

THE
COMPLETE
LETTER WRITER,

CONTAINING FORMS OF

LETTERS

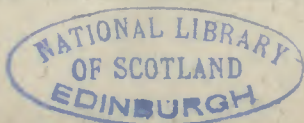
ON

Business, Love, &c. &c.



STIRLING :

PRINTED FOR THE BOOKSELLERS.



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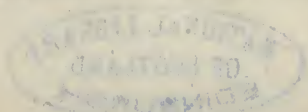
By J. G. ...



THE great usefulness of Letter Writing is so well known, that the necessity of acquiring such an art all persons do allow. And such as are unqualified to convey their sentiments to a friend, without a third person, know that it is their interest to become acquainted with what is so needful and agreeable.

Had letters been known at the beginning of the world, Epistolary Writing would have been as old as love and friendship; for, as soon as the two began to flourish, the verbal messenger was then dropped—the language of the heart was committed to characters that preserved it,—and secret and social intercourse was rendered more free and agreeable.—Some of the most ancient books were written in this manner; and the Gospel was delivered by the Holy Apostles in this way. :

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Our business is to point out to the reader the method in which this art could be best obtained; and that is by imitating select examples of this species of writing, suitable to the most common as well as important occasions of life. In accordance with this, we have compiled this little pamphlet for the young student's practice; which we hope will be found useful to both sexes. With regard to the manner and the forms of letters, the following rules should be observed:—

When you write to a person of consequence, let it be on gilt paper, and inclose it in a cover; do not write the direction on the letter itself, unless it be to go by the post. Begin the letter at a good distance from the top of the paper; and if you have compliments to send to any of the family or friends, insert them in the body of the letter. The first letter in any title, the first after a full point as also those in reference to yourself, if you are writing to a person of eminence, ought to begin with a capital. You should not be too particular in the direction of your letter to those who are well known, for it is in some measure an affront, as it supposes the person not to be of importance.

From a Young Man to his Father, desiring him to intercede with his Master to take him again into his service.

Honoured Sir,—With shame arising from guilt, I write you at this time. I doubt not but you have heard of the irregularities of my conduct, which proceeded so far as to induce me to desert the service of the best of masters. It was vicious company that first tempted me to forsake the paths of virtue, and to neglect my work. I am now sensible of my fault and am willing to make all reparation in my power.

Let me beg of you to intercede with my worthy master to take me again into his service, and my future life shall be one continued act of gratitude.—I am, Sir, your affectionate, though undutiful son.

The Father's Answer.

My Dear Child — I ever you live to be a father, you will know what I feel for you on the present occasion. Tenderness as a parent, resentment on account of ingratitude, and respect for the worthy man whose service you deserted, all conspire together to agitate my mind to different purposes: but maternal affection predominates, and I am obliged to act as your friend. I have written to your master, and have received his answer; copies of which I have sent inclosed. He is willing again to receive you into his service, and I hope your behaviour will be corresponding to so much lenity.—I am, your affectionate father.

The Father's Letter to the Master.

My worthy Friend,—I have often written to you with pleasure, but I am constrained to address you on a subject I little expected. I have just received a letter from my son informing me that he has left your service; his letter contains an acknowledgment of his offence, and a declaration of his resolution to act consistently for the future. He has begged of me to intercede with you in his behalf and I know you will excuse parental affection. If you will again receive the unhappy youth I have great reason to hope that his conduct will be equal to his promises.—Your sincere well-wisher.

The Master's Answer.

Sir,—Ever since I first considered the difference

between right and wrong, I have preferred mercy to severity. I am a father, sir, and can feel what you suffer. My resentment against the young man is less than the anxiety for his happiness. In the mean time, nothing shall be wanting on my part to make both you and him content; all faults are from this moment forgotten; the house is open for his reception; and if he will return, he shall be treated with the same indulgences as before.—I am, sir, your affectionate friend.

From a Young Man Apprentice to a Merchant in town, to his Father in the country, soliciting pocket money.

