

Boston March 13th 1848

guilty upon my honor, Dear Rebecca, no my only consolation is that myself is alone
the sufferer, in the conviction I have done wrong in not sooner answering your ever kind and
interesting letters; they are both now before me and seem to reproach me gently for my indolence.
I feel in spite of all modern philosophy, conscience will arrest me and forcibly urge its guiding
influence while I wander from its happy spell. I am a chilly creature and the cold weather
seems to deprive me of every wish except the one of dear self being comfortable; the opening
of spring returns all my ^{feelings} after ^{five} ^{or} six and with this recreation, the smiles of friendship beam
upon me and bid me again enjoy its ^{kindness}, the dull monotony of life admits of few descriptions
but such as they are I will endeavor to present them to you in a recital of what
the good people of Boston have engaged in the last few months; some of the most fashionable
among us became possessed with the idea of our Public Balls admitting of too much company
and concluded to resign them, now I being one of those who glide down the stream of fashion
like a Pebble whose course was seldom interrupted by the rude hand of the admiring Virtuoso
and patronised these last few years by the hand of affliction and disappointment, felt such
these deprivations but they were some springing spirits that began to fight for the side when
the gilded band summoned them to balls, cotillions parties &c and the exertions to render
them pleasant has really been so very successful that the entertainers have met with what

in the present days is very uncommon not only Public praise but monuments of jelly
cream and trip created to their memory from these artists, books — — —

The poor tea parties like all dictionaries, excepting Johnsons are quite paradise
and one now might as well be invited to a funeral as one of these said
tea and land companies. As we are always moderate in all our pleasures we
go where we are obliged to, that is when our particular friends in spite
of all our observation to the contrary will insist upon our appearance
at their route, all common acquaintance where a pain in the head or
a Bad cold will pass as an excuse invariably are rejected; so that
I can only tell you the few Balls I have engaged in and the few
suppers that I have been obliged to attend, have abounded in elegance
civility ~~sublimity~~ politeness and sincerity. We have not yet arrived at the
happy ~~epoch~~ epoch of admitting masquerades as you have but we are hastening
to that fortunate goal of dissipation. but as I admire nature in all her
varieties and eccentricity, I care not how many of these sort of follies are
introduced to make me more intimately acquainted with human nature. The
Young says, 'our only lessons ~~are~~ are to learn to suffer, but I believe
our best tuition is to make the most of pleasures and the least of
misery. and I have so long allowed my feeling to govern my reason

I have

March 13th 1868

20

1868

Miss Rebecca Greely

258 High Street

Philadelphia.