

Cottage July 28th 1803 -

Do not let the date of my letter. lead you to anticipate sentimental descriptions of rural simplicity. native innocence and romantic adventures, for our Cottage is neither covered with woodbine honey-suckle or rosevine - nor situated in a lonely dell, where the benighted traveller would seek shelter & repose - Last evening indeed - just before the storm, as I was sitting reading a Canterbury tale, the clatter of horse hoofs, and a loud voice from the gate, awakened my hopes of something interesting. When behold - two half drunken citizens, returning from a tavern-party entered, and after washing down the dust with some brandy and water, began very loudly to talk politics. 'Till the distant thunder gave notice that on their speedy departure alone, depended a dry coal for the remaining two miles ride, and as they were pretty well soaked. They very prudently mounted their horses and proceeded -

I had however a more polite visitor in the afternoon. Mr Robert Here, called to inform me, ^{that} he commenced his journey to Philadelphia this morning, and would carry any letters ^{that} I would prepare for him in the intermediate time, we had a long, sentimental conversation, but as my part in it was rather insignificant, you cannot expect me to do justice to his eloquence, and exhaust the continual. he certainly is a Gentleman who ought to be a favorite with our sex - but talking of favorites. I do not know what to make of yours - he gave your letter to his friend who gave it to my friend, to give to me. This does not look as if he was willing to keep his promise. to surrender at discretion. When secrets are en-

= played to transact all business between us - Rember proposed a
ride on horseback to the fort, do you think I may venture?

You have been passing your time very gaily - and I hope very
happily in Lamberton & its vicinity those little excursions you men-
-tion are generally more productive of pleasure than any other kind of
visiting - and are no doubt of benefit to your health - which as you
do not complain of - and your letters are untroubled with that languor
with which the mind is generally overcast - when afflicted with indis-
-position - I take it for granted you are well - it is said, that "what
we wish, we easily believe" - but it is a further gratification to have
our wishes confirmed - particularly when our friends are interested
as in your health inform me if the Country air and exercise has restored
you -

You very wisely account for the few inhabitants in the Temple
but none would wish to enter it - with more moderate views it were
better to wander alone, through the neglected path of single life - than with
an ungenial companion traverse a Garden where every fragrant flower
blooms to the eye - but withers at the touch - where every bright prospect
is obscured by the clouds of discontent or lost in the whirlwind of ~~opposition~~
contention - this to be sure is not a moderate view - it is the extreme
dark side of the question - but we can be moderately happy single, and
expect exquisite felicity when we marry - you must not censure me woman-
-tie, for a married man told me last week, there was no medium between
happiness, and misery in that state - he has been twice married, and
perhaps has experienced both - his cheerful countenance convinces me
he is not miserable now, yet he does not know how to reconcile the difference
of character in him & his life - with the properly assorted pairs - he
has a fine understanding well cultivated, and a most excellent dis-
position - in this last quality they may simulate - she is very good natured

Miss Margaret Long
Lamberton

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