

Sept. 5th 1779

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My dearest, dearest, dearest Sister, Friend,

You should not put too much confidence
in yr. eyes, if from my gaiety last night you suspect I really
was so, you are much mistaken, for I never was in lower spirits
in my life, I was obliged to act a part, I thought it wd. please
L. C. I. if she saw me so, and as it is but so seldom
that I ever pay her a visit I intended to appear unusually
elated, as I judged it wd. afford her & her I. a satisfaction.
What had I to make me so, ye. first thing you appeared quite
out of spirits, ye. next ye. intolerable pain I suffered, and a
certain degree of fever which attended ^{up with} both which I now have,
& ye. third for some time being separated from you for how long
I did not know, seeing you, and not being able to converse with you

I own I was not a little surpris'd excuse me, my friend, at ye
extraordinary coldness, & let me add another Epithet to it, surpris-
like coldness with which you treated me, I am afraid you must
have heard some more evil reports, to which you have given too
easy hearing, wherefore let me once more say, that as our ~~Allegiance~~
Father is my Judge I dont remember to have said any
thing more to Mr. S. than what you know already, can I be
more explicit, plain, and open. Yr. conduct, last Night hurt
me more particularly so, as I had expected if you wd. have re-
-ceived me ever dearest Friend, as you had acknowledged my
innocence in yr. last, with open arms, excuse ye term, but
I have nothing strong enough to express ye. happiness I
proposed to myself when I was to have met ^{you}, but alas. how
little are men in this World to trust too much to any thing.
I entreat of you my sweetest Friend to explain ye. motives
of yr. conduct to me, if it originated from mine I will allow

considering ye. friendship you ^{have} ~~show~~ for me, that there were some
grounds for it, as I had promised you not to conceal a thought
or a secret of my Soul from you, ^{as I know you never reveal what I say, nor take any notice of it} notwithstanding y^e. little unkind-
ness & inchanete to me, yet as I hope never to forfeit my word
to you, indeed to any body, but most especially so to you, I
will now relate to you what passed between me & a fashionable
or rather bon-ton Lady Yesterday Evening. Upon my first arrival
after I had paid ye. customary & usual compliments to ye.
Company, I went up to pay my particular respects to this
Lady, some little time, perhaps some two Minutes or thereabouts,
having first complimented me upon ye. dress of my hair, ye.
cut of my Coat, ye. size of my Buckles tho' not quite large
enough, ye. cock of my hat, & in short, on my air de gage, &
saying that ye. whole "Upon me hanes was quite comme il faut,
she thus began "Have you learned to be very discreet a quality

"which all such Beave as yourself & yo^r Brother learn now & days
"as yo^r first & principal thing to constitute a Maccaroni of yo^r
"first Claps, such as yourself, & Brother, if you have, but indeed
"yo^r Brother says you have so at all ventwas. I'll trust you"
then after a few Seconds had pass'd in her recollecting herself,
I suppose you then enter'd yo^r Room my Back being turned to
you I did not see you, if I had I ~~sh.~~ immediately have flown
up to you rather than have walk'd up to you, but from yo^r abrupt
manner of her beginning I suppose it was then you arriv'd
"Sh. said I ^{had} forgot to tell you something, well then this it is
"but you'll promise me not to be angry, because p'haps if yo^r are I never
"will tell e any thing any thing again: if it is about yourself, now don't
"be angry," in this manner my dearest Friend she continued
"extorting assurances of secrecy from me for some time, at last
I prevail'd on her to continue in yo^r following manner "Now
"yo^r promise me not to be angry for to be sure I'll be very sorry to

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I shall not let me for you know you were better yet first come home to your room. ^{being very sick}

