

Baltimore January 26

My Dearest Becky

With much pleasure I received your long expected letter, for which, I so ardently wished, being ever anxious to be apprised of the welfare of my much loved friends, and find, as I increase in years, my affection, which I ever imagined, could not have been augmented, I feel daily increasing, and often sigh for the society of my dear relatives, could that be granted me, I should be truly blest, but I dare not flatter myself with that, events ever taken place, as all matters combine to deter that wished for period, what signifies my dear girl, the gay, fantastic, Grand that flutters round you and regard only for the moment, could those add to my happiness, I should be ~~very~~ much so, but at my time of life, I look for something more, and nothing short of being blest, with the dear society and affection of my family and connections can in any way add to my felicity, I have passed a dull season thus far, as I have been rather

Let me entreat you to write me soon again, as it affords me happiness

more delicate in health than hitherto. the frequent attacks of the Cholera has kept me a good deal confined and must necessarily depress my spirits, my dear girls after entreating me to go out with them to different parties, but my inclinations seldom accord with their wishes, I accompanied them last week to a Ball where there was a hundred Ladies, the girls enjoyed themselves and I was satisfied, but had rather have been at home enjoying my own comfortable fire side, they are both gone to a dance this eve, but not before they had left a great share of affection to you and my dearest Abby, you speak of the effect my departure had on my revered uncle, believe me it caused the most painful sensations in me, the time I passed with him, brought to my mind many pleasing recollections, and the days of my childhood, when his fostering care, so amply protected me in the absence of my dear absent parents, the Sabbath preceding my departure, you no doubt recollect, when my dear uncle came down after dinner, my feeling my Becky where almost too much for me to support, when he asked me if he should see me again, and the look of tenderness which he gave towards me, was so deeply impressed on my mind as never to be obliterated, make my tender love acceptable to him assure him of ^{my} warmth of affection, I can not get promise myself with the

Althing

July 2nd 1841

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Miss Becky Gratz

Philadelphia

effect