

My dearest William. At last with some degree of difficulty have we again got in possession of one of Your letters. The Officers which were charged with pay of Your correspondence were all under the necessity of throwing Your letters overboard and I own the mortification of Not receiving them would have been greater had they not been able to give so satisfactory an account of Your health in general.

Your letter of the 25th. Decr by Captain Field arrived here the 3^d of Feby. and I am very happy to have it in my power of answering You immediately. The birds are for which I return You my thanks are not as yet brought to me but there is no doubt but I shall find them in Town, Lord Cornwallis sent those under his care the day after his arrival.

We have call'd ourselves settled in Town ever since the Month of Novbr but the Wind hath been divided between Windsor and London on account of the hunting season. The Winter is so uncommonly mild that all sporting amusements have been pursued without interruption untill the 18th of January when a little unexpected frost prevented it for two Weeks, and it is begun to Toy with fresh Vigour. Coursing is also much in fashion to the great pleasure of Mr Conway, this latter ^{Amusement} ~~is~~ is generally made in the little Party and Mr Digby now my Vic Chamberlain most commonly of the party, as he is is un tres bon joueur, he finds much entertainment in it.

The Town is very full at present and all the Winter Amusements in a very flourishing state, the Opera is much attended particularly the Comic Opera enacting of the Allegrianti a Woman Singer who hath uncommon powers both in Voice & Taste and even Music she understands in perfection. The serious Opera rather declines notwithstanding Pachicotti who every body allows is much improved, but what cannot fashion do? oh it's powers are wonderful. I might almost say incomprehensible, but we will talk that over at your return.

Lady Charlotte Finch is returned ever since the Month of Decr, The recovery of Lord Winchelsea has made her absolutely young again, I do not wonder at it as by all accounts his being alive is to a degree quite Miraculous his fine Constitution has doubtless done more for him than Phisick or any of the Faculty and he has experienced that a regular life is most conducive to health, He does not return till Spring for fear of suffering by the dampness of our Climate, it is Whispered that he does intend soon after that to join his Regiment again, I hope he will not think of it, He has sufficiently shown his readiness to serve his King & Country & it is pretty clear that the Climate he want to can not agree with him, even now does his strength not recover equal to his Spirits it is feared it never will, therefore I hope he will remain in England to the Satisfaction of his Family.

The News of the Day are a Marriage between Lord George Cavendish the Duke of Devonshire Younger ^{Lord} Brother & Lady Elizabeth Compton the Duke of Devonshire's Niece. The Wedding is to be soon, and his Family are much satisfied with his choice.

Lord Hinton eldest Son of Lord Pawlets is to be married to Miss Pocock ^{Daughter} only of Sir George Pocock, Admiral. It is thought that she will prove a good Fortune, but it is not clear whether that is expected to be in the Father's life or after his Death, she is not pretty as I am told she is very young and hath not been presented at Court.

You will be sorry to hear that I have lost my great Musician ^{brother}. He died of a halloping Consumption on the New Years Day, I look upon him as a public loss, his powers in Music were great very uncommonly so and known all over Europe, there can be no offence in saying that at present there is not his equal, and as I feel the loss very strongly in my little Concerts I do not think of replacing him for ~~any~~ ^{every} body else does appear so indifferent both in Knowledge and Taste ~~to~~ in that Art that I do a great deal in bearing it patiently. Altho' the contrary is quite recovered and seems if any thing more alive than he ever was, he continues playing extremely well upon a detestable instrument, and composes more than he did ever since for any body knew him. il faut mieux tard que jamais.

24th 1782

And now my dear William I cannot believe from telling You that
Majordie's Accounts of You are very comfortable, indeed there is no satisfaction
equal to that of knowing oneself in the right way, you feel it so when You say in
the Kings letter, that Majordie's account will meet with the Kings ^{approbation} ~~letter~~, I must earnestly
by intreat You to continue in that Path which can but be obtained by being atten-
tive to the good Advice of those who are plac'd about You. Above all things be diffi-
dent about Your own Merits, for believe me ~~the~~ ^{these} favourable ideas we entertain of ourselves
makes Us commonly commit the greatest errors as it prevents reflexion, whereas the
thought of I can do wrong, will make You see things in their proper light, do not mis-
take my little jiddy Friend wilfulness for Vivacity, they do not agree together, and ~~tho~~
by this time experience must have made You acquainted with the danger of the former
and the Advantage of the latter if properly ~~done~~ kept within bounds, for excess in everything
becomes disagreeable. The last thing I shall still recommend is Modesty as it is always
Amiable and Comendable in a Young Person.

I beg my Compliments to the Admirall, tell him that I think his
Doctor Mr. Digby and myself shall agree very well together, do You also tell
Majordie that I remember him, I am sorry to say that his poor worthy Amiable
Father is but in a very indifferent state of health, indeed he would be a great loss to
his Family.

Windsor the 24th May 1782.

I am my dearest William Your very affectionate Mother
and sincere Friend.
Charlotte