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Tuesday  
1 June  
1779

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Forget you! O Heaven forbid. You must  
have formed a very bad opinion of him whom you honor with  
the name of Friend, if you could suppose, I ever should  
be capable of forgetting her, whom I not only looked upon  
as my best and dearest friend, but with whom I should have  
been happy to have passed my whole life. As to the  
passion I have conceived for you, I assure you it is of  
the most honorable kind, and I do assure you, that never  
any thought that could be injurious to yr. reputation ever  
entered into my mind. My love for you, for I can not  
give it any other name, is of the purest kind, totally  
formed upon the knowledge of yr. distinguished merit  
and excellent heart. But so you say you can not consi-  
tently with yr. honor listen to such proposals, I take  
Heaven itself to witness that I will not intentionally



do anything which I think will displease you, and  
therefore I will as seldom as possible touch upon a subject  
which is painful to you on account of your strict regard  
to ~~that~~ <sup>your</sup> honor <sup>which</sup> I declare to you is as dear to me on <sup>your</sup>  
account, as it is to yourself. I thank you sincerely my  
dear & amiable friend for your kind wishes in my behalf, and  
I esteem them more from you than I do from anyone else  
as I know they arise <sup>from</sup> of the most disinterested and pure  
friendship that ever existed in the bosom of any mortal.  
May the Almighty pour down his choicest blessings  
on you, and may you continue to live in all manner  
of prosperity & happiness, long to enjoy that health which  
~~you~~ <sup>you</sup> have not had of late to so great a degree  
as I could wish. This is the daily Prayer of him whose  
greatest happiness it is to sign himself

P.S.  
According to my promise  
I have burnt that dear &  
admirable letter which  
has cost me many ~~tears~~ <sup>tearful</sup>  
& ~~tears~~ <sup>tears</sup>. Believe me.

your ever affectionate, and attached  
Friend, as well as I hope hereafter  
future. H. D. G.