

Richmond, Jan. 28. 1818

This is the last letter I shall probably write whilst I am in Richmond. My Dear sister, I must write as if for a razor, so unable to finish it in time for the post, I have just received yours & would not answer it at all but that such favours from you are so rare that they must not be neglected when they do come. I wanted to tell you that if you expect to find me a stylish lady you will be most woefully disappointed, I have been bewitched at least a thousand times since I have been here with my country breeding, & ~~there~~ have been in such a rage ~~at~~ ^{at} the beauties of this place ~~should~~ ^{dares} to take notice of it that even if I had had any uneasy feelings from differences that would have got the better of them, but really I never was more at my ease in my life than from the very first day of my arrival here at first I was so disgusted with the nonsense of the people that I sat silent from disdain or muchos from any thing else, but I soon found that I should spend a most dismal time if I was on the high ropes the whole time I was here, besides which I found the people were not such fools as I thought them at first & that they only had a different sort of folly from what I had been accustomed to, & getting accustomed to every thing I have been very well content ever since, but now I am liv'd again & want to go home. at first I found the parties the most

tiresome places in the world & that I should in all probability go away without getting acquainted with any one, for no one would talk to me because I would not talk to them. I thought this was a very hard case but there was no help for it unless I should humble myself to make some advances, or at least unless advances were made to me. To show some inclination to get acquainted with the people who made them & now some young ladies & myself are very good friends when it suits our convenience, I sat near a young lady for about half an hour the other day, for the first ten minutes we sat in stately silence which might have lasted till doomsday for aught that I could, but she could endure it no longer & that she did not appear to like my looks any more than I did hers, she turned to me suddenly with a most fascinating manner & sweet smile & asked my opinion of something that she had just done a moment before, I answered her as well as I could, but I am not quick at all at making or turning off a compliment so I never attempt it, & the girl tho' she seemed to expect one at that time was oblig'd to be content without it, however as I did not say any thing repulsive she enter'd into conversation & before we parted were such good friends that we shook hands & promis'd to meet again very soon & often; I meet that same girl constantly but it happens never to suit her or me to recognize each other & we never have spoken since. I still found tho' that I spent a great many weary hours, & that the easiest intercourse among the company was while dancing, so I determin'd that if it was possible for me to get over my indolence & dislike to skipping about I should pass my time more agreeably, but ~~a~~ ^{a great} difficulty now present-

ed itself I had forgotten the figures of the reels I called
as entirely as if I never had learnt them but this was not
allowed to be an objection at all by most people so the last
party I went to I persuaded myself to dance the gentlemen
with whom I don't understand to play the part of dancing
master, & then past a scene which at least afforded me
a great deal of amusement, my first partner Mr Ni-
-verson was quite as ignorant as I was & our case was only
known to one other, Mr Wickham who ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~best~~ ^{best}
and I made signs only seen to us two who were dancing,
& I was still more diverted when I don't with Mr Wick-
-ham himself, & I had leisure to attend to his instructions
& encouragement, I wish you had been there I think he
would make an admirable dancing master, but I am sure
I am very much obliged to him.

I am ~~fallen~~ ^{fallen} beyond measure to know that poor ~~little~~ ^{little} Mr
Tristram ~~is~~ ^{is} fallen in love with Elizabeth ^{delight}
must fold up my letter for it time to send it to the
post office his dear pay & pot for me I believe
yours affectionately C.R. ~~because~~ ^{because} mistakes

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