

NAM/1/20/129

Wilton Lodge
13th Nov. 1794;

My Dear Sister,

Your Letter of the 22^d Ans.^d has arrived safe. But, no Deeds or Conveyances have yet made out their journey hither. Pray pull the Lady's cap (her ears if you please) who has, by her unaccountable dandling, concealed this Paper for so long a time.

I have nothing to say to you, but, in obedience to your commands, sit down to tell you so. Regular & orderly in all our proceedings, one day at Wilton Lodge so much resembles another, that tho' all the occurrences are wonderfully interesting to the Inhabitants, yet a relation of them would afford no entertainment to others. One great event, however, has this day happened, Maria having again taken her seat at the head of the Dining Table. She had been in the Drawing room since Monday,

and threatens taking a walk out if he has any imitative powers, of doors tomorrow, or next day. Whether she will execute her threats, I know not, but as Your Females are tolerably inclined to have your own Will, perhaps she may. After all this, I need hardly tell you that she is very well. The little Boy sleeps & squeals wonderfully, and never squalls but when they torment him dressing & undressing. Would I could say, all my Brats were equally quiet. But, alas, in spite of the terrificability of my Countenance, they will indulge their own little Passions, & distress my Nerves, by irritating mine. As I suppose Louisa never treated you in this way, Mr. Dickenson & you may scarcely imagine the thing to be possible. But, he only professes one part of the complaint in the Song, a Scolding Jade. The satisfaction of Sia Squalling Brats is now nearly added to me, fine being quite perfect in the Art, & the death will of course,

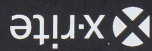
if he has any imitative powers, soon learn to join their Chorus. And now My Dear Sister, having inked so much of my Paper, for which you are to pay Soveigns, I will endeavour to add one solid declaration to all the Nonsense I have written, which you may believe to be sincere, and that is, that my most affectionate good wishes ever attend you, Mr. Dickenson and Louisa. Maria desires to join hers, & so pray take them. Ever your faithful & attached Brother

Thos. Stappes

P.S. Pray don't forget me to Miss Morrison.

Wilton Lodge 14th Novr 1834.

This letter was sealed last Night, & I have opened it again to tell you that Your Settlement after Marriage came to me by the post this Morning. It should have been returned this Evening had you condescended to give me any Instructions on the subject, but you have not told me whether I am to sign seal, deliver & return it to you, or whether it is to remain for preservation in my custody. If the latter, it should also be signed & sealed by Lord Mansfield — I observe, only one Witness to your Signatures. Inform me whether any more



L. J. Hopkins

Mrs. Dickenson

Witch Hall

Manchester

by Post



is required when I sign. In this Country we never
use less than two, & sometimes three. I likewise
apprehend, room out to be left above my signing
for Lord Mansfield to do the same. Send me an
answer to all these queries, by return of Post,