

August 30th 1847

The eloquence of your last letter dear Rebecca convinces me
we have feel and reason too, I know you to possess a soul alive to all the warm
and glowing excellence of charity and humanity and equally sensible to the different
affections of life. I admire the happy medium through which you contemplate
the incidents of this revolutionary world, free not of moralizing too much your lecture
are a never failing source of interest to me and seems to unfold a character well
worthy the endeavor of any one to develop. Ben Russell am mistaken but the last
few letters of yours appear to breathe the sentiment of a heart ill at ease - poets
teach us to believe the real feelings are best portrayed in an epistolary communication
if so I pronounce your ladyship not happy. - What the cause is I cannot imagine -
but sincerely hope it is not that all conquering enemy - love - beware of that for I
know no one amongst the chosen people I believe deserving of you - and beyond one
sect we are forced to blindness deafness - and dumbness - I often think whether it is
not one of the worst diseases that I should be near sighted - for so governed am I
by countenances. I am convinced against all rules I should become a victim to love
at first sight, and pine away the living monument of false reasoning. I should like
much to know from what arose the command to write ourselves alone to those who
possess the same tenets ~~with~~ how few men even thinking as we do & here to some
of the principle expositions a woman subscribes too and so far am I from attending
to merely the superficial duties of life that I candidly acknowledge I would rather
write my fate with that of a Mohammedan who gave dignity to the religion he
professed by an adherence to its morals and forms than to one of my own who neglected
any part of his duties. I may possibly be erroneous in my sentiments but I attach
more to forms than most people do. I believe them to be essential in all things

Religion has its forms and to render it respectable each one must agree to support them, else we wonder the world should treat any sect with indignity when they see one part neglecting and ridiculing what the others seem to view with veneration and awe. were it only the worship that failed in those little duties it were well but unhappily it extends to more respectable members of society - that being most full that cannot support itself and the finest fabric of architecture will crumble to ruins when once its foundation begins to decay, it is the want of this dignity and independence of character which has depressed our unfortunate nation, and I feel well assured did we unitedly maintain even the minute forms of our religion we should soon elevate it in ^{the} mind of society generally - here have I been led away to a dissertation of religion, when I merely meant to convey the idea of forms being ever necessary - but when writing you I feel as if I were talking and make my letters as tedious as my conversation is generally, self is a dear subject and seems to engross me completely. I am determined to practice a little self denial and vary the subject so begin then with Mr Amory - a young man I know but little of but believe him amiable as he is a favorite of yours. The fact he is to marry I even know of of them himself - but was told by a friend of his family that he was now travelling for the express purpose of establishing the house of which he is a partner gain foreign correspondence and of course receive commissions, these are all useful things in this little world of wonders - Miss Phoebe possesses none of the heroisms of her uncle that I know of - and even his now slumbers in the cold silent tomb - and so fades all glory derived from the applause of man. Gray beautiful Elegy often occurs to me and trembles on my pen whenever I am addressing you subjects we always bring it particularly to my mind's eye - and even the trifle of Mr L's marriage brought us to the dull confines of a grave yard. - - I rejoice you are soon to have your sister with you, I could see tho you did not acknowledge it that you sighed for her, I know what I should suffer to be separated from my Catherine for even a short time and how sure you will be infinitely happier with the society of your sister

much and that my ^{friend} unite in offering you they best remembrance - presents me to your
good family. God bless you dear & believe me your friend Slavery -

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I have

August 28 - 1807.

Miss Rebecca Gray

N^o 258 High Street

Philadelphia.