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24 July 1779 *Sally*

To my sweetest friend's happiness and peace of mind is my first
 object, and my greatest, indeed I may say a brook my only delight, I readily
 consent to dissolve, to pass an act of oblivion over that fatal promise, wth
 if I had known it would have cost you so much pain I never w^d have
 asked of you. God grant that you may never have any occasion to make
 use of it, if you do I am thoroughly resolved not to survive yr. loss.
 Think not that this is ye. resolution of a giddy, rash, wild young man
 it has arisen from the long constant contemplations of a strong & wound
 mind. You say you once loved a friend who died in ye bloom of her youth,
 with enthusiastic fondness, think then how much stronger the pangs I must
 feel will be, if ever I am separated from her, which God forbid, whom I
 not only ~~was~~ love with enthusiastic fondness, but doct upon and adore
 beyond the idea of every thing that is human. Need you have repeated
 to me that yr. fame was dearer to you than yr. life, did not I tell you

once before, that I w^d. sooner go to immediate perdition, than attempt
to do any thing that w^d. be detrimental either to yr. reputation, honor, &
virtue. I look upon reputation as yr. brightest jewel any woman possesses
and when they lose that, they lose every thing that denotes them to be women,
if such is my opinion concerning Women in general, you can not suppose
that I would ever think of doing any thing, I repeated again, that w^d.
be detrimental either to the reputation, honor and virtue of her whom
I not only love with enthusiastic fondness, but whom I seat upon, &
adore beyond yr. idea of every thing that is human. Bear with me yet
once more if I conjure you on my knees not at any time to be too hasty
in making use of the release I have given you from that fatal & solemn
promise, consider only that my resolution is as fixed as yr. unalterable Book
of Fate, I think then if I know you, & if you ever had yr. smallest spark
of friendly affection for yr. friend, as you was you here, you will put up with not
a little, when you know that my happiness not only in this world, but what is
much more serious in the next depends wholly upon it. Let not any
reflections my sweetest, dearest, ever amiable friend, of the imprudence

inconsistency, or impropriety of yr. conduct, in accepting of my friendship
disturb yr. peace & happiness, or torture yr. mind, as I am convinced they only
arise from too delicate & punctilious honor. ^{as they are now all to be removed} The promise of an eternal and
everlasting continuance of yr. friendship is now ye. only thing that
will contribute to heal ye. wound that rankles in my heart. This
alone promise alone is sufficient to bring you out of my debt, you never
wasn't till this moment, upon my consenting to dissolve that fatal promise;
I have been yrs. till this instant. I thank you cordially for yr. good
advice, as it shows the interest you take in what befalls me, I will follow
it to ye utmost of my power, make ~~and~~ ^{no more} apologies for it, ^{that of you} for
it adds an additional weight to that which now hangs upon my spirits.
Let me now see you ^{again} enjoy that portion of cheerfulness ^{natural} to your disposition.
let me again see ^{that} happiness revisit your mind, which I am afraid ^{has} fled from mine.
Oe ere soon I flatter myself that the Almighty will call me to the
throne of his grace, to join yr. now sainted friend in Heaven, there with
his Angels & Archangels and with ~~this~~ whole heavenly and blessed host, to sing
eternal praises unto his holy name. Now adieu my friend, may Heaven
pour forth its ~~most~~ greatest blessings on thee. & mayest thou for hereforward

enjoy that happiness, which ^{an} angelick disposition so richly deserves.

I am, and ever shall be

Yr. sincerely affectionate Friend.

P.S.

Excuse me if I apologize to you for having demanded ~~at~~ towards
ye end of my Letter, a promise of ye constant & eternal continuance of ^{my} yr.
affection to me. I never thought it was absolutely necessary, but I
only desired it for my peace of mind, but now that I have ^{reperused} ~~reperused~~
ye end of yr. Letter, which I have since destroyed, I find it is not
necessary, as my sweetest friend has there given me sufficient assurance
of her never ceasing friendship and affection. Continue I conjure you
in every Letter to give me some good advice, and that without any excuse
and I, for it hurts my delicacy as I once told you I loved honesty & openness.

I learn to contemn all praise by times
For Flattery's ye nurse of crimes.

May I presume to ask a favor of my dearest friend, and that is that whatever
present she makes me of her hair ^{ye cutting of it may be} ~~it~~ quite plain, for it will always

be dearer to me than life itself, that on the
 back of it there may be the day of yr. Birth ^{without yr. display}
 and the Year of that event even so dear to me,
 with a Motto of yr. own, & on ye front of it
 the following motto, remember it is to represent
 especially on that side my sentiments concerning
 you. "Toujours unie". Allow me also if
 it is not hurting too much yr. delicacy, to
 give you a Plain Bracelet to answer to that
 "Regarde'a jamais" in order that it may be
 yr. constant ^{companion} ~~companion~~ and that you may
 wear it on the opposite arm always when you
 wear that, but only to shew how desirous
 I am of being related to him that I am not as
 yet in the manner I despise to with such
 ambition, & which is now the ^{sole} ~~subject~~ ^{object} of my life. He

the Motto's on that shall be, the front one
in Latin what you please, on the back the
decey of the North on which I was born, & ye
year: & the motto "gave a jamais dans mon
cœur;" I am afraid in putting myself in
y^r place there I speak only according to
my desires & not ye tenor of y^r sentiments.

Adieu.

I beg that y^r motto on y^ro. that I
have chose may be either "J'oujours aimée",
or "Tout ce qui n'est que en monde" take wth.
you like. I have both mine if you like it,
only let me know concerning every thing in
y^r acat. ———— Tell me also every thing what
you know concerning the future plan concerning ~~to~~
throughout ye rest of ye Season, & who is probably to go further.
Adieu encore.