

4 August 1789 Bath

NAM 11/2/27

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I sent you a letter yesterday & informed you that I was going to Mrs. Hartley's - it is settled to drink tea with Mr. Rundell, but she was not returned from some country expedition & I found an excuse, & went on to Mr. W. where I found a Mr. Campbell & two young Ladies who sang a very pretty duet - one of them played a very difficult Concerto on the Harpsichord with very great execution - I don't know whether my taste is improved or vitiated but I must confess that what is called a Harpsichord Lupon does not gratify me at all. I have taken a dislike to the instrument - & what is commonly called fine playing, is to me, an expeditious jumbling of Keys - Mr. Nelson & Miss Wilkes have come in for half an hour. Mr. W. told me that Miss W. was going the next day to Cowslip Green - The company went away before ten & Mr. W. desired me to stay supper - in five minutes a message came from the Rundells with an invitation to supper w. I declined of course. I staid with Mr. Hartley till near eleven & then called at the Rundells & staid with them till 12.

As no letter arrived yesterday from my dearest Mary I was in great doubts what to do, as I knew not what construction might be put upon my letter which gave you an acct. of the inflammation in my leg &c. - and as you talked of coming to me, I began to think that might fix your resolution - However as the weather seemed so fine I thought it better not to defer my journey or rather little tour any longer, as I sh^d. be at so short a distance from Bath; accordingly this morning at 8 o'clock I set out for Bristol and called upon Miss Prosser - when they told me I had chosen an unlucky time as Hannah was going from home, but when I mentioned Miss Wilkes's intention of going to Cowslip Green, they said, she must be informed of it & pushed me to go on which I then did not intend to do - I saw the two eldest only, Betty was engaged in the kitchen. I staid about 20 minutes & went to the well. Dr. Henslow seemed very glad to see me, poor creature he has suffered excruciating pain lately in having a carbuncle taken off his head, which mortified - he never closed his eyes for ten days & nights in the last 48 hours. He has had a little sleep & as he cannot take any medicines for his old malady the stone now, he is afraid that it may gain too great a head. he complains that he is obliged to take a pint of Madeira every day which confuses him - he speaks with great affection of his wife & regards for you - I desired that I would tell you how ^{it} made him to see me when he saw me 2 years ago. I staid in hours with him. he spoke of a publication of Dr. Hawkin's Reasoner, which he thought the best thing that has been wrote in our Language for some time. The subject is the negligence of the clergy - I went from him to Miss Melnes & had the pleasure of hearing that the old lady was better - She gave me a long acct. of the disease she had been in & of her Mother's illness w. proved at last to be a Bilious Fever. I staid with her about half an hour & went on to Cowslip Green - I was charmed with the view of Clifton from an opposite hill on the Bath road, which

remembers a short view of the river, the rocks, the scattered houses on Clifton, part of Bristol & the adjacent country all round. The view is dearer to me from Hannah's house & Paddy, who was married here before me. This little cottage is exactly what I expected to find - very sweet & prettily furnished & the rooms small - the little pleasant garden very well planted with shrubs, & an exquisite pretty foot house about 50 yards from the house where they generally breakfast & drink tea. It has no pretensions & is exactly what you & I shall like to have in our grass, as it can be made at very little expense. I made a sketch of it & the house - We waited almost an hour for Miss Wilkes, but she did not come to day. I found Hannah very low. She attributed it to a disagreeable accident that had happened which had damped all their summer enjoyment, as there is only one month that the sisters can live together here - a lady who came to pay them a visit & was overruled out of a Phaeton (driven by her husband) into a little rickshaw near the house; she was nearly suffocated by the wind & her back was so much injured that she could not be turned in bed for 3 weeks - she was brought to Miss Moore, apparently dead, & was taken away upon a litter. This was a terrible thing upon the sisters, as they have only one spare bed, & they were obliged to exert themselves to keep up the husband's spirits, who was almost distracted. Paddy exerted himself & was in good spirits & of course very agreeable. I spoke of Mr. Gore's coming to Bath with great glee - a certain person seemed very cool upon that subject. I said "I suppose you of course will go to Bath to meet him." No, she knows my summer engagements and is so good as to excuse me" - this appears to me very odd - has there been an engagement here - she said "probably you will find them at your return" but this is very uncertain, which was repeated - Was a friend of mine to come to a place so near me on acct. of Health & I disengaged - casual engagements would be set aside. Spring - 5/ at 9 o'clock a Mr. - whose name I don't at this moment recollect come to breakfast from Bristol, he is brother to a Chrysomelid who has wrote a great deal about the destruction of the Slave Trade, as this is subject very near Hannah's heart, of course nothing else was talked of - a thousand instances of barbarity were spoken of, struck me with horror & I thought it impossible for a human being to be so diabolical. - Mr. C. came with me 5 miles when I turned off to go to Lady Swete - there is a very pleasant young man & an enthusiast in the cause - Miss Moore has lately written a very pretty thing which she gave me for you - the spirit of Bishop Bonner's Ghost - I am very much pleased with it. The whole is a compliment to the Bishop of London - in forming a comparison between the two - she wrote it at Mr. Norcote's who showed it to Mr. Walpole and he inserted it after printing it at

