

My Dear Mr. Dickinson,

Ms. A. 1.1.4.1.38

I believe I have suffered a greater share of mental afflictions than usually falls to the lot of man. What has added greatly to my distress is that they have been principally domestic. I have for near twenty years past been agitated with the bitter reflections that I was the Parent of as worthless a being as could exist, for whom from an early ^{period} of his life you conceived a partiality from the false idea that I was deficient towards him in parental affection, & on the persuasion that he was a proper object of your regard, you invited him to your house; where you had soon an opportunity of witnessing the development of his character; many circumstances of which were communicated to me in an offensive manner. Tho' I have always found my son's villainous plots deeply laid & implying great sagacity, you madam it seems have imputed his multiplied enormities to his constitutional weakness, a greater error than the former I have complained of respecting my want of attention to him. The plea of parental affection to an object so depraved, operated with me in a contrary direction, & instead of compassion excited my detestation. Could the circumstances of my past years be known, my zealous admiration for truth would, I hope, appear a

prominent feature; and what has attached me so ardently to my unfortunate daughter M^{rs} Holman is the beauty of her character, eminently conspicuous for truth & honorable principles. My son since his return from Copenhagen with a female companion calling herself by his name authorized by marriage in that city, as she alleges, but which I was always assur'd had not taken place, tho' she has cohabited with him at least 13 years, & has always attended him faithfully in his illnesses which have been very frequent, has received from me in addition to his allowance £400 p^r An. clear of all deductions, considerably more than £2000 & yet he has died completely insolvent leaving a debt ^{amount} ~~to~~ him of great ~~amount~~ ~~to~~ his creditors but to what extent I am not yet informed tho' I am told it will be a claim upon my generosity in which I shall certainly disappoint their expectations. To give you a specimen of his enormous extravagance I had this day presented to me a well authenticated demand ~~by~~ by a ship builder who had contracted with him for a sailing ornamented vessel the cost of which was to amount to £1200 but being struck

with his folly he had persuaded the ship builder to release him from his contract by a premium of £200 for which he produced my son's obligation. The unfortunate woman in the meantime must not be left to starve in a strange country without friends that is indeed a claim I am not inclin'd to controvert. See what a detail you have exposed yourself to by imputing a life of premeditated villainies to constitutional weakness! Could they possibly have proceeded from such a cause I should not have been wanting in charitable sentiments. Tho' I abhor Bath, bowed down as I am by the weight of years & their concomitant infirmities, I can not now thinking a change of residence with my kind comp^{ts} to my Dickenson I remain My Dear Madam

N^o. 1 Brock St. Bath
December 3. 1809.

Your Affectionate humble servant
Frederick Hamilton

Mr. Dickenson
No. 49. Welbeck Street
Cavendish Square
London

Mr. Dickenson

DEC 4
1809

