

Ms. A. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.

Balgowan 2nd Feb^ry 1779.

Since you are saucy and won't write to me, I'll be revenged by writing often & making you pay the Postage — I am at present upon a visit to Mr & Mrs Graham, the latter of whom has very frequently, & very affectionately enquired after you. She was always a prodigious favourite of mine & I find no reason to alter my good opinion of her. Tomorrow we go in a body to Dunkeld, how such's Jane will receive us I'm quite at a loss to guess. Her Noble Stub ought to be ashamed to see me, as he has twice been guilty of a breach of promise to myself & to my friends —

Now that I have leisure I shall give you a short account of my sisters & of the Situation in which I found them. To begin regularly & methodically I shall first touch upon Miss Napier. Her person is not tall, thin & not ungraceful. Her countenance good were she a little fatter, but the death of poor Mary has made a visible alteration in her looks. This joined to a natural lowness of spirits has made her take a turn which I ever dreaded. In short she lives the life of a recluse; associates with none but of her own disposition & gives herself up as much to her religious duties as to make her in a great measure neglect her social ones. I see with concern

the way of life she has got into, but find matters become too serious to afford even a hope of her relaxing in her strictness. But this must be entre nous & go no further. Harriot is short, rather inclined to be fat, cheerful, lively, affectionate & is possessed of as fine a countenance as I could wish. I am as much pleased with her improvement as I am hurt at the very serious turn of her elder sister. Jane is a most delightful child, promises to be tall, has a remarkable degree of gentility in her figure & is reckoned in Temper & countenance not unlike her brother, & the full as light headed. She is at present at a boarding school.

I beg pardon for not sending you the Gair I promised, but shall take the first opportunity so to do, after my return home, which will be next week and to atone for my neglect by accompanying the Gair with a Miniature of my father which I doubt not will be equally acceptable. It will be copied from a half length of him done by Sir George Chalmers, as it is by far the likeliest picture in my possession. Were I richer it should be set in gold, but in the mean time you must see to it in a shagreen case. If I make out my Match with the Drais Mistress of the Cannons, perhaps I may treat you to a better. Don't forget to write to me soon & send the purse you was working for ~~you~~ me. Present my best respects to Lord & Lady Darnley & Miss H. Clarke