

Jan 4th - 1820.

Is it fair my dear Rebecca, that at this interesting moment, I should be thrusting myself into your presence when the girls will have so much to say, and you will be so anxious to listen to them? But hear with me a few moments and receive my best love and Thanks for your affectionate Epistle - I resolved on its receipt immediately to tell you how acceptable it was - its friendly contents indeed gave new excitement to my feelings, the best of which as you may suppose were called forth on ^{the} occasion of your kind gratulations - but as many warm folks have done before me - I allowed the circumstance of the moment, to evade my resolution - tho' my gratitude did still retain its station. - I knew and loved you too well my dear R. to attribute your silence to neglect - and from the occupation of your useful life, satisfied myself with the idea of being kindly recollcted. -

I have just packed our loved Maams trunk and bade the girls goodnight till 3 o'clock - 'tis now 12. and tho' I now feel the necessity of waiting for 'brighter hours' to address you

feared to postpone the opportunity - lest I should be cheated
as this letter seldom emits a ray to unravel my rapid
scrawls - I must not forget to thank you for your
kind wishes. I appreciate them all - though fear some
of them will never be realized - indeed believe not! While
so incompetent to the necessary and consequent duties
of the character you portray. - I return the same
good wishes ten-fold - and pray I may see them all realized.
- My dear Mother bade me send you much love - as
did all the girls - our loved Father charged me to mention
his affectionately to you - I should love to see you a
witness of his happiness - for I know you have heart
rejoice in her well doing - I often anticipate your annual
visit - and as often recollect with pleasure your promise
of soon again being with us - I do not give up our
Washington trip - and hope an early day will give us a chance
of putting in force what we have so often talked about.
I will not say more of your Baltimore friends than that
they are all well - the rest the girls will tell you -
but lest they should forget me amongst so many agreeable ones
I beg you accept a large portion of my sincere affection
offer our dear Ellen her warmest share - and make my respects
to your Brothers - good night - my dear Mother - believe
me your attached son -

