

Boston August 9th 1807

With such a Monitor Dear Rebecca I must indeed be incorrigible not to improve. I will promise to ~~im~~prop those dangerous sentiments, that you say aims at all the pleasures of existence, and tho they have grown with my growth, yet so gentle and prudent an adviser as you are must be correct, I will sip the honey like the invisible insect that feeds on every fading sweet, and discarding my reasonable faculties forget the flower must fade and die after affording me a rich repast. it is your wish that I must forget all but the present good, for to remember, such things were, and were most dear. is given a sting to all worldly enjoyments - the recollection of departed happiness may bring serenity and resignation. but never pleasure - existence has no joys but those that spring from the love of gentle affection the smile of glowing friendship or the tears of tender sympathy. Deprived of those life becomes a blank. we travel on a weary Pilgrimage anxious for a reunion looking forward with hope but in retrospection agonised and starting at recollective pangs; for those who have never suffered it is well to talk of past griefs wearing the semblance of peace. the imagination in the least inclined to romance may compare with the silver light of the moon, and the tranquil scenes around it - but follow the real mourner to her closet behold her weeping over the tomb of a buried Parent or Sister seeing her aching heart and swollen eye and then ask to where she looks for consolation - not believe me in the buried sepulchre of departed joys. but

in that Heaven, which will restore her the disembodied spirit of her friends -
if tears have ever adorned my eyes dear Rebecca when conversing with you -
believe me they proceeded from agony - for the very virtues of the friend we weep.
but increase our torture, when we remember our deprivations - may you never
realize what I have and your theory will be still dear to you -
The idea of my Sister's visit after she has left us will never give me pleasure
unless I feel myself resigning life then the conviction I have so recently seen
her, her excellent husband and lovely children will be satisfactory - but
should I still live - I must regret this visit to us - Eleven years had separated
our Sister from us Mr Myers was almost a stranger to me, I had even
forgot his countenance, the children I loved because they were the children
of my valued Sally - Young when she left us I soon lost in my other domestic
enjoyments the pleasure that she exclusively guided me - now she has become
essential to my happiness. I shall continually ^{miss} some charm which her presence
afforded me. Her husband too has made me love him most sincerely - you
know him not. But when I tell you he is as gentle as a dove describe
his uncle Toby and as good as humanity admits of you will know his
character and learn from me to love it. I must indeed bespeak your
friendship for this dear Sister and Brother of mine you will find them deserving
of it. Their children have completely become part of my existence and
if there is any thing equal to them ~~their~~ ^{their} ~~land~~ ^{land} is most dreadfully deceived -
the ~~Elder~~ is a sweet girl of nine years standing in this world. the second an
interesting little thing of six. and the last a smiling cherub of four -
they are all very remarkably amiable which I in part impute to the judicious
manner their Parents educate them - but a truce with a family

Rachel when you write her and offer her in any way you please to your mother
and family. God bless you my dear & believe me with much affection your
Eloway

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Philadelphia

I have

Aug 4 1808

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