

11/6/83

Dear Madam,

I staid after ~~Mr. Hamilton~~ last night, expect-
ing you would have resumed the Subject of M:^r
~~Hamilton~~ tho' I was unwilling to do it myself, in
the humour you then seem'd to be against me. As
there is no body's good opinion I value much
in this Town, but your's & Miss Hamilton's, I
must tell you, that my Suspicion of having lost
That, provoked me against the Fattlers of the place.

I long supposed you could not be blind to my Affection
for Miss Hamilton, but I imagine, that as a sensible
woman, you wink'd at it; as, from your past kindness to me,
it was also natural to imagine, you could have no
other Objection than my want of fortune, which
might hereafter be accidentally removed. A remarkable
Change, however, in your & Miss H.'s behaviour to
me of late, put me on guessing at the Cause;—and
I found that M:^r ~~Hamilton~~ had told you, you did wrong
to trust Miss H. in my Company.—This, & the idle
Stories of other people, may have occasion'd a pre-
judice against me, which I will not attempt
to remove. The contrary I confess to you, that
if I was certain Miss H. had
had any Affection for me, & there was
a probability
of my making her happier than
she appears to me I should not think I behaved
either ungratefully
or injuriously to you, in marrying
without your
consent; for it has always been the
doctrine taught me by my own father, & which
I still profess; that Children are, by the Law of
God & Nature, entitled to the Disposal of their

own Persons, when arriv'd at the Years of Discretion,
altho their Parents ought ever to offer them their
best Assistance & Advice. — Should this declaration
of my sentiments, my dear Madam, give you any
Concern, ~~or~~ (which, from Miss H.'s behaviour to
me, I think it never ought,) I shall not take
amiss your giving me no more invitations to your
House; & I promise you, (to make you entirely easy,
that before Miss H.'s Return from London, ~~there~~
I shall have found out some Other Retreat. —

I am, with constant regards,

Dear Madam, Your much obliged &
affec.^t hum'd Serv.^t

~~John~~ *John* ~~Hopson~~ *Hopson*

Sunday, 13 Decem^r. 1774