Honoured Sir,—I wrote to you some time ago, but not having received an answer it makes me uneasy; although I have been as good an economist as possible, yet I find the pocket money you allow me from Mr. Willis, is not sufficient to support the necessary expenses. London is such a place, that unless one maintains something of character, they are sure to be treated with contempt and ridicule. I abhor every sort of extravagance, as much as you can desire, and the small matter which I ask as an addition to your former allowance, is only to promote my own interest, and which I am sure, you have as much at heart as any parent possibly can. The master will satisfy you that my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of morality. I submit to your judgment what you think proper to order me. I did not mention my want of money to Mr. Willis, and have taken nothing more than what you ordered. I hope you will not be offended with what I have written; as I shall always consider myself happy in performing my duty, and acquiring the favour of my honoured parents.—I am, honoured Sir, your affectionate son.

The Father's Answer.

My Dear Son,—The reason for not sending an answer to you sooner was that I had been on a journey to Birmingham, and did not see your letter till last night. I have considered your request, and has found it reasonable. You are mistaken if you think that I wanted to confine you to the small matter paid by Mr. Willis, or to one particular sum. You are now arrived at an age when it becomes incumbent on you to be well acquainted with the value and use of money. Your profession also likewise requires it both prudence and steadiness in youth, naturally leads to the regularity of conduct in more advanced years. Virtue ensures respect, and well do I know that all manner of precepts are quite useless where the inclinations are vicious. I have left the affair mentioned in your letter, entirely to your own discretion; and have sent the inclosed unlimited order. I have no doubt but prudence will direct you how to proceed—I am, dear child, your affectionate and loving father.

From a young Gentleman at a School in the country to his Brother, an Apprentice in London.

Dear Jackey,—Little master William Thomson is going to London to-morrow morning in the stage and I have sent this with him to you. We are all well at school, and I have got as far as Ovid; I have likewise got through the rules of practice, of which I shall give you a better account when I come to town at the holidays. Dear brother, give my respects to my father and mother, and tell them I long to see them; I pray for them and you every night. I spend about an hour every day in reading Dr. Goldsmith's Roman History. Pray Jackey, send me some books for I am fond of reading them, and a

pen-knife, and I shall do more for you when I leave school.—I am your loving brother.

The Brother's Answer.

Dear Brother,—I received your kind letter, and am glad to hear that you are well, as also of the progress you make in learning. I read your letter to your father and mother, and they are much pleased with it. William Thomson dines at our house tomorrow, and he will bring you this. Your mother has sent you half a guinea: and as you seem to be so fond of books, I have sent you Rollin's Belles Letters. Mr. Austin, our curate says that although all sort of history is useful, yet he thinks that you should begin with that of your own country; and he has sent you a present of Russel's History of England. I have sent you the knife and some other articles which you will find sealed up in the parcel — We all beg that you will continue to preserve as you have begun in an uniform course of virtue. It will be a pleasure to your parents, and turn out to your own advantage at the last.—I am, dear Brother affectionately yours.

From a Young Woman just gone to Service in London, to her Mother in the Country.

Dear Mother,—It is now a month that I have been at Mr Wilson's, and I like my place quite well. My master and mistress are both worthy people. At my first coming here I thought every thing strange, and wondered to see such great multitudes of people in the streets; but what I suffer most from is, the remembrance of your's and my father's kindness; I begin to be more reconciled as I know you were not very able to support me at home. I return you thanks for the kind advice you gave me at parting,

and I shall endeavour to practice that so long as I live. Let me hear from you often; so with my respects to my father and mother, and kind love to all friends.—I remain ever, your most dutiful and affectionate daughter.

Dear Brother — I am glad to hear that you are well, and that you are still in the same way of thinking. I am glad to hear that you are still in the same way of thinking. I am glad to hear that you are still in the same way of thinking.

The Mother's Answer.

My Dear Child — I am glad to hear that you have got into so respectable a family. You know that we never should have parted had it not been for your good. Continue active and obliging, and the people will love and esteem you. Keep yourself employed as much as you can, and be willing to assist your fellow servants. Never speak ill of any person; and if you hear a bad tale, do not repeat it again but let it slip out of mind as soon as possible. If you have any spare time from your business, spend some part of it in reading the Bible. I pray for you daily, and there is nothing that I desire more than my dear child's happiness. Your father desires his blessing; and your brothers and sister their kind love to you. Heaven bless you, dear, and continue you to be a comfort to us all, and particularly to—
Your affectionate mother.

From a young Man in the Country to a Merchant in London offering Correspondence.

