

26th July 1779

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According to my promise to my sweetest Friend I
resume my Pen thus early in ye morning to inform her how much
I was alarmed at seeing her & certain other excellent the governing
personage in close converse together in ye Window yesterday evening.
I own I was very much afraid that it was upon that topic which
of all others I dread ye. most, for where one really loves, one is always
afraid of ye least instance which may be conducive to ~~any~~ ^a ~~separation~~
~~separation~~. Pardon me if I still continue to harp upon
ye same string, it is so deeply sunk into my heart that
I should absolutely go distracted did I even think that
there was ye. smallest thing that tended to our separation.
Relieve me I conjure you in y^r. answer, my dearest, dearest,
dearest Friend, from all my pains. I flatter myself that

you do not find yourself ill treated; slighted, or disregarded,
if you should (which God forbid) bear a little more if ye load
should not be too heavy for ye. sake of yr. unhappy ^{friend} (who
w^d. inevitably not survive it). It is true that my dearest
Father loves a joke, and tho^e perhaps his irony may not be
of so delicate a nature as my own, yet he never means any
harm to the person against whom he employs it, tho^e it
may appear as if he did; I am sure he never can mean any
to you, the bent of all his jokes is to make you laugh
to that excess which he delights in. My dearest Mother
I am sure treats you almost with ye tenderness of a Mother,
and when she gives you any advice about laughing, or about
any thing else, which perhaps tho^e she may put it in rather
a strong light, (which I am sure I do not know that
she ever does) she always means it for yr. prosperity &
wellfare in ye World. I know she does, I know she
has a real esteem and affection for you. Next you are loved
by my Sisters Governess, indeed I may say Governesses,
for the least, whenever she speaks to me of you, always
^{or to any body else}

does it?

(with the greatest affection possible, you are loved by all
my sisters, there is not a servant belonging to any one of
ye family houses that does not speak ^{freely} of you, as to yr. humanity
kindness, & civility to them. And last of all you are
beloved by me to such an excess of passion, that it is
beyond ye power of words to express. I would now, ^{most} willingly,
were this ye condition of my being eternally
united to you, retire to some unknown place, give up
all my future prospects in this World, and all its pageantry,
and live in retirement, happiness, and love with you.
Judge then if such are my sentiments, whether I
could bear to endure, the least thing that even appeared
to carry with it ye smallest prospect ^{of separation}, distraction &
death w^d. then be my only lot. I have seen ye greatest
^{and most celebrated} Beauties of England, they never have made but a
momentary impression on me. but yr. dear image has
imprinted itself so deeply in my heart, that nothing but
Death, and Death alone can annihilate that as well as

as everything else. But sufficient for that at present,
since I with such generosity resigned ~~me~~ up my preten-
-sions to that promise, (allow me to call it generosity
for you know not how much it cost me) have you at
least my friend at least I say ye generosity. Knowing
my sentiments concerning you, and ye situation of my
mind, not to be too hasty, whenever (which Heaven
forbid you ever should) intend to make use of ^{it} consider
it well over first, remember oh remember, if you
have ^{any} tenderness for yo. friend, remember my caution,
you never will think of making use of that liberty
which I gave you by expunging that fatal promise
unless you wish to see me lie breathless and lifeless at
yo. feet. Think not, that I now speak from the
warmth of passion, I do not, I am composed, &
I am determined, determined, (I repeat as in my last
Letter) yet determined, as ye unalterable decrees of

late. I shall for ^{your} future in all
 my Letters treat with a brotherly affection
 and call you by the endearing names
 of friend & Sister, and no longer with
 the impetuous passion of a Lover using
 his suit, tho' my sentiments as to our
 separation will ever remain the same.

I shall have young Gray down with
 me from Town tomorrow I believe,
 about some other business. I will
 have ye. Bracelet made up imme-
 diately, do you only send one ad-
 dresse in yr. answer to this to day.
 I will wait tho' with impatience
 till Winter for yr. ring with longous
aimée. I think one of yr motto's

on ye back of ye Bracelet must
be "Remember, Remember, Remember"
referring to my caution, and to my
~~unpleasant~~
~~condition~~ sentiments I have declared
to you concerning our separation,
which the Almighty avert, as I see
it will be conducive to many mis-
fortunes. I have now nothing
more to say, but to entreat of you
to receive yr. natural, charming
and delightful spirits, and to let
me see you as gay as ^{you} usually
was. I know tho' you sometimes
look seriously at me, it is not a
look of anger, but a mixture

of tenderness, affection & friendship.

Adieu ever dearest, dearest, &
most amiable friend, & croyez
que je vous suis infiniment
plus attaché qu'à la vie même, et
que je serai au grand jamais

Votre très affectueux
Ami.

P.S.

Let me know as soon as you hear concerning
any part of the family going to W—
tho' I can not accompany this letter, at
least my heart does, so keep it fast.

Nymph in thy Quions

Be all my sins remembered.

Adieu, Adieu Adieu

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]