

NAM/1/20/85

Edin^g 25th Jan^y 1784.

I had once resolved not to write to My Dear Sister till the first of next June, nor do I believe I should have altered my resolution had not a severe cold confined me to the House. Dried therefore of reading, I write to you merely to keep me from falling asleep. My letter perhaps may bring on you that inclination I wish to drive from myself. You must not from what I have wrote suppose that I am ill. The weather at present is extremely cold, hard frost & snow on the ground, I had got my feet wet which was followed by a sore throat & Toothach. Loyalty to my Royal Mistress carried me to an Assembly on her birth-day, where I increased my complaints; I have therefore prudently confined myself to the house instead of going

to church this morning.

To punish You for your
sarcasms, I have resolved ~~not~~ to copy
one single sheet of my Journal to the
Highlands. Had you treated the hint
I gave you on that subject with the
attention it merited, I might have
been induced to expose my remarks
even to one of the Blue Stocking Tribe,
but as it has been remarked that
Miss Hamilton is perfect Indigo, and as
she confesses to have sojourned with
the Empress of Shells & Mother Delany
for a long period, I must beg to be
excused. Now Madam as to your
Quarterly Communications, you may
follow your own inclination. If writing
pleases you, write. If the contrary is
agreeable to you, tant mieux, the
less trouble shall I have in answering
your letters. I hope you are convinced
that I am perfectly indifferent about
the matter, being thoroughly satisfied

that Friendship is a mere word without
any meaning in it. Every body makes
use of it and every body would wish
the world to believe that they really
felt that quality, but for my part
I agree with the old Song "Friendship
for Interest is but a Name".

In this Country We
are all Politicians. I was an avowed
Reprobator of Mr Fox's East India
Bill and have been ever since wishing
for a Dissolution of Parliament. In that
event, there will probably be considerable
changes amongst the Scotch Peers & Commo-
ners. Seven new Candidates for the
Honours of representing the Peerage
have already declared themselves, Viz
The Dukes of Murray, Balcarres, Buccleugh,
Dumfries & Hopetoun, Lords Cranston
& Kinnaird — whether L^d Stormont
expects to be turned out or not I can-
not say; he has however been par-
ticularly attentive to strengthen his
Interest. Lady Stormont applied to me

to support her husband. This was not
thought sufficient for the purpose but
was followed by letters from the Duke
of Atholl & Lord Cathcart & likewise beg-
ging my Vote & Interest for Lord D.
Many people would have refused this
request considering the style in which
they had behaved to me; but I thought
proper to be civil, & to assure His
Grace, His Lordship & Her Ladyship
that I would support Lord Stormont
whether in or out of Office. I do not
know whether they feel obliged to
me, they have not however thought
it expedient to thank me for my
Civility, mais je les meprise. Adieu.
You a good girl & perhaps I may
take you into favour again.

Ever your Affec^t. Brother
M

My best Compts to the Misses Clarkes &
Uncle Frederick. By the bye I hear Miss Pul-
stony has run away from the Convent.