Sir,—My apprenticeship with Mr. Wilson, being expired, during which I have observed the integrity in all your dealings with my respected master, and my parents having given me two hundred pounds to begin the world, which you know is not sufficient to commence trade with any advantage; that I might be able to sell the goods as cheap as possible, I would wish to have them from the first hand. If it is agreeable to you, I offer my correspond-

I have sent your order in ten days with the goods
ence, not doubting but that you will use me as well
as you did Mr. Wilson, and you may depend upon
my punctuality with respect to payments—and am,
sir, your humble servant,

The Merchant's Answer.

Sir,—I received yours, and am extremely glad
to hear that your parents have enabled you to open
a shop for yourself. I have sent you the goods with
the waggon, and hope that you will be punctual in
your returns, which will always enable me to serve
you as low as possible, and with the best goods I
can procure. I heartily wish you success in busi-
ness, and doubt not but you well know that steadi-
ness and attention are the most likely means to in-
sure it—and am your obliged humble servant.

*From a young Man whose Master had lately died, to
a Merchant in London.*

Sir,—I doubt not but that you have heard of my
late worthy master's death. I have served him above
twelve years; and as my mistress is not to carry on
the business, I have taken the shop and stock in
trade, and shall be glad to deal with you in the same
manner as he did. I have inclosed a Banker's bill
for what is due at present: and have to beg of you
to forward the goods as ordered, which you will place
to my debit, and depend upon punctuality of pay-
ment, as before.—I am, sir, your humble seryant.

The Answer.

Sir,—Yours I did receive, am extremely sorry
to hear of the death of my good old friend, your
late master, but am obliged for your continuing a
correspondence with my house, and will at all times
do my endeavours to serve you on the best terms.

I have sent your order in ten bales with the Speedwell, John Thomson, master, and you will find them as good and as cheap as any that are to be had in London. I return you many thanks for your offered correspondence, and shall on all occasions use you with honour. I wish you all manner of success, and am, &c.

To a Correspondent, requesting the payment of a sum of Money

Sir,—Although the balance of the account between us has been so long standing in my favour: yet I would not have applied to you at present had not an unexpected demand been made upon me for a considerable sum, which it is not in my power to answer. When I have an opportunity of seeing you, I shall then inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of my discharging it. If it does not suit you to remit the whole, part will be thankfully received by—Your humble servant.

The Answer.

Sir,—I have just received yours, and am sorry to hear of your affliction. That the account between us was not sooner settled, was owing to the failure of two principal creditors. I have just received a remittance from Nottingham, and am well pleased that it is in my power to answer the whole of your demand. The balance between us is two hundred and fifty pounds, for which I have sent inclosed an order on Mr. Cash, the banker. I hope you will surmount this and every other difficulty, and am,—Your sincere well-wisher.

An urgent demand for Payment.

Mr. Thompson,—The exigent state of my affairs

compels me thus importunately, nay, peremptorily, to write to you. Can you think it possible to carry on business in the manner you act with me? you know what promises you have made, and how from time to time you have broken them? Can I therefore depend upon the new promises you make? if you use others as I have been used, how can you think of carrying on business? if you do not, what must I think of the man who deals worse with me than he does with others? if you think you can trespass more upon me than you can do upon others that is a very bad compliment to my prudence, or your own gratitude; for I think good usage should be entitled to the same in return. I know how to allow for disappointments as well as any person, but can a man be disappointed for ever? trade is so dependent a thing that it cannot be carried on without mutual care.— Does not the merchant expect from me for the same goods that I send to you? and can I make a return to him without receiving it from you? what can it answer to give you twelve months' credit, and then be not certain of it, for goods which I sell at a small profit, and have only six months' credit for myself? Indeed sir, this will never do, I must be more punctually used with you or else must deal as little punctually with others; and then what must be the consequence? In short sir, I expect a handsome payment with the next return and security for the remainder: as I am do not wish to take any harsh measures to procure justice to myself, my family, and creditors.—Sir, I am, if it be not your fault—Your faithful friend and servant.

The Answer.

