

29th August 1779

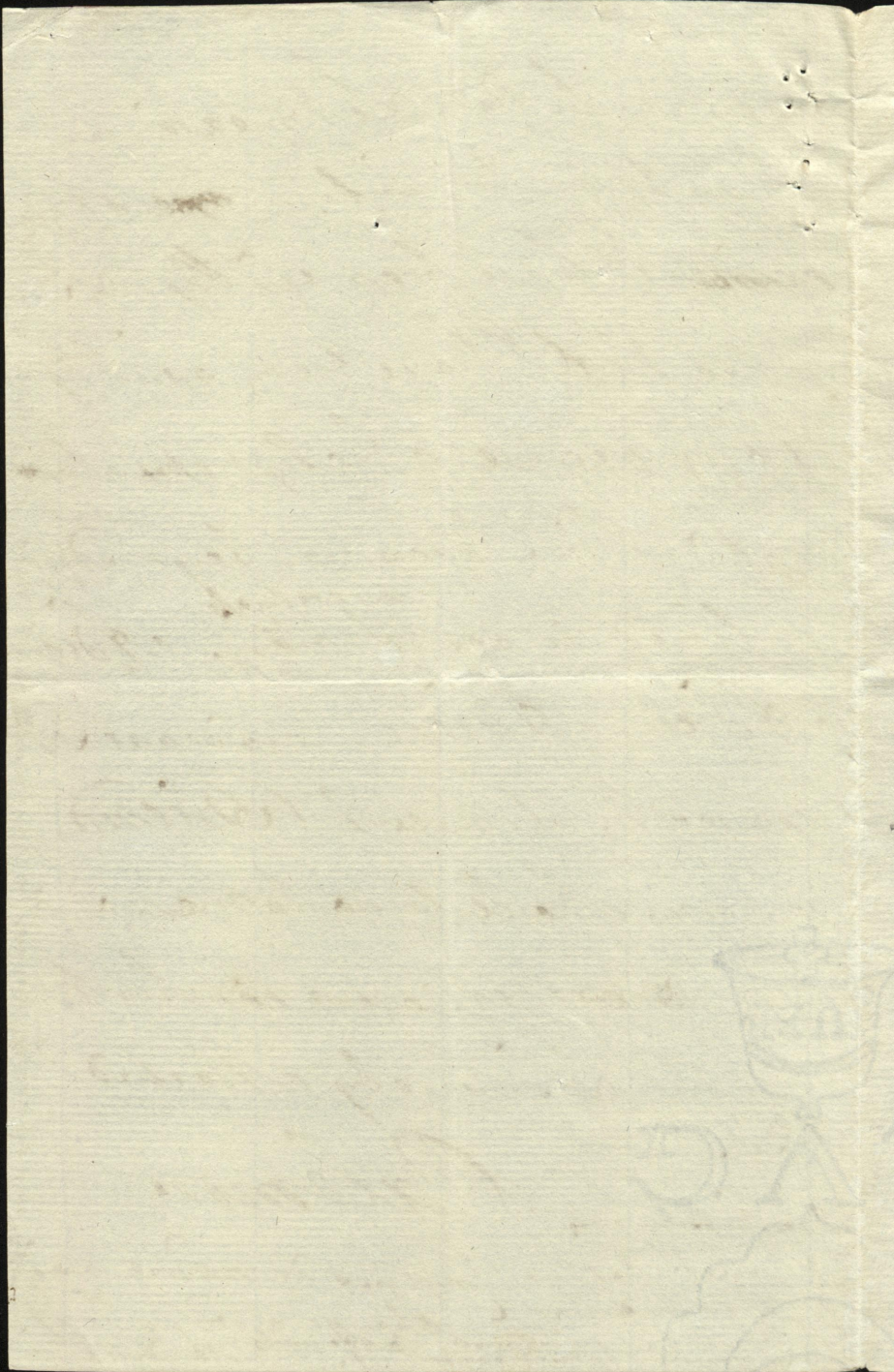
afternoon 5 o'clock

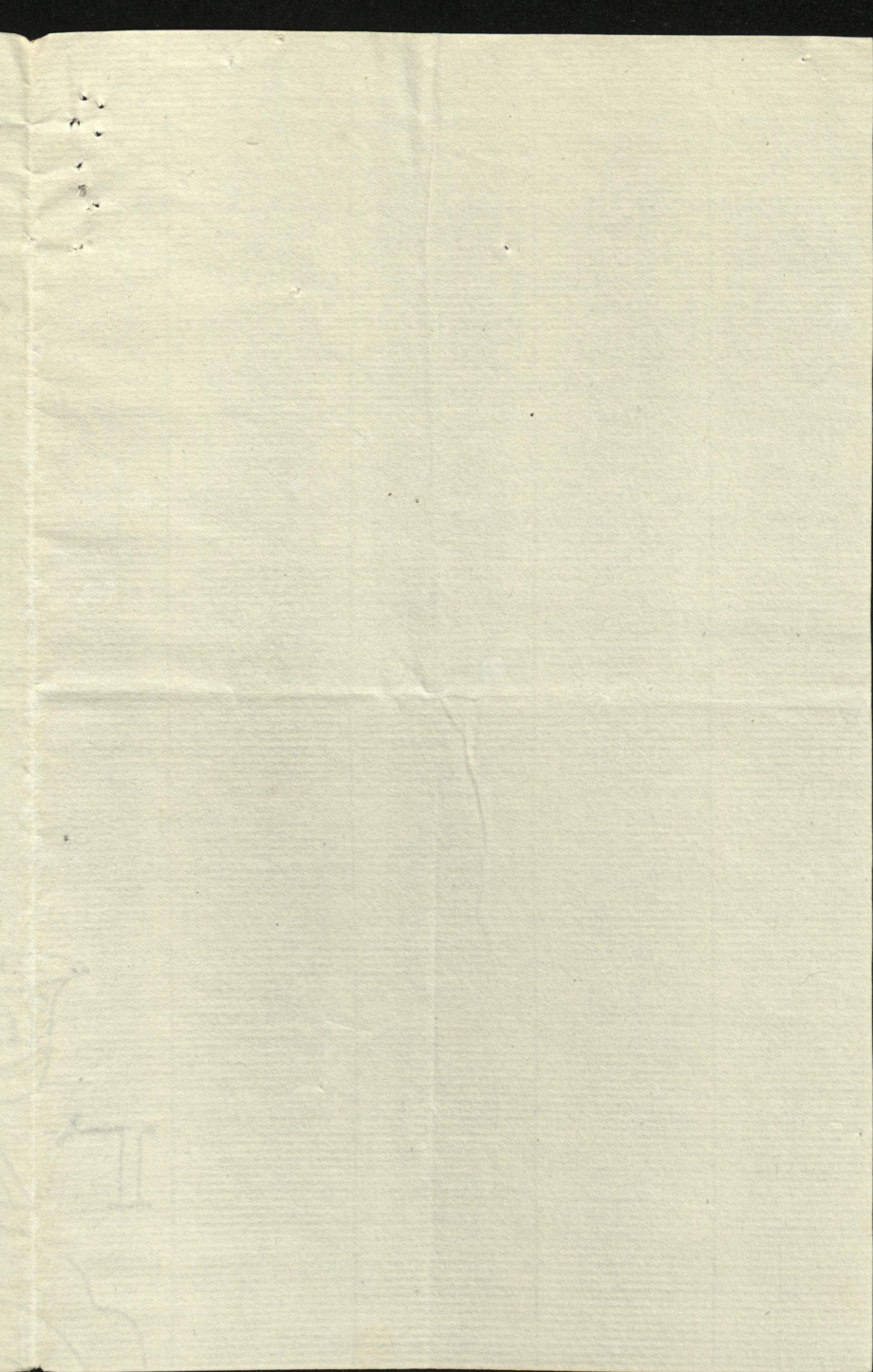
Tell me my dearest, dearest, dearest, Friend
 what it is I have done; it is a very wrong thing to condemn a
 Culpit without hearing him or her in their own defence.
 The situation of my mind cannot be expressed, it is beyond ye
 power of Words, I know not, I am not conscious of having
 done or said any thing to merit what you said of me in yr.
 Letter, ye. coldness of ye. Style as well as ye. expressions of it
 alarmed me to ye. highest ^{degree} but when I heard ye answer you
 threw ^{on} my hints you actually struck me quite dumb. For
 God's sake, I entreat you by all that is dear to you, &
 by yr. affection to me, if you have still ye. smallest ^{part}
 remaining, inform me what it is I have said, done, or been guilty
 of to merit these bitter reproaches; to say I have forgotten
 my word to you, is to say I have forfeited yr. good opinion, & if

have lost that. I have lost everything that constitutes my
happiness in this world. I will patiently suffer, & de-
proach My Friend the ^{have given} unmerited hope, if I find that
I have deserved them. I am sure it will have been unimpor-
tantly. If you have any love or affection for me you will
strongly feel my unhappiness. Let me again conjure
you know what language it is I have held, or in what
I have forfeited my word to you. I already opened
my heart totally to you, and confessed to you ^{your} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{most} ^{openly} ^{as} ^{was} ⁱⁿ ^{my} ^{power} ^{all} ^I ^{remembered} ^{saying}
and all I now think, ^I ^{do} ^{not} ^{too} ^{cruel} ^{my} ^{dearest} ^{life}
feel my already too much wounded heart, you know
