

Philadelphia April 1st

A half sheet of paper which is all I can paper myself of this morning must suffice to assure my dear Peggy that I have sympathized in her distress and now with very sincere pleasure congratulate her on the prospect of Mr. Harriet's recovery. I received your message from Amelia and should not have waited for the request had I not supposed you too much engaged in the melancholy duties of nursing to bestow any time on me - and in our correspondence I can not claim the merit of being disinterested. I value your letters both from their own worth and the real friendship I feel for the writer - and to that sacrifice an insatiable aversion to circulating my letters. however we have decided on a former occasion that this subject is to be discarded and egotism shall not again renew it (even tho' at a loss to find another.) The children ^{were} surrounding my desk for the purpose of exercising their wit and the privilege of the season; and I have sent them off on errands that will make them April fools and prevent their return to trouble me. I wonder in what age this custom was first adopted or for what reason. at present there is no need for an allotted period to find them - and if the world has really been improving - it would have been more necessary to fix one day in the year for wisdom than folly -

Sally & Rachel send you their love and wishes for your sister's recovery. I shall be extremely happy to hear from you and will try to gather some amusement for you by the time I write again. at present you will not repine at a short letter. which assures how much affected I am by the season - believe me sincerely at all times yours - A.C.

Rebecca Gray



Miss Margaret Long

Flowersburg, Pa.

12th