon in a long letter but to morrow has stolen from me like the last and still I wore the semblance of forgetfulness to you my friend, and know your gentleness, I need but ask forgiveness to have it accorded me under this impression wonder not I took advantage of your indulgence and let slip many hours I ought to have devoted to you — but I think in good truth I was more filled with the recollection of you from the conviction I was not trusting you, as you deserved — make no apology I beg of you for not answering my letters regularly — in the first place they are not worth your immediate attention, and in the second no love can possibly exist when the idle forms of life are allowed to govern — a letter from you will always find a ready welcome and when it does not arrive to my wishes I will chide myself for unreasonableness — I rejoice in the pleasure you must experience from your sister additional Boy — and join with the permission of his parents a friendly welcome to the young Stranger, I too have a Nephew Henry — and perhaps at some future period we may contemplate our two Henrys as the shining Stars of our illustrious family — God bless them both say I — and if they have as many Sisters as they now abound in friends and affection, they will be noble fellows — I have heard Mr Sedgwick spoken of as a man of good sense and education and thank you heartily for the wish that would have placed me at your side, but I doubt dear Rebecca whether an hour passed alone with you would not have been as consonant to my natural taste, I never admired excessively Theological arguments, as my best Composition

soon by divinity has ever proceeded from a contemplation of its works and few of its inartificial beauties can be discovered at a supper table, and it is most possible the two gentlemen who delighted you so much with their observations were discanting upon the unnecessary luxury of the world while partaken of all the good things you placed before them; from your letter the path they most advocated was strewn with the sweetest flowers and perfumed by the softest essences. even so are all good consciences, and those who act from the impulse of smiling virtue, need not fear the frowning tempest, that sometimes come thundering from the pulpit of a self sufficient orator; it is only the weak and contracted mind that can be forced into any thing, the soul easy in itself and the mind that is worthy attention, will either act freely or be influenced by the soothing voice of friendship or love — Mr Abercrombies is a character that from your pen is entitled to the respect and regard of every rational being and must be a visitor that will find a welcome at all social society, he has found a warm friend and eulogist in you — I believe him excellent from your assurances and should I ever travel as far as Philadelphia will think you for his acquaintance or should he ever think the rustic Town by Boston deserving his notice I should delight in greeting him with the cordial smile of welcome. I hope he will never prove the ungrateful urchin your favourite Moore has and treat you as cavalierly in his discourses as your poets has in his last efforts of genious, his last indeed they ought to be for they must prove to all the world that his heart is alike corrupt with his head — I realy have felt in consequence of reading his last poems almost provoked enough, to intrude a piece of my own on the discerning Mr Dunie who so soon discovered and so kindly celebrated the wonderful powers of his friend Mr — Indeed I felt it much of a compliment to be wished for at your social board, and from my heart reciprocate the wish that I might take a peep at you — and depend I should I ever enter your great city I will follow your prudent example and let you know of our arrival as soon as we are completely settled at our lodgings you give me credit for a passable mind, but to my mortification I find it sometimes obstinately adheres to its own opinions I thank heaven as yet in regard to objects it keeps changing — and since hearing of — Napoleons seizures of Dutch property I feel a diminution of the admiration

S Hays Feb: 22d 1807

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