Sir,—I acknowl-dge with gratitude, the lenity you have at all times shown, and my being obliged

to disappoint you so often, gives me much uneasiness. I do assure you sir, that I am not so ungrateful as my conduct has given you reason to believe. From the state of my accounts you will find that the greatest part of my property is in the hands of country dealers, who although they seldom fail, yet their times of payment are very precarious and uncertain. However to convince you of my integrity, I have sent by this day's post an order for seventy pounds, and the next week you shall receive one much larger. The remainder shall be sent in a very short time. I am determined for the future, to make the rules laid down in your excellent letter, a guide in my dealings with those people whose dilatoriness in making good their payments to me, obliged me to disappoint you; and to convince you farther of my integrity, the goods which I order, till the old account is paid off shall be ready money.—I doubt not but you will continue to treat me with the same good usage as formerly, and believe me to be unfeignedly.—Your obliged humble servant.

Soliciting the Loan of Money from a Friend.

Dear sir,—I believe that since you first knew me, you will be ready to acknowledge, that no person was ever more bashful in asking favours than myself.—But an unexpected affliction in my family, obliges me to solicit your assistance, by the loan of about forty pounds for six months, if you can possibly spare it without hurting yourself. I would not have asked it at all, were I not certain of paying it at the time proposed.—I am, sir, yours with the greatest sincerity.

The Answer.

Dear sir,—I could not hesitate for one moment

in answering your letter; and had I known that my worthy friend had been in the want of the sum mentioned, I should never have put his affected modesty to the blush, by suffering him to ask it: no sir, the offer should have come from myself. However, the sum is sent by the bearer, but let me beg that if you consider me really as your friend, you will suit the payment to your own circumstances, without being confined to a particular time; and not only so, but that you will command my assistance in every thing else wherein I can serve you.

From a Tenant to a Landlord, excusing delay of payment.

Sir,—I have been your tenant above ten years in the house where I now live, and you know that I never failed to pay my rent quarterly when due. At present I am extremely sorry to inform you that from a variety of losses and disappointments I am under the necessity of begging that you will indulge me one quarter longer. By that time I hope to have it in my power to answer your just demand, and the favour shall be ever gratefully acknowledged by,—
Your obedient humble servant.

The Answer.

Sir,—It was never my design to oppress you. I have had a long trial of your honesty, and therefore you may rest perfectly satisfied concerning your present request. No demand shall be made by me upon you for your rent, until it suits you to pay it; for I am well convinced you will not keep it from me any longer.—I am yours sincerely.

From a Country Farmer on the same occasion.

Honoured sir,—I am extremely sorry that through

through a variety of unforeseen accidents I am obliged to write you on such a subject as the present.—The season last year was bad, but I was enabled to pay you. This has turned out much worse, and it being so long before we could get the corn home, it is not yet fit to be sold. I only beg your patience about two months longer, when I hope to pay you faithfully with gratitude.—I am, Sir, your honest tenant, and humble servant.

The Answer.

Mr. Clover.—I hope that, from the whole of my conduct ever since you first became a tenant of mine you cannot have reason to allege any thing against me. I never treated you with rigour, as I always considered you as an industrious honest man. Make yourself perfectly content concerning the payment of the rent, till I come to the country in the summer, and if things be as you represent (and I doubt not but that they are) you may be assured of all reasonable indulgence.—I am yours.

From a Young Man who had an opportunity to set up in Business but destitute of money to a Gentleman of reputed Benevolence.

Honoured Sir,—When you look at the subscription, you will remember me having served you with goods when I was apprentice to Mr. Hopkins, grocer in the Strand. I have been a little above two months out with my time, which was spent in his service, and the greatest part of my wages have been given to support an aged mother confined to a sick-bed. Mr. Hopkins died about ten weeks ago, and having no family, his executors, (who are almost all strangers to me) are going to let the shop. My respected master has left me about one hundred pounds in his will, but that is in no way sufficient

to purchase the stock in trade; nor will they give any longer than twelve months' credit. Being well acquainted with the trade, as also the customers, and having such a fair prospect of settling in business, I have presumed to lay it before you. I have often heard of your willingness to serve those placed under difficulties, particularly young people beginning the world. If you do approve of this, and will advance so much on my bond, to be paid in a limited time, it shall be safe as if it were in the hands of your banker. I shall be as frugal and industrious as possible, and the whole of my time shall be employed in the closest attendance on the duties of my station and shall acknowledge your kindness with gratitude as long as I live in this world. I hope this will not give you any offence and if you would give me leave I will wait upon you along with one of the executors, that you may hear their proposals. The character which I bear as to honesty and steadiness, will stand the strictest inquiry, as is testified in my late master's will, as also by all with whom I have had any dealings.—I am, honoured and respected Sir, your obedient and humble servant.

