

William Henry Edwards Patterson Esq^r

Thursday - 12 December 1799.

My charming Hannah's Letter reached me this morning, how different very different were the sensations of the Writer & Reader of the Epistle - Yours were melancholy, mine were lively, yours were angry mine were very joyful - And was this coincidence; perfectly so my dear Girl you wrote what your dear William was glad to receive a recantation of the former Letter & was now coinciding with what William thought right, could there be a stronger motion for my Joy - All my self interest was awakened, it was gratified, it had revived your sanction, & my Judgment of certain characters, was confirmed - I was happy in this further proof of a coincidence, & from a persuasion that nothing there is necessary, but clear elucidation, to convince you of the Truth - You were yesterday making Mrs. M's character your own, & you felt sensibly for her, to day you have placed yourself in my situation, & have felt as acutely as William - Thus are we my Love the creatures of circumstances, & then only can we judge of what would our own conduct, in another's situation, from putting ourselves into it - I was yesterday unhappy my countenance had a gloomy look, & it was generally observed, to day every one remarks the alacrity of my step the sparkling of my eye, & the erectness of my deportment - What a miracle - what has produced this marvellous change - It was my Hannah's Letter of this morning.

As Mrs. Dr. Letter to your Mother I am not at all surpris'd
it is but one Examine out of many Thousands of her Intrigues
of her acts who is ever unhappily misled every thing is done
by finesse & trick - She would have made an excellent
Bottle conjurer, & who might have done amongst the
Gentlemen of Books - but however her character is too contemptible
for further investigation - And my dear girl to give you
my ideas of your Father's circumstances, & of the probable conduct
I should adopt in a similar situation, (I do admit the difficulty
of the supposition) - I am at this moment inclin'd to think
that Providence would support me, & that with my views of human
affairs, I should not feel hurt in contracting, what the world
might deem unequal, but which I had learn'd to bear
as superfluous - My dear may be scholastic, indeed my
dear girl they may be visionary, but I am at present
inclin'd to think that happiness is only to be attain'd by
a virtuous independance - From whom we live rather
subject to, & upon whom we stand as a command, may
soon be inclin'd to treat us with contempt, or exact an
obedience, for some souls can never pay - Indeed my
dear girl, from the traits you have given me of your
Father's character, I am inclin'd to think we may
probably have coincident ideas upon these subjects -

So little do I care about the gratification of your Mother
I am not anxious whether the Beef is hot upon the
Platter, or the Mutton is cold - So in these things we
now & then always will be indifferent - You may believe
me my darling girl is however difficult it is
of credit, that I consider myself as being in a
preparatory state for future enjoyment, & that by my
dear I shall be judg'd - Hannah may smile at
the romantic ideas of 23. & Henry may despise them
but I am convinc'd that they have afford me comfort
& that they are the necessary result of benevolence
- Little does it signify what situation man is
in if he has not learn'd to be himself content
- for our own comfort we must rise superior to
the caprice of the world, & its insinuations, it is cowardly
only that can poison the dart of opprobrium, & add
wings to the shafts of ridicule - Indeed my dear girl I
love with love unfeign'd, & that I shall continue to love
you I am inclin'd to believe from the disinterestedness of your
increasing merit & strong attachment to me -
- Be not unhappy Hannah, for if your love is equal to
mine, nothing will in future disturb you but the tenderness
of William, & that is not in the sphere of probability you

ought never again to be unhappy - With the misfortunes of our
Friends we may sympathize, but all our nobler thoughts should
should have us only in each others bosoms - There was one line
in your letter which hurt me by implication, you who reverence the
"entire assent of Parents" - are perhaps still displeas'd that I had you before
I had their full assent & consent - Was this kind - prove it a fault that I

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10 o'clock
DEPT. - 13
99 F. MOORE

born out of
Hudson St.

Miss S. Norton
John Norton
Mrs Norton

Mrs Norton

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loved you - I will admit the conclusion - You are of Mr. B. please me
well, as you will receive it - This makes you that I had had file
- All the reports now in circulation at William are I firmly believe
first promulgated from the Observatory - But they hurt me only as
they affect my Harriet, & thus: no? They as the idle wind
which I respect not - Write to me, my dear Harriet as often
as you can spare time, & if I cannot write answer it
it is not from want of inclination, & from the business of
my Engagements - I shall at least expect a letter on Sunday
morning, if it is but a line to open me again, for
now well is the cheer that you still love your William -

Mrs Norton

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