

30 Dec 1782

My dearest William. We are now within two days of the end of the Year, which I choose to employ with You, I shall not think of making many formal Compliments, upon the occasion, but assure You that at all Seasons of the Year my wishes are unalterably the same for Your welfare & Prosperity.

We are at present again at Windsor, the Xmas Holidays have been spent here in as chearfull a manner as our small Company would admit of, besides all the Family Lady Holderns was the only Person with Us. The Younger part of the Family entertained us two Evenings with a representation of several of Mousieur Gessners fables, and two Pieces of Madame de <sup>gentis</sup> ~~the~~ Theatre d'Education. the rest of the time has been chiefly spent by the King in coursing & Hunting, which continues to be of us great an Amusement as ever.

Captain Suckling is returned from Gibraltar in a very

Bad State of Health, He has been in a dying way ever since He  
He came on shore, they Physicians thought His first Attack  
to be Water in His Breast, He recovered <sup>however</sup> that sufficient to  
be able to go out Living, but I hear that within these two  
or three Days the Oppression is again returned, as His  
Attacks are very sudden & Violent, there always is much  
to be apprehended for him. Those who have seen him during  
His Illness & are intimate with him, are of opinion that  
He thinks himself in the utmost danger, is perfectly re-  
signed, & expresses some comfort in the idea of dying  
as He has never enjoyed any real health, since his last  
Illness upon the Coast of Guinea. Lady Charlotte & the  
rest of Her Family do not look upon him as so very  
bad, which makes every body fear that if any accident  
happens the blow will be very great to those He leaves  
behind him.

In my Family I have lost poor Lady Herford

since Her Illness & death was altogether so sudden, that it appears  
to have been more like a Dream than a truth. She is greatly regretted  
by all Her Family & Friends, particularly by poor Tom  
Hartford for whom she is without doubt an irreparable  
loss, since Her death Her merits are ~~to~~ come to be known  
in the World & she shares the Fate with others, appearing  
more esteemed after her death than while alive. I have  
been declared Her to be a Person of great worth, & it is never  
said, unless it want mieux tard que jamais. Her Son the  
Sailor came just two days before Her death.

I return you thanks my dear William for the Presents  
You send me last, some of them are carried to the Store  
vatory, & the others to the Menagerie at Richmond.  
The Deer is so beautiful & tame that it is  
out of my Mind when it arrived, The birds seem  
hitherto to do well in this Climate, and I intend  
visiting them very soon.

We shall now be very desirous to hear from Yourself how  
You like your present situation, Lord Hood besides the  
great merits in His Profession bears so excellent a Moral  
and Religious Character, that I feel quite easy to leave  
You in such good Hands. This is another great proof of the  
Kings goodness, affection, & kindness to You, in placing  
You always with the best of the Profession, I hope You  
are sensible of it, and that You will convince us of it by  
Your good behaviour. Above all things do I beseech You  
William do not become a Libertine that Character will neither  
become nor prosper You, and what is more You will not become  
because it is  
by Your inclination, but because it is the fashion which is worst  
for there is no passion to excuse it. Nor will You meet with  
any Man that can respect, Esteem, or love such a Cha-  
racter, therefore beware of every Step You take, dont be ashamed  
of doing right, but always fearful of doing wrong. which  
if You remember will greatly contribute to the happiness of Yours  
Affectionate Mother.  
Charlotte

Windsor Lodge  
the 29<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1782.