

VAM/1/4/3/24

London. Nov. 12th 1807.

By return of Post, my dearest Cousin,
I sincerely thank you and Mr. Dickenson,
for your extreme kindness; by which,
at a future period, I dare say, I may
be able to profit; but, after what I have
told you, I have no hesitation in avowing,
that I am now in a very uneasy
suspense, and correspondence with Mr. Holman,
relative to material pecuniary concerns;
till the arrangement of which, I am unable
to decide what to do for the best: of course,
our consultations would be ineffective till
I have received my answer upon this
subject; and I am likewise, in the act
of collecting together whatever little matters
I can call my own, ^{from our place in Hertfordshire,} such as Books, &c. &c. -
I believe I omitted in my last, telling
you the only good there is to tell, about me.

namely, that, by the affection and generosity of my dear Father, I shall at a future (I hope a distant) period, be out of the reach of pecuniary embarrassment. He has purchased an annuity for me, which, at his decease, will be vested in the hands of Trustees, for my exclusive use.

For the present, my Income must be contracted; but if M.H. behave as he ^{ought}, of which I strive to say, in the present fatal delusion that possesses him, I have my doubts, I might live upon it with comfort, upon the moderate scale that would content me. You may judge of my present state of mind. It is no small proof of your friendship that you wish to encounter my company; for even my singing, which used to help out a little, is, by grief and illness, extinct: whether it will return, depends, I suppose, on whether things go on so as to allow me any peace of mind. I hope to

Heaven I shall not be involved in any dispute with M.H., as to what is my due. Though his conduct is certainly very blamable, I cannot help retaining such an affection for him, as would render his putting himself still more in the wrong a serious grief to me.

I ought to have had some account before now, from him, on this point: I suppose he cannot long delay it; and when I know what I am to expect, you shall hear from me again, my dear Cousin.

So rumours had reached you: they have, by what I now understand, been long on foot; but I was wilfully slow of belief.

How could one credit ill reports of a man who had for so long ^{a period} behaved with the utmost affection and kindness? I believe the weakness and inconstancy of human nature, would be an endless disquisition; so, I will not enter upon it here.

I will add a repetition of the extreme obligation I feel, to you and Mr. Dickinson; with my kindest love to him, and my cousin Louise.

I hope your health is perfectly re-established.
I am engaged in a correspondence of consultation, with my Father. I have no expectation of him in town immediately, on account of the season. Besides, as I said before, I am by no means certain that he will remove at all. He has shewn me the greatest kindness.

Mrs Holman
Mr Hamiltons
Dorchester

Mrs Dickenson
Leighton House
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire.

Single.

It is needless, I hope, to say, how happy I shall be, to see you at, when I am able.

I am very glad I wrote to you before you finished your last; lest you should not have been convinced that I should have written independently.
Adieu, my dear Cousin - believe me
Your most obliged & affectionate
Jane Holman.