

VAM/1/6/8/19

Won't your Gardener think me void of all Gallantry, my dear Miss Hamilton, if I send him away without an Answer?—

I'll give him a few Lines, then, if it were only to preserve the Esteem of an old Son of Adam.— As for that Daughter of Eve,— she is mistaken, if she ever expects to have flattery from me.— I am too much her friend to offer it; & notwithstanding her Badinage, she has too much good sense to accept the Offering;— and that good Sense, too, makes her as capable of arguing with me on any Subject ^{as brother Rhinoceros} ~~as brother Rhinoceros~~ ~~as brother Rhinoceros~~ ~~as brother Rhinoceros~~ ~~as brother Rhinoceros~~— So, do not think, it was from any consciousness of a Superiority of Judgment, ~~and~~ I ventured to banter you on your favourite Poem; Nor yet, from Envy of superior Merit. I admire those Poems of the Book, I have read, & think them highly worthy of a place in your Library.—

You did not rise yesterday. I shall be
out of all patience with you, if you
do not rise today, and do not pay that bad
comp^t to M^{rs} Hamilton's Understand-
ing, to say you cannot leave her a
couple of Hours alone. —

you say, ~~now~~ my dear friend, you are
^{now} so much ~~upon~~ your guard, you ~~cannot~~ ~~know~~
are at a loss to express ~~yourself~~ ^{yourself} in any
Style. — With your prudence & good sense,
behold you then invulnerable! — While
I shall ever lay myself open to Those
I believe my Friends. — My best wishes,
my dear Miss Hamilton ever attend
you in every Attack & Defense, for
I am sure you will intend no Harm
either with your Tongue or with your
Pen. — You forgot again mentioning
our same friend. — Adieu —
Your affec^{te} &c
J. H. C.