

Penelope Maitland to Charlotte West

3 November 1788

SOURCE: Bodleian Libraries, MS. 6633, letters, 1783–1805

Nov:ʳ 3:d 1788

My dearst Mrs. W_

I return you sincere thanks for your welcome lettʳ.

I began to be indeed very uneasy, fearing your being worse oc=

=casion'd your silence, as I had beg'd an account of you in my

\answer/ To Mʳ. W_'s obliging favor. I cannot yet learn my dʳ freind whether

My letter to you sent immediately after your truly kind Visit to

Me, ever reach'd you? I am happy to find you are so far recover'd,

But while your cough lasts, cannot call you perfectly so; and entreat

You, my dʳ girl, to take the utmost care of yourself; the Night Air

Is of all things to be avoided, and I fear you are not enough aware

Of this, as I heard of you at the Play. I dare say you were well

And carefully Nurs'd by your good Husband in yʳ. illness; to whom

I beg my kind compl^{ts}. & congratulations on your being so well.

Your illness no doubt proceeded from the extream fatigue

Of Body & \anxiety of/ Mind you had undergone and I fear your kindness

To me added towards it: I gather great hopes from the Postscript

Of Yours my d' freind that a happy re-establishment in your

Father's Affections & Favor, is at hand. His letter breathes much

Keeness of Expression, but I look upon it as the last Expirings

Of his Anger, and that having releiv'd his heart of that which is

So painful and foreign to its Nature with regard to you, its

Wonted Tenderness Will resume its place. — The Postscript I

think, wch is a copy of of his message, confirms this opinion: and

I Hope even before this time, a meeting has restor'd him and yr-

-self to that Happiness so reciprocally dependant. may nothing else

Interrupt it! — I have had a few Lines - in which he says, "he

Is somewhat consol'd - he hears you are likely to be happy" —

You see, my dear, how his Parental Affection here breaks out -

he adds, indeed, what I hope Time will prove him mistaken

In, that "he fears the Keen Sence of your conduct will never be

done away:- never be blunted" — your good Understanding

and sensitive heart, Will I doubt not suggest to you every-

-Thing proper to be said to him as opportunity occurs, on

this head, and I repeat

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his words that you may y^e. better Judge on the subject.

I am rejoyc'd to hear he receiv'd Mr. W. so amicably, and

Don't doubt but his further acquaintance with him will in=

=State him in his Affection & Freindship.

I Would not have you fatigue yourself by writing too much

At a time, my dear, my kind Friend — it is hurtful to your

health, especially under y^r present complaint of a cough. but

Taking your time and writing detach'd Pieces of the interest=

=ing things you have yet to tell me, I shal be happy to receive

Them. it is now Nov^r. 4:th — I was in the full intention

Of making use of this Morning for Writing, when according

To Custom whenever I particularly have devoted it to this

Purpose, Company came who staid till past 3 o'Clock - and

[O]thers dining here, render it impossible for me to add many

Things I wish'd to this most horrid scrawl.

I hope, my dr in your next you will be able to send me

the Letter of yr Father's to Capt. A: you mention'd, as I

Dare say it is highly worth reading.

I commit the inclos'd to your care, begging the favor

that it may be left as directed by some Careful [illegible - word obliterated]

Hand, rather than Trusted to the Post, if you can conve=

=niently. I hope what it contains, will contribute to
The Wishes of your heart. Indeed I am possess'd with
Hopes, you may have it in your power to deliver it from
Your own hand into His, for I can hardly doubt after
his favorable Message, you have had the anxious Meeting
Happily over, & that you are again restor'd to your Father's
Arms. I conclude in haste — begging my best
Compliments wth. those of my girls to M^r. W. and

Your

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Assurance of every best Wish from them &

My dearest Aimable Freind

Yours with affection & sincerity

P. M.

I see Miss Knatchbull is married -

[sheet cut off here]

[address largely lost on reverse]