

2^d Sept^r 1779

I can hardly find words sufficiently strong, in which I can paint my gratitude ^{to my dearest, dearest, dearest friend} for having been generously pardon'd as I was. I believe you will find all these reports as many calumnies spread about by that rascious little ^{man} and that foolish, vulgar, meddling Woman. I laid myself ^{when I wrote my last Letter} perfectly open to you, and acted with that ingenuousness, (which I shall ever do to you, and which I flatter myself I always had done; I denied what was false, but if you find tho' I am not conscious of it, that any of them should be true I will immediately acknowledge my guilt, and throw myself upon your mercy. What I felt when I last saw you, ^{to} speak to you can not be imagin'd, I was stung to the Soul, at ye. ^{old} style in which yr. Letter was written.

and at ye. idea of having lost a friend, and such a friend too, a
friend to whom I c^d. lay open ye. most secret thoughts of my ^{mind was too much for me, I c^d. not indure} ~~mind~~,
was also very much nettled at ye. idea of having ^{broken my word} ~~broken my word~~
& honor ~~to~~ ^{to} which I had engaged to you in ye. most solemn manner, that could be
~~maintain~~ ^{I was certain} which was ^{an} utter falsety, such were ye. different
Passions that raged in my bosom when I saw you, I c^d.

not be content nor rest in peace, till I had cleared my inno-
cences ^{to you} from every imputation of whatever sort or kind, & till

I had regained that good opinion which it ever has been ever
~~was~~ ^{was} my object, and which ever shall be ^{long that I am sure I have gain'd it} ~~my~~ ^{to keep} my object to attain.

Yr. last Letter restored that comfort to my too much
^{to which it had been a stranger from ye. time I received yr. former} wounded heart, & it restored comfort to my whole frame, & after
I had read yr. Letter I was quite a different Being than
I was when I began it.

I conjure ^{you} my angelick friend never to put me
to so severe a trial again it is too much for me, tell me
another time, if there are any more of these villainous calumnies
circulated about, tax me with them, but do not say you believe
them till I have at least attempted to justify myself.

