

MM/14/135

Aug 1791

Dear Mr. Dickenson,

Accept my best Thanks for your two most obliging letters; tho' my son has but a very weak understanding, he has great cunning & has been so long in the practice of it, that he often succeeds in duping those who are disposed to give credit to his sincerity. The consciousness of having acted below the character of a gentleman in all respects & the reproaches he has met with in consequence of such conduct give him no uneasiness; he writes to me from Tasal with all possible cheerfulness forgetting that the impressions he left with me of him ^{were} that he was a confirm'd Impostor & these impressions are further confirmed by discoveries since we parted. I have said thus much painful as it may be, to put you upon your guard. As no Person can have a clearer insight into his real character & disposition than myself, I have therefore the greatest perplexity in forming any reasonable plan for his future life. As he is at present, no plan could succeed. it is perfectly clear then that unless an amendment of his mind can be brought about, & some ideas of a moral sense be given ^{him}, of which he is at present totally destitute, there can be no reform =

him
nation. My Son knows that I have treated, with the utmost
candor, & have never upbraided him for follies natural
to young men. My remonstrances & invectives have been
pointed only against falsehood & dishonesty. Those poisonous
qualities if not eradicated must destroy my feelings as a
Parent. Had you not very kindly press'd his visit to Tazal,
I should never have proposed it to him, knowing him to be
unfit for your society. I perfectly recollected your partiality
for him, & from thence flatter'd myself with the hopes that
you might as you have done, enter into his situation & at
last give him such a view of it as would even startle him-
self. he is too far gone for slight hints to have effect, you
need not fear to press him home, but as I know that you
are more conversant in the modes of persuasive advice
than most of my friends, I submit to your goodness a case
that will indeed try your skill. I beg leave to repeat that
I do not mean to put your patience to too long a trial, my
Son has a promised visit upon his hands, to his Uncle Mr.
Daniell at Litchfield. he is much my friend & of course
interested for Rob. it will perhaps be lucky for him to
build upon your foundations & raise an edifice between
you the Architects will be sure of meeting with my utmost

gratitude. What can I say of S. W. H. nothing to his credit,
I had therefore better say nothing. As for the request you make
of my coming to Tazal upon a certain occasion, were it the only
test I could give of my affection & regard for you & my friend
Mr. Dickenson, it could not be refused, but however consolatory
the satisfactions given by my B. may be to palliate the pro-
posed union, I sincerely confess that my private sentiments are
averse to it, that a more improper person could not well be chosen
for the proposed office. I trust my excuse in your hands I have
in terms of friendship with Palombi from my B. &
of him, & should be sorry to disgust him. I shall tell my p.
business in London prevented my attendance, we may as well
agree in the reason assigned. I have just taken a very good
House on lease in Portman Square but my occupations pre-
paratory to my going into it which can not well be till the
beginning of Nov. are not given in excuse. You may conceive
in what a dilemma I am in respecting my conduct to some
friends who have lately left you. I may tell you that I
fear that it will not be satisfactory to them. I believe I shall
write to Rob. in a post or two Mr. H. & my Daughter desire to be affec-
tionately remembered with me to you & Mr. Dickenson. I remain S. W. H.
August 1. 1791
h^o 19. Orchard St.
Your faithful & affectionate Hambleton
Frederick Hamilton

you bought a
little book

M^r Dickenson
Taxal Chapel in Trith
Derbyshire

