

Many thanks my dear William to you  
 to your amiable little Duchess for your  
 kind letters, which I love not a moment  
 in acknowledging. I felt quite certain that  
 you would in common with the rest of our  
 Family, deeply feel the irreparable loss  
 we have one & all of us to lament; as to  
 myself I shall not attempt to describe  
 what my feelings <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>now, or what they</sup> have been for a  
 great length of time past, all therefore  
 that I can say is, that they do exist to  
 the utmost extent of the bitterest anguish  
 in the deepest recesses of my Heart, & that  
 they do so infinitely surpass all & every  
 thing, that any Language or words could

express, that it is best, to say nothing about  
them, & not to attempt to undertake a task  
which it is quite impossible to fulfill. If  
it had been in my power to have taken up  
my Pen sooner, I should not have waited for  
a Letter first from You, before I had written to  
You, but I have been in so completely a  
dejected a state, ever since the lamentable  
& for ever to be regretted event, took place, that  
I have not been able to hold up my Head in  
the least, in short I have been incapacitated  
for every thing. I find that You have already  
had every information respecting her last  
Will & Testament, & which strikes me, as  
most creditable & honorable to her in every  
respect. Mine is not the grief of a Day,  
long, long long will it live in my Heart,  
& my regrets will never cease but with my life.

Our best consolation must rest upon this, the  
reflection, that our best & dearest Mother,  
has by a perfection of conduct, shewn  
a long life, never before seen or known, &  
such a brilliant example to the whole World  
as has seemed to her the love & veneration  
of all the Good in it, & from the inward,  
firm & religious persuasion, that she is  
gone into a better World, there to meet with  
& to receive the just reward of all her  
innumerable Virtues. Our dear Sisters  
who have supported themselves with  
a fortitude & resignation beyond all belief  
& who have conducted themselves like  
perfect Angels through the whole heart-  
-breaking scene, are thank God, even  
better in health than ever in reason, have  
been almost expected that they should be, &  
I am particularly happy to be able to assure

That poor dear Sophie, who from her weak  
state, & prolonged indisposition, we were  
naturally most anxious for, & earnestly apprehensive  
-woud about, is really just now tolerably well  
& appears to be much less shaken than  
could have been possibly suped. I am extremely  
pleas'd at learning that You & your amiable  
little Daughter are so content with Hammore,  
& that she is lov'd & lik'd, & so justly popular  
there, ~~all~~ all of which I am sure will increase  
the more she is known, & that her approaching  
confinement there, will only serve, as an  
additional bond of affection & union between  
Her & that country, let me beg my most  
affectionate remembrances to Her, & that  
You will believe me always, my dearest  
William.

Yours most affectionate Brother  
& Friend  
George B.

Further Home.  
Decr. 8<sup>th</sup>.  
1818.