

Lady Mary Anne to Louisa, Lady Almon
Note by Mr Augustin
Finished in the handwriting of Mary Countess Viscountess Howe

2 Jan. 1790

Nov 7th 312A

Queen's Lodge, Jan. 2.
1790

Having a little time at liberty, which is not frequently the case in this
House, I have not been to employ it in a manner so pleasing to me as in a little
conversation with my ever dear sweet Sister. I cannot express how much I
felt the being with you on New Year's day. How happy I should have been
to kiss my Sister and to tell her from the bottom of my soul how much I wish
her every happiness this World can give, & that this Year may make up for the
little enjoyment of the last two, & perfectly restore your Lord's health. I wish
my dear sweet Child (the address that does to you is a pleasure I cannot alter)
begins to go out a little, as you know Partridge is a gregarious Animal, & if
a little Society is the most useful & rational of amusements, and the least
absolutely necessary to prevent our Senses from degenerating. You must however
have not yet quite forgot the business of Novices, the other I address myself
to you another species of Language comes to my mind. I am happy you meet
with some agreeable People, I wish every body you get acquainted with may
be what you would wish, but on every the day your own house is worth
thousands indeed, so little worthy your good Opinion, as not to have been
allowed to come to St James's, on account of his ill conduct to the Margravine
& Miss Capel. You cannot imagine how interesting to me in every circumstance
in which you are concerned, & how much I enjoy your account of the
People you see & see. When I go to Town which I have talked of since about
the 12th I shall make a constant custom of writing my dear sweet Louisa
a journal of every Place I go to, and all circumstances that can afford
you the least amusement. I go from hence on Wednesday, after remaining
less 17 Days which I have passed as comfortable as possible. As at
New Year's Present the Town has given me a most elegant beautiful

Blue enamelled basket with a chain, seal & key to suit it. This of
the most lovely colour. I every day & narrow God passing Paken in
the presence upon the basket which goes remarkably well. Dear Mr Elizabeth
has given me an exceedingly pretty steel bell, & my sweet Mr. Augustus a
little gold ring at a dinner to her. Nothing ever was more truly
kind than they all are to me in every respect. Lady Caroline
has been very ill since I have been here, for 40 hours in most
imminent danger of a violent inflammation in her bowels, she is
well but still unable to leave her room, & her illness has prevented
a Ball that was to have been given on Monday's day, the Royal
Family go from hence on the 10th at night, which is frequently kept
here, so we have had ^{or shall have} no particular amusement besides the usual
playing at cards. Since I have been here I have drawn a story which I
gave to Mr. E. of a piece of Holly. You heard before of my having
purchased the Queen's Parrot, it is beautifully trained and to be kept up in
Spain. I have also given my husband's ^{companion} to Mr. E. This is very
fond of birds that was long to give it up to her. She is painting Miss
Mear's great flower piece most astonishingly well. Mr. Royal is finishing
a beautiful Pan for the Queen of Peacocks, Flowers, Insects, Shells, Trees,
Figures, & Landscapes, I think it is one of the best I ever saw. I
have seen nothing yet of Capt. Braithwaite's Birds, I hope they will
arrive some time. Jan. 8th. I returned yesterday to Bladon, in company of my
Father & Mother, who had arrived at Windsor to dinner on the 6th. The Queen had
wrote to Mr. Mear of send the letter to Bladon to invite the King & my Mother
without telling me a word of it & the whole House was in a conspiracy
against me to conceal their coming, in order to give me the pleasure
of a most agreeable surprise. By themselves the entertainment of my act
knowing my Father & Mother. They succeeded in their plan most completely

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I could not help asking Your Man's leave to write a few lines in her letter. I hope My Dearest Louisa that Lord Althamont is better and that Your little boy is well. I need not tell You how much I long to see You again to tell You that I love You most sincerely. Dear Lady Mary has been with us some time to my great joy and pleasure. You that we never let a day pass without talking of You. I can never forget the few happy hours we have spent together and I hope before long that I shall enjoy that pleasure again. Adieu My Sweet Dear Louisa May every happiness attend You and Yours & Bless me wth aff^r Friend
A.S.

For I went up close to my Dear Sister without a suspicion of who she was, & when I did find her out, was as thoroughly delighted as her almost good bye word bids me to be. Pope dined each day with the Royals, who were as usual kind & on Wednesday we all left Windsor & returned home, where I stay till Tuesday, then to the great satisfaction of the whole Family we remove to London for the winter. I would first try to get before I made any remark on the dear little bit of French Gypsy's writing, could they be more amiable & kind? She always speaks of you & enquires after you in the same pleasing manner. But to leave Mr Dear Royals & speak of yours and Royals, the less boring had the happiness of seeing N^o 4 for our beloved Louisa, I thank God you & your Dear Bath as well, & cannot be used for more than the immediate present pain of Lord Althamont's illness, as it appears so plain that that with Divine Nature must relieve him, & there seems every probability of it's being of essential service to his health, I most rejoice you have Mr Morris at you, at least till he is much better, Mr Morris appeared to be an agreeable well informed Man, but by your own own mentioning him I begin to be uneasy but he shall not be all we wish, you know we can't only judge by appearance of character, not by personal acquaintance. I am delighted above measure at your account of your Portuguese Royals. This Reception of you seems to have been particularly gracious. We are all much pleased you went, so excellenta seg^{na} partipa must have been well amass at all your Gardens, but much so much as we see in

the relation of it. We have sent the letters to our place, she at her Child's
Care has in perfect health. The Duchess of Devonshire & Lady Anne Fitzroy
were married last Monday, as it also Mrs. Ditch late Miss Gannon. Miss
Ditch is the Maid of Honour appointed in her Place, Mrs. Ditch's husband
as it is called, and she heard reported; She & her husband come to Town
on Sunday. Francis goes to the Birthday with us. My gown is beautiful
but I do not think so very. I am entertained at the Portuguese con-
versation as usual, but different from our amiable Peruvian; I think
however you escaped very well by receiving an answer. I thought you were
not to have had that honor: Was any of the Princesses present?
To them any chance of your being again admitted to the Queen's
house? Do you have at all what you use to go to the Cards?

I have not time to write more now to my Dearest Louise but to say that
Francis says you will take so more trouble about the Hair as I. I hope quite
think he can get some remarkably fine. Advice my friend Dearest I am in all the
extreme hurry of packing for the winter removal. I will keep a journal for you
when in London. I wish my letters could give you half the pleasure I receive
from yours. we are all perfectly well my ever Dearest Louisa. I rec'd your
little letter without any date, about the Monthly Magazine made it a bit.
Sir R. Carter will get some thanks my Child. I will write again soon.
Adieu Heaven bless you all these

1790
Lady M. Anne
to
Her Sister Louisa
2 Jan'y 1790

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