

4<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1779 rec<sup>d</sup>

wrote y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> rec<sup>d</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> 56

Nov<sup>r</sup> 1779

Thursday Morn<sup>g</sup>  
9 o'clock

Oh my dearest, dearest, dearest, Sister, & Friend, my  
Miranda,

It is not now a time for me to tell you y<sup>e</sup> yr.  
last Letter affronted me, y<sup>t</sup> is too trivial an expression  
but to tell you y<sup>t</sup> it made a deep impression upon me  
is telling you y<sup>e</sup> truth. Now then my Miranda, do  
after having thoroughly examined my heart & Soul,  
I swear & declare to you here, on my knees, before y<sup>e</sup>  
presence of Our Almighty Father, y<sup>t</sup> I will  
eternally, both in this life & in y<sup>e</sup> World to come  
be y<sup>r</sup> real, true, sincere, best & staunchest Friend.  
Such is my disposition my Sister, I never tightly  
form connections, nor have I ever formed any but one  
& y<sup>t</sup> is with you, I mean as to y<sup>e</sup> most perfect friendship

but when I do, I look upon myself as bound by ye most  
sacred bonds for life. Etc. I give you a stronger proof  
of ye continuance of my friendship towards you, than  
before I had known you had written anything like such  
a Letter to me, my promising to write you a circumstantial  
account, of an affair wh<sup>ch</sup> causes me so much pain  
& trouble. Since I have now answered ye most interesting  
interesting subject wh<sup>ch</sup> can affect my heart I will now  
enter upon my narration.

You must know then to resume a little  
higher, wh<sup>ch</sup> my Mother had been remarkably kind to  
me during ye whole of our sojourn. Ye night  
before last ye whole party went to drink Tea,  
at ye B<sup>r</sup> — I & where L<sup>d</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> C<sup>o</sup> n & their  
4 S<sup>rs</sup> were. My B<sup>r</sup> & E<sup>d</sup> had formed a particular  
intimacy with ye two middle ones, you must  
excuse my mentioning these particulars as you



being sent to bed, there only remained E & ye. & his  
ones. Ye ~~Parents~~ cowardice of E is inconceivable  
for knowing y<sup>e</sup>. those Boys w<sup>o</sup>ld not strike him  
again or punish him, he treated y<sup>e</sup> with y<sup>e</sup>. greatest  
insolence, not only striking y<sup>e</sup> & pinching y<sup>e</sup>  
but spitting in their faces & calling y<sup>e</sup> all names  
of names, I beheld all this myself from y<sup>e</sup>. farther  
end of y<sup>e</sup>. Room where I was conversing with y<sup>e</sup>.  
aforementioned persons. Not long after, I went out  
of y<sup>e</sup>. Room, into y<sup>e</sup>. Room where y<sup>e</sup>. second Pool was  
going on. I do not suppose I staid there 3 minutes  
when  
upon my return missing St. Col. L. I asked Ma  
what was become of him, upon which she shewed him to  
me talking to y<sup>e</sup>. Boys, & E standing in y<sup>e</sup>.  
Door way to y<sup>e</sup>. Room where my Father & Mother  
were playing. He soon came up to me, & said to  
me he hoped I w<sup>o</sup>ld countenance him, in what he

had been saying to those Boys, wh. was w<sup>t</sup>. he hoped they  
 w<sup>d</sup>. retaliate and prevent themselves from being insulted  
 in so gross a manner. I immediately walked up to you  
 and told you w<sup>t</sup>. they had my full consent to do what M<sup>r</sup>.  
 Col. L<sup>e</sup> advised them to do. I then walked directly  
 into y<sup>r</sup>. Room in w<sup>h</sup>. my Father & Mother were playing  
 at cards, in which I found E. standing between  
 them, <sup>they w<sup>h</sup>. I went up to him</sup>  
~~and I went up to him~~ <sup>in a whisper,</sup> meaning to desire  
 him to come out of y<sup>r</sup>. Room to ask these young Gentle-  
 -mens pardon, but he instead of listening to me, like  
 a true designing, mean, sneaking coward, cried  
 out in a loud voice in order w<sup>t</sup>. ye w<sup>h</sup>. take part w<sup>th</sup> my  
 side with him, I never shall mind what you say  
 to me, naming me for you are always drawing  
 me into some vile peccates. My Father  
 then immediately turned round & asked where  
 cause of this speech of E. - d<sup>r</sup> upon which I in

whispered to him he had behaved very improperly, & there  
it rested until ye. Cool was over, when my L<sup>d</sup>  
told my M<sup>r</sup> a just what I had told him, she  
sprung up her shoulders, as soon as my L<sup>d</sup>  
back was turned she called me up to her, & asked me  
with the greatest anger pointed in all her features  
how I came to mention any thing of such sort to  
my L<sup>d</sup> or wh<sup>o</sup> it was no business of mine, y<sup>t</sup>  
she was sure whatever I had done or said  
y<sup>t</sup> it was nothing to her, y<sup>t</sup> whatever scrape  
he came into my B<sup>r</sup> or L<sup>d</sup> I always led  
him into, upon wh<sup>o</sup> I asked her whether I had  
been ye. cause of his doing what he was dis-  
graced for, upon wh<sup>o</sup> she said, y<sup>t</sup> it was not  
ye. immediate cause of it, but y<sup>t</sup> I had led  
him into it, wh<sup>o</sup> I always wanted to govern

eye. little ones w<sup>t</sup>. I had not sense enough for it.  
in short she ran on in this cruel manner for  
a vast while, however I flattered myself, but  
I have forgot to say she then said was anybody  
to go tell my F- or what my Br. or V. had done,  
or, & what we now did, she was sure he wd. be  
as much offended with us, as he was with G- &  
in short w<sup>t</sup> she wd. tell him every thing she  
she: had w<sup>t</sup>. I did from w<sup>t</sup>. I moment. I told  
myself, she wd. be in a better humor this morn.  
but finding her still very angry this morning  
& very cool towards me this evening. I wish  
to receive from you any assistance or advice  
how to regulate my  
~~my conduct~~ conduct towards her during  
this change of affairs; as I can not help  
saying I am deeply affected by G-.

Adieu. Adieu. Adieu My dearest & dearest  
dearest Sister Friend, Miranda you shall  
have a scrupulous account & examination of  
my conduct in my seat, during ye absence  
of my journey at W. I hope you will  
not find great reason to disapprove of it.  
I am after again <sup>having</sup> reconsidered yr letter  
unto all Eternity

Yr sincerely affectionate Brother  
& best Friend

Salomon Bayous de Merne.

P.S. say to me you take me in my seat.  
I am very thankful to you for yr advice  
I admire very much, & shall esteem it more  
as coming from yr. own precious hands. I send  
you back Mr. G. note I have a great esteem for her  
may be we have an answer soon as possible. Yours of. St. Louis etc