

Edinburgh 1st July 1784.

I do confess, my Dear Sister, that the contents of your letter did surprise me not a little. It is so long since I have heard you mention Mr. D., that I naturally concluded the letter you wrote him ~~two or three~~ ^{four} years ago had put an end to his hopes. When you consulted me at that time on the expediency of the Match, I fairly, candidly & honestly gave you my opinion. I shall be again as open and not hesitate to say that Mr. D.'s present conduct appears to prove him strictly sincere in his attachment to you and perfectly disinterested in repeating his proposals. Removed from your Office near the person of your Royal Mistress, he can have no ambitious views of increasing his fortune from your Interest with her. Your own

private fortune is not sufficiently great
to suppose that to be his temptation. Your
own worth and intrinsic merit can alone
be the inducements Mr. L. has had to
appear once more as an humble sup-
plicant on your Imperial Will. I must
therefore be of opinion that your friends
cannot disapprove of your making choice
of him for your Husband. The Siege of Troy
has been a Joke to the Siege poor Mr. L.
has been obliged to carry on; & if I rightly
understand your letter You intend to be
so unmercifull as to prolong it till next
Winter. As this is perhaps the last
time I shall have a right to advise, I
beg leave to say that I recommend it
most earnestly to You not to delay this
matter but to put an end to it as soon
as possible. This I think Mr. Dickenson
has a right to expect after the length
of time he has waited for Your Ladyship's
hand, and as you know I approve of
expedition in these matters, I insist on
your paying implicit obedience to
my Commands. I sincerely hope You will
find all your ideas of Matrimonial
Felicity completely answered and when
I add my wishes for your being as happy
as Maria & I, let me tell You I have
not said a little. She says she is thorough-
ly rejoiced that You think of becoming one
of Us, being confident that few people
possess the qualities necessary to render
Matrimony happy in a greater degree
than You do.

My Commission as
Captain in the 4th or Kings Own Regiment
of Foot is at last signed. The Regiment is
now on Dublin Duty, but as the Review
is over for this year I have applied for
leave of Absence for as long a time
as my Commanding Officers may think
fit. It would be very inconvenient for
me to leave Britain this Winter as I
shall probably have business before
the House of Peers relative to the
Sale of my Entailed Estate, which
may make my presence in London
necessary. I shall then hope to be not
only introduced to Mr. but to Mrs. L.

My sisters are both well, Mrs Hunter
about a fortnight ago produced another
Daughter. A very fine Child & promises
to be handsome. Adieu. Write to me
when you have leisure and believe
me ever sincerely interested in your
happiness.

Ever Yours Affectionate Brother
Napier.

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Jan 20 1844