

Baltimore December 23

Believe me, my much Loved Girl
that I assure you, how often I have attempted
to tell you, how sincerely I thank you for your
last tender epistle, replete with every senti-
ment of affection, an enjoyment, how truly
gratifying, those assurances of friendship,
from those we love and regard, and be assured
my dear Becky, that on the receipt of one
of your letters, I feel as if enjoying the long
wished for converse, of my dear absent girl,
when to be so indulged, in reality, I cannot
determine, my earnest wish is to embrace
you all, a pleasure I have so long been deprived
of, that at times, am almost induced to
think I shall never again revisit my place
of nativity, I again banish the
painful thought, and please myself with
once more streaming to my heart, my long
separated, dear connections, I will endeavor
to cherish the latter, and try to accomplish my
ardent wish

[Faint, illegible handwriting visible through the paper, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

present my Love to my revered uncle hope he is well
and my heart wishes to all the family, good night
my Becky my Guardian angels home on your
thumbers is the wish of your truly affectionate
friend and Cousin Rachel E. E.

R. E. E.
Dec 23
1809

accept my thanks my dearest Becky for your letter of which
I have not yet acknowledged the receipt am indeed quite
ashamed of having suffered it to remain thus long unanswered
should you have received it, but owing to the effects of a bad cold
which you know almost unfits me for any thing, beg your
forgiveness and acceptance of the love and affection of your
R, tell Ben we expect the pleasure of his company in a few
days, when we shall endeavour to make his time agreeable
our regards await our friend Jack, and thank him for his
polite attention, Richd