"make ye so, I begin, know then that as I was upon yr. B. — 2 —
"in ye Evening on ye I — at W — a Bear came up to me & took two
"or three turns with me, & afterwards ye, ye was then walking with M —
"I — ^{the then} said to me said who is M — I — walking with I — ^{to} ^{offend} ye
"ye know, I thought I never saw in all my life, if she be a friend yr.
"ye know I — at offend e ye know, so ye and know, the creature ^{actually}
"said ^{he says} ~~of~~ a plainer girl in all his life ye know, so he asked me ye know
" (I hope ye are not angry ye know), for it is meant all in good part ye
" know, so I answered him, said no, so he asked me ye know who the
" girl was, so I answered him, (I hope ^{tho} ye are not angry for I only
"presumed upon our ^{old} acquaintance) so I answered ^{him} ~~to~~ be one there
" never was a sweeter P — ever born, but I can assure e ye know he
" does not like her, her name is M — I — she is about his sisters a
" gentlewoman of a very good family, but to become ye know she is very
" plain ye know, now I hope ye are not offended, I know quite contrary

he's an extraordinary good taste ye know, but e has'nt bin much
about in ye. Woud ye know, & so he has'nt seen many Ladies comme
il faut ye know, & therefore does'nt know who to speak to &
who not ye know, (I know ye pardon my impertinence,) but he's
so affable ye know he'd speak to anybody, but by and by ye know
says, I'll be ye most fashionable man ye know in all ye town.
Now I hope you'll not be angry, for tho' perhaps she be a friend of
yrs. you know I do not help it - I trusted to our old acquaintance
There she ended, I then turned upon my heel & left her.

And is it this in courtly life (the cries)
That man's man acts a betrayer's part,
And dares he thus the gifts of Heaven pervert
Each social instinct, & sublime desire,
Hail Poverty! if honor, wealth, & art
If what ye great pursue & learn'd admire
Thus dissipate & quench ye soul's ethereal fire; *Stanza 22 of Book 2*
From ye Minstrel, or Purge of Genius. T. Beattie.

You know how love, esteem, & adore you, can you therefore suppose
 that this conversation, ^{was pleasing to me,} I own I could scarce restrain myself from
^{something or other} saying very inde to her. Tell me any ever dearest friend, you
 will ever love, dying day continue mine, reiterate to me
 that you esteem me, that you do not hate me, I can not
 help confessing you made my heart bleed, you drew
 tears from me by yr. behaviour. I was quite disappointed
 appears to me always, show me yr. open heartedness of a
 friend for yr. future in yr. countenance, what an ~~apple~~
 want might have I hoped! I was glad to quit my
 bed to take up my Pen in order to express my mind, inspire
 me once more with that comfort, which yesterday evening
 you destroyed. You seemed astonished at yr. Row I made
 Miss F. but it was only in answer to yr. very redun-
 dant compliment she made me. I can never esteem her it is now

impossible. You told me you had got something in yr pocket
to make me laugh, ~~Please~~ you said you wd. give me it
me, but you did not think I deserved it, I know I am
undeserving of every thing marks of kindness you shew me,
yet my friend, allow for ye. giddiness, unguardedness, &
fire of Youth there is no knowing what follies one may commit
yet they are not committed intentionally, & when one has
such a friend ^{as you} one never can be at a loss for ye best
advice that can be given, & for ye truest marks of friendship
which sympathize in every misfortune that befalls one.
I will confess myself to be foolish, unguarded, & even rash
at times, yet I have a heart, which is capable of receiving
ye noblest sentiments, & which really I hope, at ye bottom
is a thorough good one. This I hope will be a strong advo-
cate in my favor with you, & will counterbalance these

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I've written these which I subscribe to myself. Continue, I continue
 continue, I beseech you my friend, give me fresh assurances
 no, I need none, I know you so well, that it is folly in one
 way it is worse it is distrusting you. Treat me with
 the same confidence you have hitherto done, I never betray
 you, tho' I spoke unguardedly about you once that was
 to Mr B. & that was for ye first & shall be for ye.
 last time. Tell me in y^r. next you are contented
 with my frankness, that you esteem me as much as ever, &
 then you will restore peace happiness & comfort to my distracted
 mind. Adieu my ever dearest, dearest, dearest Friend,
 nothing can ever exceed my affection for you, may you ever
 prosper & be happy. is ye first & last Prayer of

G^t. Robinson
Compagnon de Penne.

P.S. I thank you for ye Book I ^{very much} ^{of every age} ^{admire} have finished it, I have but a few
 leaves to read, I particularly admire ye passages you have marked, you convey
 yr. advice most delicately; I have tried to correct with my utmost endeavour, yett
 foolish & wicked custom & convictions I hope I have succeeded in yr. yr. endeavouring to cure my self

I'm making it in a high style, which I'm sure will be to your satisfaction, I'm sure it will be to your satisfaction, I'm sure it will be to your satisfaction.

