

WAM 11/15/34

At James 26th Jan'y 1789 33

My dear Friend!

I have been very ill since I received your letter, not dangerously or painfully so, & not not of my Mouton Rheumatism so that you see it is of no consequence, particularly as I am now quite well - it was only a violent cold & fever with a pain in all my limbs, which kept me three days in bed - this fine weather has quite recovered me & I am again taking my Bark which was suspended for a week, constantly every day - Thank you my dear Friend for your letter, & for having openly told me that I had vexed you, I had feared having done so, by something I said that day on the subject of correspondence yet did not feel conscious of self reproach, or of having merited yours, & seeing youaverse to an explanation forbore to press you, for one - I am now 28 years old, ten years older than when I first knew you, have been in the world for near 12 years, & have had more experience of various kinds than most people of my age - much vexation, many disappointments, of ~~them~~ in reasonable plans & hopes of happiness, & many, of those which it was not unnatural for a warm imagination & a coast sensible to form, in the days of enthusiasm! I am blaseed upon most subjects, I have learnt to appreciate things at their just value & price & the days of romance are over! But tho' I am not so easily deceived by the appearance of virtue, by the professions of friendship I am far from

being a sceptic in either - I could not if I were inclined,
without blindness the height of ingratitude when I
am blessed with so many Friends, whose virtues excite my
admiration & respect whilst their kindness & long attachment
to me constitute my happiness - And I believe I myself
am not a worse Friend for being a reasonable one -
I am very glad to hear such a good account of little
Louisa's Health, I never could have a doubt of her success
I hope she will not feel her power, & be allowed to lose
it before she has principles & reason to teach her the
proper objects on which to exert it, & the discretion &
moderation that ought always to attend on power - it
is dangerous in the hands of a clever child - to herself
& the habit of governing is a most fatal one, in a woman
this I particularly add up to Mrs Dickenson who
I hope has not forgot all the useful admonitions
dissuasive given her on this subject at Norton
& thence away with proper spirit -

My Father and Bell are quite well I cannot say
so much of my Brother who looks like Death
is in a low, uncomfortable way, I do not know what
to make of his Complaint, but tho' I trust it is
attended with ^{alarm} no symptoms of ~~danger~~ ^{danger} & that
it threatens no consequences of danger, I am far from
easy upon his account, tho' I do not know
what to wish about him or whether he would be better
for country air, or a moderate degree of alspiration
here - I hope to talk to you on this subject in
a more cheerful & comfortable style when I write

next - we have led ~~the~~ a life of the most perfect quietude
& retirement since we came - indeed a whole week
I was in this room - one night I went to an assembly
at the D^y of Gordons of which the noise, crowd & head
stupidity & we came me, & I hardly recovered the
effects of it the next day, tho' I was at home before
twelve - what does not habit reconcile one to, or at
least enable one to bear! my reason & civilization
can never again make their peace, or agree wth the
absurdity & stupidity of a great crowd, but in three
months I shall have heard no noise, felt no heat
& shall come home without feeling the least tired -
I have not yet seen Mr D^y he is now & then
in Town for a few hours, but he is principally
at Reed where his duty, & wish to be of service
confine him - he has been sometime in
Somersetshire wth his Family - I believe the
King is much better, I have the greatest hopes of
his recovery, but the ^{large} foundation of these hopes
is given to you in Dr Willis's evidence in the report
of the Committee on the Ex^t of the Physicians -
I have reason to think highly of Dr Willis's sense
skill & what is of the most consequence of his head
character & good intentions which are sincere as
his endeavours to promote the King's recovery &
unmixed with political or worldly motives, on him
I pin my Faith & shall thank God when he is
allowed (by the removal of the other Physicians) to
have full play & the sole, uninterrupted, unopposed
management of the King -
as to party, the rage of it runs so high, to that extent



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of violence as is unconceivable, it dissolves families,
dissolves friendships, banishes even good manners
& common civility, & requires the sacrifice of reason
& common sense! God help us - what sad times &
what a dreary black prospect!

2/11
This
I



To
Mrs. Dickens
Paradise
Chapel St. South
Derbyshire.



adieu my dear friend! God bless you - you are in
luck to be out of this torment - I remember us to Mr
D. & let me hear from you soon - if I hear anything
that can interest you. Depend on my letting you know
God bless you once more your sincere & affec. C. M. G.
Bell never comes here now or very late so that I have
time to read &c. - I am very much engaged at my
table which grows extremely pretty