Sept. 8th 1779

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My ever dearest, dearest, dearest Sister Friend,

I will take but little notice for ye. present ~~at least~~ of yr. last Note, you shall have a full & thorough answer to it on J—— M—— Acts what I have to inform you of, I think it will astonish you very much. Parts of yr. Letter charmed me very much & parts had very much ye. contrary effect. Ye confidence you express in it for me delight to me very much, as I promised solemnly to lay every secret of my heart open to you, & to let you inspect my soul

heart & mind, open to her inspection
& shall ever abide by it, as those
I ever shall by any thing I promise
you. Now to begin you remember
I related to you a conversation ~~I had~~
~~you~~ the other day which passed betwen
Mr F. & myself, which I
spared her P.W. not mention
however as you are my dearest
Friend upon earth, & as ~~I have~~
promised not to conceal any thing
from you, I related to you what
passed between us, but not yet those
I will therefore relate you the rest

after ye. aforesaid conversation was
at an end she turned round to my Br—r
& asked him if she might trust me,
he said he saw no reason why she
shd. not. she then asked him if
I shd. not be offended, he said he
believed not, & that as I did not
appear to be offended with what she
had already told me, he did not
suppose I shd. be so with what
she was now a going to say, she
then desired our in ye like manner
as she did before not to mention
what she was to tell me, I made
her ye. like assurance & did

before, which she construed into my
pledging my honour to it. I never did
accordingly she then began with telling
me she had drawn a d—d Character
of my dearest, dearest, dearest
Friend with a Toad in her mouth.
what cd. be her meaning in so doing
I know not. However she told me
she wd. go & fetch it & shew it me
together with some others, however
I let my Brother go & admire them
alone, for I wd. not go not only
not to see ye. dearest friend in ye
World I have, not only abused

& scoffed at, but also ridiculed.
I c. not c. not c. not bear it.
Therefore ~~[illegible]~~ to
countenance any thing against
you of whatever kind, ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~, it w.d be striking a
Poignard into my very vitals.
I often heard nothing more of those
hateful Characatures till I returned
home when my B— told me that
she had shewn him two, ye one of
which was yrs. & ye. other of her
Cousin L— C— F. That they were
both whole Lengths, that yrs. was not

like in ye. smallest degree in ye.
face, but only in ye. air & ye figure
as for ye. other nothing cd. be better
& that it was taken all to pieces
in another place. Here this affair
rested till to day when to my great
astonishment ye. Messenger was
sent for by her, & after having engaged
him under a promise she sent a letter
wis inclosed, rather I suppose to
make her peace with me on ye. account
as she ~~[illegible]~~ fancies she has offended me
notwithstanding I had ye politeness

to a Gaoler her I was not in ye. least
ye: My astonishment is not to be
conceived upon ~~my~~ receiving this
Note from her, I was then asked
what answer was to be given,
whether I didnot rather chuse to
write one, I said no, & that I was
very much obliged to ye. Lady
& shd. certainly abide by what I had
said, this I thought was a fully
sufficient answer, supposing
you had as very good opinion of
~~this~~ Lady before, I think this is

Sufficient to settle it, she then
wants to frame an excuse for ye.
step she has taken, & therefore says
it was extorted from her. When I
trust this to you, I know it will
be buried in yr. bosom to all eternity.
I have not at present time enough
to draw ye. Portrait I promised
however you may depend upon it
I will do it ye. first opportunity
I can find. & with all ye sincerity
openness & frankness that is in
ye. power of human nature. The

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reasons you gave for yr. gravity are fully sufficient to satisfy any Man. I feel much for the unhappy Man, for I can easily conceive what he is sensible of by what I suffer myself, for what can be more terrible, then to be desperately doatingly, & passionately in love, with an object that highly deserves such an attachment, & then not to be able to gratify that passion what situation upon Earth can be more dreadful or more unhappy? Can you really have

that sincere friendship for me which you betend if you wish to break off that friendship, wh. you well know constitutes my whole happy of my life. You told me once before you knew it was in vain to oppose it to me now, & I hope it ever will be so. What a mean opinion must you conceive of me if I was so easily & hastily to yield up that which I have been so long labouring to attain. Never mention this subject I conjure of you, to me any more. You must

know how sincerely I am attached
to you, that I would lay down my
life to be of service to you, ~~you~~ you cannot
~~you~~ cannot part with yr. friendship
it is dearer to me than life itself
you say you have given it me, that
I am worthy of it, that I have
yr. esteem, that you have discovered
many good qualities, among number-
-less weaknesses, such is ye situation
of human nature, it is impossible
for any man to be quite perfect. But
I shd. not have gone on in this
dissertation, it belongs to ye. Portrait

which I have promised soon to send
you, & which I will get first moment
I find time. I will also consider
over those parts of your letters
which you say I have so prettily
avoided mentioning, believe me
my friend, I use to act with you
I deal with you as frankly &
sincerely as in my power & as
you yourself must be sensible
of. I will mention one thing
more & I have done. It is very
probable you & I may meet tomorrow
Evening, if we do, do not I

earnest of you treat me with
that coldness you did yesterday. After having
make no difference between my
Brother & me, treat us in ye
same open manner you used to
do. I own in private I have no
reason to complain of you. I
know you are really my Friend,
but such are ye strict notions
ye warmth of my friendship
have inspired me with that I do not for
bear even for a moment not to be treated with equal returns.
For ye last time let me of me you, for you will greatly
hurt me by doubting any longer) ~~that~~ my love, affection
& friendship for you will never cease but with my life,
~~& my people~~ Mr. truly ever Attached Solomon
you know that I am grown almost insolent ... Being so long your

P. S. This was written very late last Night, after all ye. House were retired to rest, however I cld. go to none until ye entire confidence, frankness, & openness with which I deal with you & hope ever shall. Pray ye. imputation of decent strong one a little too, I wld. not conceive that I wld. any body most especially yourself. Oh no, I know at least I hope that ye. good opinion you say you have conceived of me will assist in clearing me of all such imputations. Let me in

yr. next entreat of you that you will ever continue to esteem me as yr. friend & to treat me as such during yr. life, what makes me reiterate this entreaty, is that I thought notwithstanding yr. letter began by calling Friend, yet manner in which you spoke of me shewed that I had done something to forfeit so sacred, dear & affectionate an appellation. Adieu. My friend,

My friend, my friend
May Guardian Angels
bless you

It is yr. wedding day & therefore I think we shall meet.