

NAM 114/412

Windsor 2<sup>d</sup> Sept. 1782

Highly grateful as I was my Dear Uncle for the affectionate proof of your regard on your recollection of me in so melancholy a season, I was too much shock'd and affected to be able to send an immediate acknowledgment to your letter — I mourn the death of Dear Lady Hamilton with y<sup>e</sup> sincere sorrow, for I was attach'd to her by the truest gratitude for the kind consideration she treated me with even from my earliest <sup>days of</sup> recollection, I weep also for having lost a person whom I loved from inclination, & whom I admired & esteem'd for her virtues — I feel for you my Dearest Sir — I can easily judge what you must have suffer'd, & I am fully sensible how irreparable is the loss you have sustain'd. "The Death of real and virtuous friends is one of y<sup>e</sup> heaviest trials of this uncertain world, But it is a delightful consolation when they leave us possess'd of all our esteem, and that our thoughts can follow them with joyful hopes of their complete happiness." This consolation is yours — This comfort you have, & it will support you to bear properly the deprivation of a happiness in the society of one that was so deservedly dear to you. Their Majesties have express'd themselves in the kindest manner upon this melancholy subject, they spoke of L<sup>dy</sup> M: in y<sup>e</sup> highest terms of commendation, they desired to see the letter you had written to me, which after they had read they both said how much they felt for you. May I take the liberty to hint (if you make me happy

by answering this) that you will take notice of their having  
interested themselves in your affliction. I have a request to make,  
which I think you will not refuse, it is, that you will send me  
by the first opportunity of any persons coming to England something  
that belong'd to my valued friend - Indulge me in this weakness,  
if it is a weakness, an old letter Case, a drawing, any thing that  
was hers, will content me - never shall I want to be reminded  
of her, but it will be a satisfaction to me to possess something  
that she did, or something that was hers. Adieu my Dearest  
Sir, allow me to intreat the continuance of your affection  
I will ever endeavour to deserve that of your patron. I remain  
with Respect & true affection Your Son &  
Friend

M. N.

MN

If you write soon, direct to Windsor, otherwise to St. James's Palace  
I imagine you have heard that their M. have had y<sup>e</sup> affliction  
of losing their last Child -