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Add. 15

8183

K./Chs.
(?King's Chambers)

Windsor. Saturday Mornng
August 31st, 1782.

My dearest Dear Sophie,

I have this moment received your letter, as well as the little Note enclosed to Lady Julienne wch informed me of the happy circumstance of dear Mr. Field's ^{1791's} ship being in The Downs, and do rejoice most sincerely that you had notice sufficient and did beg for this chance of seeing him, which I trust you and your dear children will do comfortably (tho I fear but for a short time) and that you will find him in better health. Give my kindest love to him and tell him on every account I am glad he was ordered Northwards, first for the mutual pleasure I hope you now enjoy and next that he has escaped the dreadful Scene which I'm sure would have shocked his Humanity beyond description, that has happened at Portsmouth since he left it I suppose - for I understood by the King it happened on Thursday; I mean the loss of the Royal George with the Admiral Kempenfelt on board, which was entirely as they were heaving her, and all went to the bottom in sight of the whole Fleet. Boats were sent out as many as could for the Stormy Weather, and about 3 hundred out of the whole were saved. The Admiral certainly lost, but other particulars I know none, except Lord Howe's infinite regret and distraction about it, and that Lord Keppel told all this to the King but said he was more at a loss than could be imagined to know how it could have happened. That Mr. Fielding does not go to Gibraltar is also a satisfaction to me. Tell him his dear little boy is with me now and perfectly well, but tho he is all good humour it is upon his own Condition of having his dear Molly always in the Room, and then he will do anything or go to anybody else, but if she stirs he is all lamentation and distress. I trust his Sisters when they come will be able to supplant her a little. He is very like Netitia, he does not speak much nor very distinct what he does, but he is a sweet Child and pronounced below Stairs to be the most entertaining Child that ever was known.

I cannot bear the thought of your coming the journey by yourself especially near London and therefore have ordered Thomas (who I had sent to Town on Friday to meet you) to go early on Monday morning to the Crown at Rochester and wait there till you come; as I am afraid of sending him on further, for fear he should miss you. I think you might hire somebody at Deal to go with your chaise as far as Rochester, for I cannot bear your being alone with those three dears on the road. Thomas will bring you the letters that waited to have met you in town. You will see in them my ideas about the Drawing Room on Thursday, which I think if you are able to compass you should do, but if anything should retard you so that you could not do it, the excuse tells itself, even if you arrive late on Wednesday, or Mrs. Hill should not be come or anything of that sort, I can easily make the excuse for you. The K. and Q. returned yesterday. She cried vastly at first seeing me and seems tho very reasonable, very much hurt by her loss, and the K. also. The P. of Wales returned with them and continues to behave with all the prettiest Attentions imaginable. How good my dear Mrs. Carter is and how happily my Dearest you are situated to pass the few days with her. Givemy kindest love and thanks to her and tell her how great a share she had in my regrets at leaving Deal. I am uncertain now whether you will find your dear brother in town when you come. I shall let him know all that has happened. I am sure you will be sorry to hear poor Mrs. Bentley died last Thursday at Burley. I send this to town on purpose that it may go by tonight's post, and so reach Deal on Sunday night. Again my Dearest,

Ever Most tenderly yours,

O. Finch.

My love to the dear little angels