

28th July 1779

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I hope you will not be offended dearest dearest dearest Sister, Friend at my presuming to tell you in your own language you offended my pride & honor in the last Note you writ me. However I will not enter upon any thing before you have promised me to calm yr. Spirits, keep this letter till you find yourself composed, and in a fit disposition to reason, & let not yr. Spirits be so much flurried.

You tell me I have acted ungenerously in relieving you from yr. promises, by putting you under such a restraint; you also say you wish that I may learn ^{more rightly} to reason; I will explain my motives to you for so doing, as I once promised to you when I freely gave you my friendship, not to have a secret of my soul concealed from a friend I love so tenderly.

Were you now to go on indeed at any time till I am at liberty, tho' you were to make ever so good an excuse such as yr. health, or ill treatment, the World & indeed all ye Sensitive of this family, w^d. endeavour to find out some secret reason for yr. departure, they w^d. condemn the innocent visits of my Messenger, as well as ye little ^{neither which have any thing to do with, nor w^d. they think them new nor at any time unless you was to} attentions I have shewn you ^{there to be young} into some private reasons, & they w^d. then think they had found out a cause for yr. departure which I do not think of a nature fit to be mentioned.

a person who has ^{such} ~~ye~~ disinterested, honorable, & virtuous notions
as my dearest friend has. Pardon me I conjure you, if I shall
make use of any improper ^{expresions} ~~terms~~, or if I should speak ~~roughly~~
upon this subject, when you consider it as ye subject dearest
dearest, dearest Sister, ye subject of all others in which
I look upon myself as most interested. ^{dependence?} Were you then
to go some time hence ye. some cause w^d. be attributed to it,
I could not, could not, could not bear to hear ye. smallest
imputation cast upon ye. spotless character of my angelic
friend, you are purer & whiter than I know myself. I
do not mention what my situation w^d. be at our separa-
tion, that I have already told you in one of my former
Letters, if my interest is as dear to you, as you tell me
it is, so much so, that you ~~take~~ ^{take} ~~me~~ ^{me} say, you w^d. sacri-
fice ^{almost} every thing to it, even my friendship, (Oh my God
that you ever could have said this) you will not go till
I am at liberty, it can not now be long before I am
so, whereas if you was ^{the sooner?} you would not only mention
ye opinion of the world, but ^{in what is much more difficult to me} in ye eyes of my Parents, for
I could not conceal ye agonies I should feel. If
you ^{found} yourself slighted or ill treated I would then have you go,
only inform me of it before you take any steps towards it, then do

not consider what my unfortunate situation w^d. be, wretched as I
then should be. I would willingly sacrifice ye woes I could not
hide, to yr. tranquillity, peace, or quiet. I conjure you by all
that's sacred and dear to you do not quit us. You alarm me
exceedingly when you desire me not to ask any more questions
at present, & that you will soon clear up ~~and~~ explain
every thing to you me, I will not then, I how readily do
we obey when ^{we} you really love! I cannot however help being
very impatient to know what they are. Let me therefore
entreat you once more that you will not go, except for ye
reason I have mentioned, I pray unto God constantly
to dispose yr. mind to grant this request to me, and to
prevent yr. Spirits from being so much lowered, & once
more to restore you that look of natural cheerfulness
which became you so much. My spirits are also very
much sunk, and cheerfulness will no more revisit my
brow, until I hear that you have shaken off that gloom
of melancholy, which has too long hung upon you to a
certain degree. I am grown emaciated my appetite is gone,
& forced to appear gay, & cheerful, ^{in company} I feel ye, more when
I retire into my own private room be it on ly for a
single moment. My Gentlemen attribute it to some
little cold I have caught from ye. change of ye weather

But Alas! the cause has taken too deep root soon to vanish.
Wherefore let me beseech you, if it be only, from yr. tenderness
friendship or affection to me, you would calm yr. soul a
little, & look not into futurity, and perceive things in so
black a light. My dearest Father not long ago told me
he had been reading a Book in which there was a passage
which struck him very much, "It is wrong to suppose
we are always to be happy in this World, but this is opinion
to ye. Diddy, to suppose we are always to be unhappy."
Wherefore let me entreat of you dearest dearest dearest
Sisters, friend, Angel, compose yr. self, and see things
in a better prospect. I will consent not to mention yr.
subject of Love to you again, as it can not be but pain-
ful to us both, let it however unite us in yr. bonds
of ye holiest, firmest, & most innocent friendship
which nothing but death shall annihilate. I kissed
with enthusiastic fondness (to yr. own expression) every
mark where yr. Paper was blured with yr. tears, I
Heaven was I ye cause of their flowing, gracious God
forbid, you say you wished you never had seen, is it because
you hate me, no that can not be for yr. generous mind is
not capable of calling that man its friend, whom it hates,
or is it because you look upon me as ye. cause & origin of

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all yr. misfortunes, if I thought you did you should see my
face no more; I can see therefore but one reason & that
proceeds from yr. tenderness for me, that is that you are
afraid that I shall fall to sink under some dreadful misfor-
-tune, from yr. impetuosity, violence, & obscure of my affec-
-tions. I own my sweetest friend, you to a degree hurt
my honor (another expension of yr. own) in recommending
to me & to you, yr. last letter as well as every other you had
written to me. I own I thought you had confidence in me
as to suppose I would execute every promise I made to you
most especially, however I attribute it mostly to yr. general
flattery yr. spirits were in. I also heard of yr. generosity
it is of a piece with the rest of yr. great, noble
and exalted sentiments, however I cannot help confessing
it hurt my pride a little.

The impending danger also of my dear
Brother W. for I understand ye two fleets are now in
sight of each other, greatly distresses me. Were I to
lose my two dearest Parents, or my two dearest Brothers
F. & W. nothing in ye world but yrself in whom my whole
happiness consists, and even I to be separated from you,
or to lose you, nothing should keep me in it by
I will not make an impious Oath. I have now nothing
more to add, but to conjure you by our Almighty &
ever merciful Father, to grant this request to me or

- coming y^r. departure, and to compose y^r. spirits, and to
assume an air of cheerfulness, bear up against y^e
gloom that oppresses you consider that you owe to y^e.
maker as a Christian, till then y^e. bosom of y^r. truly
affectionate friend will be a stranger to happiness.
Adieu if you any ever had any affection for me you
will grant me my request, I am & ever shall
be, sweetest, dearest, lovèd Sister,

Y^r. sincerely attached Friend & Brother.

P.S. I shall send my Messenger to town about some
business of this own, ^{ye day after tomorrow} I shall make him leave a note
at G-ys which shall contain y^e. orders how y^e b^r
shall be made, wherefore I beg of you send me a Post
in y^e. next tomorrow, when he comes you y^e. N.
If you have any Messages, Letters or Notes to leave any
where, or any business to do which he can, he shall do it.
compromis vous je vous en supplie j'osez en ce que nous
nous venons trouer ce qui sera a cette heure de bien tost a l'
j'attendo mon Ami saluez dans moins d'une semaine. Faites
moi savoir je vous en supplie aussi tout que vous avez
quelque chose de W. I send you with this, Letters which no
body has seen but A. C. J. and myself. I mean that of my Mother,
but that of my Father more have seen, to show to you, how far their affection
extends to all their Children - Adieu Adieu Adieu,