

WAM/114/1/36

Dec 1791

Dear Mr. Dickenson

If excuses were good for any thing I should half fill
this side with them for having so long delay'd writing to
you. Mr. Dickenson knows my sentiments & the obligations
I feel myself under to you for having so kindly engaged
in a task, which has reliev'd me from much embarrassment
As for a compensation, were not the motive of friendship to
me added to it, I am satisfied such a consideration could
have had little weight with you. In the account I gave
you of your Friend previous to his coming to Taxal, I certainly
did not exaggerate tho' at the same time I should in-
deed be very sorry to hear from you that you have found
it precisely just. Deviations from the lines of justice and
truth give me the greatest offence, no palliations can be ad-
mitted, nor half amendment, for he that is only a little false
or dishonest, is restrain'd by his own apprehensions alone
of detection, from becoming more so. The mind must be re-
novated before a radical cure can be expected. In the letters
I have receiv'd from my Son, he has never fail'd to express his
sense of the attention & civilities he is daily receiving.

fear the returns he makes to you are not adequate to them. I have constantly assured him that I would give him ample credit for every amendment in his conduct. My advice lies in little compass, that he should have the mind & manners of a gentleman & these are perfectly compatible with his period of life. I do not enter into the detail of the errors & inattention natural to youth as I remember the time when I myself gave no great attention to admonition upon such topics. In a few months more he will enter upon a new state & be solely responsible for his own conduct & engagements. If he adopts an honest & manly path I shall be really happy & there will be an union in our interests but should he pursue a contrary line, all confidence between ^{us} will be at an end & his plea of being my son will have no weight when he has no other recommendation to enforce it. I will remember your kind partiality for Robert which has been in great measure the cause of my intruding this discussion upon you. Whatever my apprehensions may be I am very desirous of knowing your opinion of him. I have observed to him that I think I perceive something more steady in him since his visit to you.

We have lately taken possession of a House in Portman Square, which we have upon a lease, & have repaired and furnish'd at a very considerable expence, it turns out

extremely well & we are perfectly satisfied with it. I have as yet received no part of my demand from Mr. Campbell tho' after giving him a years credit, three months are now elapsed, it is true the money stands at 5 per cent interest but as he gave me notice a year ago that he would discharge his Bond when it fell due I consequently entered into engagements in expectation of the money & not receiving it. I am obliged for the first time to disappoint some of my Trade men. The sum to be paid into my hands is £6950. I am besides to be exonerated from a mortgage of £3000 so that you will perceive that this business is to me of the consequence nearly £10000. A Thousand Thanks to you for an answer which we rec'd in good order last week. As soon as I receive my demand from Mr. C. ^{which cannot be long} Mr. Dickenson to whom I beg you will present my affectionate compliments shall have symptoms of it. I say nothing of compliments to Bob. As you may perhaps not think it necessary to let him know that you have heard from me. I hope my good Daughter is well. Adieu Dear Mr. Dickenson believe me ever
H^o 2 Portman Square
December 27th 1791.

Your faithful and Affectionate
Humble Servant
Frederick Hamilton

M^r Dickenson

