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Thursday Feb. 13 1770
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I feel myself so incapable of forgetting
or wilfully neglecting My friends My Dear Miss Hamilton
that tho' your silence gave me pain, & that I had not
heard from you I should probably have wrote to have
reproach'd you for it. I never once suspected you of
loving me less than you formerly did. I think I
know your heart & I have no little claim upon
that in return for the Affection mine feels for you.
however don't let this encourage you in your
illness & I must tell you that your writing constantly
will be an essential comfort to me in this Country
where society (what you & I call Society) is so much
wanting - the shocking accident we met with in
the Popes Dominions has shock'd my nerves very
much, but thank God we have suffer'd no lasting
harm & our poor Ship (whom you may remember)
is perfectly recover'd except a mark of honour which
he has in his face, which he will never lose, &
we have settled a little Annuity upon him for his
life, which has redoubled his anxiety to serve us
well, & I fancy he will never leave us - the effects
of this accident have send me for an excuse from
going out in an evening (excepting ^{Court balls &} those days when
I have been oblig'd to attend the Queen) & I do assure
you that has been no small satisfaction to me, the
Assemblies here are noisy, numerous, & hot & I have

intimacy with any Italian Woman to make
them tolerable to me, for if you neither play or con-
verse at those places, it is a dreadful punishment
to go to them.
a punishment which I cannot have gone thro' had
I gone out in order to introduce several English
Ladies who are here & who have not that aversion
to noise & hurry that I have - there are some of
these Ladies who appear very amiable, but my only
real comfort among them is L^{dy} Betty Mackenzie
who is one of the most valuable worthy women
in the World, there is a sincerity & warmth of heart
about her that is adorable, & a goodhumour &
indulgence that attaches one to her in the strongest
manner, I have at different times presented L^{dy} Betty
of the rest of the English Ladies to the Queen who
has received them most graciously, shew'd them all
the children & invited them to all the Balls at
font which are really magnificent. when I tell
you however that I have introduced all the English
Ladies - don't imagine L^{dy} Maynard (whose reputation
must be known to you) has been of the number, L^{dy}
Maynard has given me a great deal of trouble of un-
easiness about not receiving her when she came
to my door, & not returning her visit, & afterwards perse-
cuted me to get her presented at font which I could
by no means consent to, upon the former part (that
receiving her) he desired to speak with S^t W^m, & then ask
him if he supported me in my refusal to receive L^{dy} M^r.
Visit? to which S^t W^m answered him that I had told him,
"that consistent with my situation I did not think I could
act otherwise" & that being my fixed opinion he could not
urge me to act contrary to it - upon this L^{dy} M^r flew in
a violent passion & said that His Majesty should either recall
his Minister or forfeit his friendship - these were big words - but
you may believe made no impression on S^t W^m - since this
L^{dy} M^r has applied to S^t W^m to prevent him (which he of course
did) but as to L^{dy} M^r. jasper quill or in any other question -
one hates to repeat rituals, & I don't never answer in any
other tone. the Queen said publicly that all those I
presented would ever be well received but she knew
would take care who I presented, & that they should be only
such as my own Sovereign would receive - but I think you
have had enough of this silly story - I am out of patience at
such despicable occurrences should take up so much of that
precious time which one might employ in a better manner
I am ashamed to say how
much it has cost me of mine
& how much uneasiness it has
cost me, I hate to offend even
those whom I despise, & besides
that L^{dy} Maynard is so hot headed, that I did not like
he should have any altercation with S^t W^m - those Quar-
rels terrify me. your friends M^r Liddell & M^r L^{dy} L^{dy} L^{dy}
(think of his name) came yesterday, they dined with us to mor-
row - we are in the midst of the business of the Carnival
but I have been but at one ball at font, I have a
few sensible foreigners who assemble here every evening &
converse when all the young W^m (who first meet here)
are gone to the Balls, I wish you was of these parties I think
they are of a kind you would like - I wish if ever you have
any opportunity that you would pay my respectful Duty to our
gracious Queen - I speak our honour & (I may say) affection for her
character that I cannot describe - the more I see of her the more
I am confirm'd in this sentiment, but all this is only

between you & me - in a few days I shall write to you
again - & give you some further account of the Carnival
but I would not delay writing by this Post - My dear friend Mrs
Hamilton



To W

Mrs Hamilton

at her apartment in

St James Palace

London

P.S. only to read

My dear Mrs Hamilton I have had a vexatious accident - the Man
who was bringing a great number of letters from the Post
trampled down of his pocket was full of them - we don't
know who has wrote to us - this has just happened -
Adieu My dear Mrs Hamilton Ever your most Affectionate