

[c. 7 Oct. 1753?]

(39)

My dearest William. You will not be surprized that I put off answering Your Letter until the return of the Messenger as I thought it imprudent to risque any thing by the common conveyance on a Subject which ought to interest myself so much on all sides, and upon which You seem with great reason to be anxious of receiving an Answer.

Your attachment to my Niece which You call imprudent in Your own Letter does not for the moment surprize me as You are of that Age when Young Men are apt to fancy themselves in Love with every Sprightly Young Woman they see, or are allow'd to keep Company with. Your own good Sense, if You will make use

of it, and Your Situation in Life, must shew  
You the impropriety of indulging ~~in~~ a  
passion which cannot but prove prejudicial  
to all parties, as there cannot be the least  
probability of it's ever terminating in any  
thing else but fluctation, which would  
be of essential disadvantage to the whole  
Princes who by that means might fail of  
being advantageously settled in life. a thing  
of the utmost consequence to Her, and likewise  
expose Your Character in a dishonorable light  
for pursuing & indulging an attachment which  
would must prove fatal to the object You seem  
to favour. If therefore You have any real  
regard and Attention for Her and feel the  
real strength of those expressions. and her possesser as

of any degree of Generosity & Delicacy in Your  
Character You should <sup>not only</sup> try to conquer this  
unallowable passion but avoid every thing in  
your behaviour towards Her &  
and <sup>every</sup> opportunity which can ~~give~~ give Suspi-  
cion to the World on that Subject. My Bro-  
ther as well as General Budi both assure  
me that You have very readily come into  
every proposal they have made to You on  
that Subject which I am extremely glad to  
hear, as I have reason to flatter myself by  
that means, that You will see the propriety  
Necessity and Advantage of following my advice  
to the utmost, and it is upon that Hope  
and my Confidence in Your Honour. that You  
will ~~compass~~ put an end to this affair as speedily  
as possible, that I shall not now mention

it to the King, particularly as I know that  
My Brothers conduct <sup>in</sup> upon this Affair will  
be both Friendly and prudent, and that being  
the case You will reflect and consider that  
if You should pursue You will ~~be~~ must be  
the most exposed in the end. I desire that  
You will shew this letter to General Dudi  
that He may be thoroughly acquainted with  
my Sentiments on this Subject, and particu-  
larly as His advice may prove to You in  
this as upon all other occasions of infinite  
use to You, He has seen a great deal of the  
World and knows <sup>with what</sup> the delicacy ~~of~~ such an Affair  
must be treated, and being upon the Spot him-  
self can guide You of course better and sooner  
than I am able to do now being at such a distance  
from You.