how doatingly fond I am of you, & therefore how much
I must feel upon this occasion. Let me not lose ye.
greatest comfort of my life, in losing such a friend

as you are to whom I can impart all my little unhappiness
my little misfortunes, and private ~~unhappinesses~~. Be not
tormented by in crediting ye reports of prating idle people who
will propagate ill & bad reports merely for ye pleasure
of flattery. Do not believe they do it with any other
bad design, for what way it is answer to them I
can not understand. Be my friend, my ever loving
friend, my ever tender Friend, as you have hitherto been
my sister, pardon the offences I have been guilty of if
I have been guilty of any, & receive me again into
that friendship which it had been ye. & joy to my
happiness, & in doing which I had been so happy
as to succeed. Advise me in my present situation
direct my conduct, for I know not what to do.
I have ever since you mentioned certain re ports to

me this day week last, I have ever since treated ye
author of them with great appearing respect & civility
however nothing that was on his side he has perceived it
for he sent a message to me today, by y^r. Secretary
that he was afraid he had offended me some how or
other for I had not spoke to him so frequently,
or treated him with that kindness. Generally y^e.
instruct me therefore I conjure you, how you w^d.
he conduct myself to him, or what I should
say to him if he asks me ~~any~~^{any} questions what he has
done to merit such a conduct from me towards. The
sooner you inform me of ye. return of y^r. confidence
~~and~~ which is ye. thing I am now most anxious about,
& for which I wait with ye. utmost as well
as how you w^d. have me conduct myself towards





100