Recommending a Man-Servant.

Sir.—The bearer has served me with integrity and fidelity for three months, but having a desire to get settled in London, he left my house about a week ago and according to a letter received from him to-day, I find you are willing to engage him on my recommendation, and it is with the greatest pleasure I comply with this request. His behaviour while he was with me, was strictly honest, sober and diligent, and I doubt not but it will be the same with you.—I have sent this in one to himself, and if you engage him, I hope he will give satisfaction.—I am, Sir, your humble servant.

*From a young Tradesman lately entered into Business
to his Father asking his consent to marry.*

Honoured sir,—It is now above three years since I entered into business for myself, and find it daily increasing. There is a very worthy family in this neighbourhood, with whom I have been some time acquainted. They are in good circumstances, and have a daughter, an amiable young woman; I have paid my addresses to her, and likewise obtained the parents' consent, on condition that it is agreeable to you. Upon the strictest inquiry you will find her such a person that you will have no objection to. I endeavour to act consistent with the rules you were pleased to prescribe for my conduct. The parents are to pay me five hundred pounds on the day of marriage; and as they have no other children, their property becomes ours at their death. In whatever light you are pleased to consider this, I shall abide by your direction, and your answer in the meantime is impatiently expected by—Your dutiful son.

The Father's Answer.

My Dear Son,—I received your letter, and my reason for not an answer sooner is, it being an affair of importance. I wrote to Mr. Johnstone, my agent, requesting him to inquire concerning the family you desire to be allied with; and I am glad to hear that his account does not differ from your own. Your reasons for entering into the marriage state are every way satisfactory, and I am glad to hear that the person you have placed your affections on is so deserving. When you have fixed the wedding day, I will come to London to be present at the ceremony, and spend a few days with my old friends. I hope you will continue to attend your business with the same diligence you have hitherto

done, and if you should live to an old age, you will then be able to retire from trade with honour both to yourself and family.—I am, dear son, your affectionate father.

From a young Man, just done with his Apprenticeship, to his Sweetheart, a servant in the neighbourhood.

Dear Sally,—I have been long in love with you but was afraid to tell it. When I go with you to Pagnigge, or Sadler's Wells, I am almost like a fool and altogether unfit for company. I think of thee all day and at night I dream of dear Sally. I am well settled in work, and the wages are eighteen shillings a-week. You and I can live on that, and it shall be brought home untouched on Saturday evening. And I will not go to a ale-house, but as soon as work is done, return home to my dear beloved wife. I hope my dear will not be displeas'd, for I am deep in love. I cannot be content unless you are mine. I was afraid to mention this before but if you will leave an answer at the house where I lodge, I will meet thee next Sabbath, after dinner, at the Shepherd and Shepherdess, when we will take a walk to Horns-a-House and drink tea. How content shall I be to hear from my dear charmer! but a thousand times more to think she shall be mine.—I am, dear your real lover.

The Answer.

Dear Jack,—I did receive your kind letter, but I do not know what to express in an answer. Although I would like to get married, but men are so deceiving, that there is no such thing as trusting to them. There is Tom Timber the Carpenter, and Jack Hammer the Smith, who have not been married above six months, and every night come home

drunk, and beat their wives. What a miserable life is that Jack, and what do I know but you might be as bad to me? what do know but you, like them, might get drunk every night, and beat me black and blue before morning! I do assure you Jack, that if I thought that would be the case, I would rather scrub floors and scour sauce-pans as long as I live. But perhaps you would not be so bad; for on the other hand there is Will Copper the brazier, and Jack Trotter, the assman, who are both happy with their wives; they are both home-bringing husbands, and have every night a hot joint of meat and a pot of beer, I am not yet certain what I should do; but as I am fond for a walk to Horsea, I will meet you at the Shepherd and Shepherdess on Sunday after dinner, and then we shall talk more of the matter.—
I am, dear Jack, your obedient servant.

From a young Lady to a Gentleman complaining of Indifference.

