

23<sup>d</sup> July 1779.

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I have just been reading over the letters of a friend — who died in the prime of life — I loved her with an enthusiastic fondness — how improper for me then to write to you after the remark you made of the melancholy that oppress'd my spirits — I w<sup>d</sup> not do it — but that I have appointed the time for sending an answer. Let an act of oblivion be pass'd my friend over the promise you extorted from me, <sup>(not to quit the Royal Family)</sup> then perhaps you will see the cheerfulness natural to my disposition resume its place; my being left at liberty cannot alter or interfere with our friendship — & that liberty is absolutely essential to my peace of mind, I may have no occasion to make use of it, but let me ~~always~~ enjoy it in idea as a resource; pecuniary advantages I despise — my principles are too independent for that motive to have the least weight or detain me in a situation in which I felt I was not treated in a manner I was conscious I deserv'd, — what a burden then upon my mind of laying <sup>under</sup> the obligation



let what will happen, of keeping that fatal promise  
— Another reason of my not being in spirits is, that  
I am tortured with some uneasy reflections w<sup>ch</sup> I  
cannot stifle — the imprudence, the inconsistency —  
the great impropriety of my conduct in accepting &  
acknowledging to return yr<sup>s</sup> friendship — ~~for that~~  
I am sensible there is now no remedy, — but remember  
Sir my fame is dearer to me than life. for however  
innocent the motives w<sup>ch</sup> influence, ~~any~~ <sup>the world</sup> ~~the wrong~~  
<sup>w<sup>d</sup> naturally,</sup> ~~one~~ & particularly two persons w<sup>d</sup> put a cruel construction  
upon a secret & clandestine <sup>correspondence</sup> ~~interview~~ were it ever  
to transpire. once more let me remind you  
I should utterly sink under such an event — & your  
friendship <sup>even</sup> ~~do not~~ support me.

You require of me to tell you freely my sentiments;  
I will hazard ~~the sending~~ <sup>the sending</sup> those  
respecting ~~my opinion~~ <sup>my opinion</sup> of your public appearance  
for I am thoroughly convinc'd in the essential  
you will never err — I w<sup>d</sup> have my friend rise  
superior — rank alone will not enable him to  
do so — do not then continue to indulge yourself  
with viewing every object that presents itself in a



butterque light - & do not communicate your  
sentiments - if the ridiculous does strike you,  
& wish it will people of quick parts & lively imagin-  
ations to every insignificant person <sup>at hand of</sup> about  
you - the time is <sup>approaching</sup> ~~approaching~~ when every look  
word & gesture of yours will be of importance  
the eyes of the multitude will be upon you - &  
among the multitude your own good sense will  
suggest there may be people of discernment,  
sense & superior <sup>of your mind and</sup> characters, <sup>the excellence of</sup>  
your heart will make you candidly acknowledge  
as well as feel that to such you w<sup>d</sup>. be pain'd  
to appear in a trifling light - one vanity I  
would have my friend guilty of - If I may be  
allow'd the expression - the vanity of being  
the first in character manner & sentiment  
may I venture to proceed - and  
& not to adopt the follies of others - Your  
sentiments with ~~proceed~~ <sup>your friend</sup>  
Adieu my friend! be assured <sup>of my fidelity</sup> no circumstance  
will ever lessen my friendship though there  
may be causes that separate us for till the time



That we shall all be eternally reunited I will  
confide to send w<sup>th</sup> yo. request - I do not promise y<sup>e</sup>. time - I shall get it  
~~I do not believe I do not y<sup>e</sup> this week~~  
done - for I am not yet out of debt -

~~Yours affectionate son~~  
~~John Bull~~