

My Friend

Wrote Sunday sent Tuesday it had got back

30

I set down immediately to ~~write an answer to~~ yours — 30
the subject I own embarrasses me but I will endeavour
with ^{the} utmost candour to give my sentiments. — You have
not at all surprised me by ^{your} declaration — You have
pleas'd me by your confidence — You have trust me
by your caution — You have in some measure afflicted
me by proving ^{it} your character will turn out what I
apprehended. — Now my dear friend wth respect to
your present object of your passion & fancy — I know not
what to say — let me however take your liberty of ^{pointing} saying
out that a female in your line has too much trick &
art not to be a very dangerous object — I do not reproach
you for having fix'd your affections — for you ~~will~~ ^{tell}
me — beauty is amiable as well as interesting — how
was it possible then for my young friend to steel
his heart against your united forces of Beauty & innocence
when under even your mock appearance of distress —
& likewise when your beauty & innocence ^{is} for his sake
& to attract his regard, condescend to use your common
arts of her sex & profession to captivate & fix

a heart so much worth her while to conquer -
 You desire me to "comfort" you - what need can
 you possibly have for comfort - I do not mean
 to make you vain or presumptuous - but I think
 you may indulge wth pleasing certainty that if
 lady is so much in love, returns your ^{love} affection &
 You desire me to "pardon" you - for what? have
 you been to blame. ~~is~~ is not your fault an
 involuntary one? - You desire me to "pity" you
 can I refuse my pity to a person in your
 unhappy situation - that w^d be cruel indeed -
 - You say "Heaven knows when this passion
 will be extinguish'd" - the ^{I think} Heaven has nothing to do
 in y^e affair - yet I cannot imagine why my friend
 sh^d be at all solicitous to extinguish a flame so pure -
 refined - & honorable - if w^d advise you however to be ^{of} ^{with} ^{it} ^{is} ^{no} ^{injury} ⁱⁿ ^{this} ^{to} ^{me}
 upon y^r guard - & not to change your self into misfortunes headlong. ^{there}
 Adieu let me have your confidence - Jarr &
 Loes will be your friend - & as long as you choose
 to allow it will respect it. Adieu Adieu
 Adieu. ^{Your} ^{my} ^{curiosity} ^{is} ^{rav'd} ^{to} ^{know} ^{why} ^{y^e} ^{find} ^{life} ^{time} ^{for}
^{writing} ⁱⁿ ^{of} ^{them} ⁱⁿ ^{y^e} ^{C.} ^{are} ^{not} ^{g^ot} ^{occupations} ^{of} ^{some} [?] ^{do} ^{not}
 suppose I mean to lay a tax upon y^e - no - I w^d have y^e be a pride w^d prevent me

soliciting for any involuntary act of friend or ship