Sir—However light you can make of promises, yet I am foolish enough to consider them as something more than trifles; and am likewise induced to believe that the man who thus voluntarily breaks a promise, will not pay much regard to an oath; and if so, in what light must I consider your conduct? Did I not promise faithfully to be yours, and had you no other reason for soliciting, than merely the gratification of your vanity: a brutal gratification indeed, to triumph over the weakness of a woman, whose greatest fault was that she loved you. I say loved you—for it was in consequence of that passion that I first consented to become yours. Has your conduct sir, been consistent with my submission, or even with your own solemn profession? is it consistent with the character of a gentleman, first to obtain a woman's consent, and then afterwards brag

that he discarded her, and found one more agreeable to his wishes? Do not equivocate, I have too many convincing proofs of your inconstancy; I saw you last night walking with Jane Benson, and am informed that you have proposed marriage to her.—Whatever you should about it sir, I have a spirit of disdain and even resentment, equal to your ingratitude, and can treat the base wretch with a proper indifference, who is able to make so slight a matter of the most solemn promises. Jane Benson may be your wife, but she will just receive into her arms a perjured husband; nor can ever the superstructure be lasting which is built on such a bad foundation. I leave you to the stings of your conscience.—I am the injured.

The Gentleman's Answer.

My Dear Angel,—For that is the name I must still call you; has cruelty entered into your tender nature, or has some designing base wretch imposed on your credulity? Dearest love, I am not what you have represented; I am neither false nor perjured—I never proposed marriage to Jane Benson; I never designed it; and the sole reason for walking with her was, that I had been on a visit to her brother, who you know is my principal attorney. And was it any fault on the part of me to take a walk into the fields along with him and his sister; surely prejudice itself cannot say so; but I am afraid that you have been imposed on by some designing person, who had private views and private ends to answer by such baseness. But whatever may have been the cause, I am quite innocent: and to convince you of my faithfulness, beg that the day of marriage would be next week. My affections never so much as wander from the dear object of my love; in you are centered all my hopes of felicity; with you

alone I can be content. Keep me not in despair one moment longer, with entertaining groundless jealousies against one who loves you in a manner superior to the whole of the fair sex; and I can set at defiance even malice itself. Let me have an answer back with the bearer, which will either make me content or miserable. I have sent a small parcel with the bearer, which I hope will be accepted as a convincing proof of my love; and am—Yours forever.

From a young Woman, a Servant in London, to her Parents, desiring their consent to Marry.

Honoured father and mother,—I have sent this to inform you, that one Mr. Wood, a young man a cabinet-maker, has paid his addresses to me, and now offers me marriage. I have told him that I would do nothing without your consent, and therefore have sent this with William Jones, a neighbour who called on me, and will inform you better of his circumstances.

The gentleman has been in business above two months, and is very regular and sober. The people in the neighbourhood esteem him, and his business is increasing. I think I could live in contentment with him, but do not choose to give him an answer until I have first heard from you—whatever answer you send shall be followed by—Your affectionate daughter.

The Parent's Answer.

Dear Child,—We received your letter with Mr. Jones, and the character he gives of the young man is so agreeable, that we have no objection your being married to him. You will seriously consider the duties of that important state; and consider well with yourself, that according to your conduct to each

other you must either be happy or miserable. There are many occurrences in life in which the best of men's tempers may be ruffled on account of losses or disappointments; if your husband should at any time be so endeavour to make him as easy as possible. Be careful of every thing he entrusts to your keeping; and never affect to appear superior to your station; although your circumstances may be easy, yet whilst in trade you will find a continual want of money for many different purposes. It is possible some may despise you, but they will be forced in the end to acknowledge the duties of a married state. May God direct you in every thing for the best, is the sincere prayer of
Your loving father and mother.

From a jealous Lover to his Mistress.

O Madam, madam!—I am neither blind nor deaf—
—I can both see and hear!—Your partiality for Mr. Careless is every day before my eyes, and your tenderness for him has now reached my ears. But why have you deceived me? why promised constancy and love, and drove me to madness and despair? What action of my life has merited this base return? Have I not loved?—Yes—cruel beauty; doated to distraction; and wherefore use me thus? As I cannot bear the thought of being a dupe any longer, I wish to know your real and candid sentiments. If it be your pleasure that all our former vows—all our fond protestations should be revoked, I am content; for I despise a lifeless hand. The heart is the chief of my ambition. Your candour therefore will greatly oblige, Madam.—Your distracted lover.

From a Lover after receiving wounds in Battle to his Mistress.