Strawberry Hill - (by the way excuse me for saying, I wish that the Rose & Strawberry & Cowslips did not always blow - they are delightful in season to be sure, and he has procured a print of Strawberry Hill a few copies were reserved for his friends & the rest for the author. at 12 I took my leave with many civil things for you & arrived at Lady Swete at 2 - I travelled thro' a delightful country and had a friendly reception from Lady S. who has not been well for several days - she is very pleasant. Miss Hemmilton was very civil & attentive - 6/ This is a small house where Lady S. enjoys a retirement - in some respects it is a pleasant situation - in a fine country and beautiful views from its very seclusion - but 11 miles from market & post town, & every thing dear & hardy to be got on any but. 6/ This morning I took a ride upon the downs which commands an extensive view of the Severn covered with ships & some small rapids & a very fine prospect of the whole coast, & I thought I should tell you the story of Miss Swete's elopement, which is the blackest affair I ever heard of. 7/ at one o'clock to day I left Capenor Lodge. Lady S. wished me to stay a few days longer & I have been very glad to have complied with her desire, but I could not divert my self of my own - about you & I had already prolonged my stay a day longer than I at first intended - at Clifton I accidentally met Miss Newton's Dr. Pether's niece, & I promised to dine with them - I called upon Miss Pauline & found her in good spirits looking very well - I had been uneasy about her for she appeared flushed & feverish when I saw her before - I did not see Mr. M. who does not yet admit strangers - I staid on horse, & then went to Dr. Monckhouse - he poor man was but indifferent, but he keeps up his spirits wonderfully - he asked me to dine with him & desired me to say many kind things to you and to compliment you upon my good looks - I dined with the ladies at their Lodging - the set was not a pleasant one to me they seemed very well satisfied, which was well enough - I did not stay there - but proceeded homewards when I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 2nd Inst. & my dear Louisa's too which I kept 20 times - Indeed my dearest Sister we must not be parted any more - I can bear any thing but a separation from you & no earthly consideration can make me any amends for the loss of your company - two hearts so firmly & so affectionately united, should be so or very soon - God bless you - Now, you dearest, & shall now tell you so in person very soon - I have just



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been to Dr. Fothergill's. he was not at home. I left word that I would
call upon him in the evening - It is my intention to leave this place
on Monday 17th. I shall write occasionally. I borrowed the first, the
second & Birmingham on Wednesday 19th. I shall have a happy
of embracing you - if the afternoon sh. not be so good as to send
Mira to Buxton - the coach, I say, an advertisement, unless there is
I object. I can ride home & it will save me 1/6. I am not fond of a
chain from Buxton in the dark & I will not sleep within six
miles of my dear Mary - Mr. Garnett is not come yet - at
least I cannot hear of her - I rejoice that my sisters are going
to vary the scene - perhaps it may turn out well - Mr David
Murray is here - I like him - there seems to be an honest sentiment
about him -

Adieu had to say you
I am ever most affly & faithfully yours
The harvest is begun & there are yet many hundred acres of grain
uncut - the weather is now intensely hot - we have had no thunder lately

Miss
J. G. G. G.
BATH

My Compliments to Mr. Gaskell - I see his frequent one
strutting about with his pupil every day - I wish he was
in as fair a way to be provided for
When Mr. Cooper writes to my Father, how surprised
he would be to see two, P.D.s, instead of one - I might allege
that it was only a small mistake of mine -