My Dear Caroline,—You have often declared

that not the comeliness of my person, but the accomplishments of my mind, had gained your affections; well it is for me if this be true, for I cannot longer boast of those personal charms, with which the looking-glass once flattered me, I have lost one of my eyes; I am deprived of a leg; but they are gone in an honourable cause, I hope that dear Caroline will give me no reason to regret their loss.— I did not think it proper to see you, till you were prepared for the reception of me; for fear my appearance might not only shock but disgust. If therefore you be as anxious as I am for an interview, tell me in an immediate answer, and if agreeable I shall fly on the wings of love to prove myself—Your devoted servant.

The Lady's Answer.

Dear William,—If I grieve and seem discontented at your misfortunes, the sorrow, believe me is pure and proceeds from anxious apprehension that your health will therefore be impaired. I prayed to heaven to preserve your life, it is preserved, and I am thankful. Oh! then let me see you as soon as possible, and believe me—Your sincere lover.

A Love Letter.—Two ways of reading.

Madam,—The great love and tenderness I have hitherto expressed for you (is false, and I now feel that the indifference I have towards you) increases more and more; and the more I see of you, the more (you appear ridiculous in mine eyes, and an object of contempt) I feel inclined and in every respect disposed and determined to (hate you. Believe me, I never had the least inclination to) offer you my hand. Our last conversation has, I do assure you, (left tedious and wretched insipidity, which by no means has) possessed me with the most exalted opinion of your character. (Your

inconstant temper would make for ever miserable.) And if ever we are united, I shall experience nothing but (the fearful hatred of my parents, added to an everlasting dis-) pleasure in living with you. I have indeed a faithful heart (to bestow, but however I do not wish you to imagine that it is) at your service; it is impossible I should give it to one more (inconstant and capricious than yourself, and one who is less) capable to do honour to my choice and to my family. (Yes, madam I desire and beg you will be persuaded that) I think sincerely, and you will do me the greatest favour (to avoid me. I shall readily excuse your taking the trouble) to give me answer to this; your letters are full of (nonsense and impertinence, and have not the shadow of) wit or good sense. Adieu, and believe truly that I am (so averse to you, it is impossible I should ever be) your affectionate lover.

From a Gentleman, whose Wife was lately, dead to a Clergyman in the neighbourhood.

Reverend Sir,—You have often, both in public and private, enlarged on those comforts and consolations which Christianity affords to the afflicted; and if ever they were needful to one under those circumstances, it must be to myself. About seven o'clock last night, my wife died in child-bed, and I am now the disconsolate parent of five young children. Had any person seen the excruciating tortures under which she expired, it would have reminded them of the emphasis of the curse pronounced upon our first parents for their rebellion against God. When she saw the king of terrors approach, she was all resignation to the Divine will, and left this lower world in the same manner, and with the same cheerful spirit, as if she had been going to visit a friend or to attend the service of her Maker.

Overwhelmed with grief, I entered her chamber, when she exerted the small remains of strength, and spoke to me as follows:—

“My Dear—I am now going the way of all flesh, but God the everlasting God will be your comfort. When I first became yours, I looked for all the happiness consistent with the state of human nature in this vale of misery; and I must confess that my highest wishes have been gratified, and your tenderness has been even more than I could expect. You may have seen faults in my conduct, but I do assure you (and is this a time to dissemble?) they were altogether involuntary. My principal study was to obtain the favour of that God before whom I am soon to appear. My obedience to the commands of my God has been attended with many imperfections, but I trust for pardon and acceptance in the merits of my dear Redeemer.” Here she fainted—looked wistfully at me and shed a tear over her dear children who were crying by her bed.—She attempted to speak but in vain. At last fixing her eyes towards heaven she repeated those beautiful words:—“Into thy hands I commit my soul, for thou hast redeemed me O thou God of my salvation;”—and then closed her eyes never to be opened till the sound of the last trumpet. I was sunk for some time in the greatest distress, looking on the dear remains of my departed spouse, and endeavouring to silence by persuasion, the cries of her orphan children. At last I recollected that I had still a friend left in you, to whom I might, with a view of consolation, lay open the inmost recesses of my heart. I am afraid your indisposition may hinder you from visiting me, and if so, let me beg that you will in the meantime, favour me with a few lines: At present every sort of consolation will be acceptable.—I am, &c.