

TM/L/3

Kendal. May 31. 1805.

My dear friend,

Had you not been fully apprized of the cause of my long silence, I should have begun this letter with many apologies for it: but you know how miserably disabled I have been ever since my return to Kendal. I am now much better than I was when I last endeavoured to write to Mr Wilmot; & perhaps may once more be as well as I was when I had last the pleasure of seeing you at Disps. I do not know when I passed my time more pleasantly than I did then; & I beg that you & all the family will accept my very best thanks for the polite & friendly hospitality with which you received my niece & myself. I have lately had the pleasure of being informed that you are all well - that Mr Thomas Branville is perfectly recovered - & that there is a distant chance of our seeing him in Westmoreland this Summer. Mr Lloyd, from whom I received this intelligence, did indeed say that he feared this hope would be blasted by Mr Mannings fixed determination to travel again, & to ^{go} first into Prussia (if I did not misunderstand) & then into China: but I still hope that his studies, & his intended publication, will detain him at home this year. Should he publish by subscription (which, however, I think he ^{will} do)

said that He should not. I beg that my name may be put upon
when you write to him, or tell him, pray present my best respects.
Mr William Manning I suppose has now left College entirely,
& is fully occupied wth Writing in the most delightful (time)
of all occupations, - that of altering a House & laying out a
Garden. I do not know that his place is large enough to
admit of Pleasure - Grounds; if it be, his happiness must
be complete. Tell him he has every wish of my heart for his
future comfort & prosperity. Madam Susan & Miss Ches-
-ney have been in Town, I understand, this Spring. I do
not ask whether they were amused & delighted; I know they
must have been extremely so. How did they like Mr Crap-
-pelow's House - Trap-Hall? I hope that he was in Town
at the time they were; for He would, I am certain, be happy
to show them every civility on his Power. When I was last
in Norfolk I thought my friend Mrs Manning looked
nearly as well as she did in the year 1796. She was more lame
indeed, but I perceived no other Alteration. Mary joins me in
every enquiry that I make into the state of your self & your family,
& in every expression of gratitude & esteem. She talks every
day of answering Miss Fanning's letter; but she is an idle
woman & does not love writing. I have the pleasure to say that
she is extremely well. Henry & Mary Anne are ^{likewise} in very good
health; but poor William is not, & I fear will never attain
to manhood.

I am by no means pleased with the aspect of public affairs.
I cannot call an government a respectable one; & I am afraid
that it should stink in the nostrils of mankind, both at home

& abroad. The French are already too cunning for us; & may, in
the end, prove too powerful. The trick that has been played
Lord Nelson, & the escape of the combined fleets of Toulon &
Cadix, are unlucky circumstances. Should this fleet be destined
to the West-Indies (as I am still afraid it is) it will be supe-
rior to any force that we have, or perhaps can spare, for
that service, & may do us irreparable damage: or should we
detach an armament sufficient to counteract the enemy;
which our strength is thus divided, the long threatened in-
vasion may be attempted. The object of it I think granted
will be Ireland; & the Irish I suppose are not more warmly at-
tached to us than they were before we rejected their petition. By the
bye, I was never more decided upon any question than I am upon that
of Roman-catholic emancipation, as it is called. Whether the Irish
-Roman Catholics can, consistently with the safety & peace of
the whole empire, be trusted with
the priviledges for which they have
petitioned, is a matter of the deepest
& most serious consideration. I am
afraid that they cannot. but if they can, they ought, upon every prin-
ciple of policy or justice, but then the same indulgence (if you call
it an indulgence & not an act of justice) should be extended to our
our Roman Catholics, & to the partisans of every persuasion & denomi-
nation. am I right, or am I wrong? I wish I had you here
to talk with. what does Mr Thomas think? - should the corn last
five years longer, & should the Corsican retain his present power
& influence, we shall become an appendage to France, & shall be gov-
erned, with a rod of iron, by some base creature of the Emperor - some
Schimmelpennink of our own. Tho', at other times, I am of opinion
that Napoleon, if he be really as wise as he is supposed to be, must
reflect, that, with the accession of Italy, he must have acquired as much
dominion

Strenuous & laborious as he can possibly long keep together, even his
: could may be profitable, still w^ould to make peace with us. It you
: both for much from the independence of Virginia? I am all attention;
: My respects, & look forward, with anxiety & fear, to 1773's peace
: than disquisitions & tracts are.

Will you have the goodness to present my respects to Mr B.
: W. Newman, & I'll have that I did not shew any doubters of Kendal

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The Rev^d Mr Manning
His Wife
Norfolk.

at the time
to have them
in a



Tell Mr B. of April: but a friend of mine saw one at Stones (a
: place in Wisconsin) know you will about five miles from here) & says
: as 1773. 4. - He calls it here is very fine & dry, & the country looks
: much delightful. Now my mind is in respect to the security of it,
: remember me most particularly to good Mrs. Graham, & to Mr. & Mrs. G. & to
: Mr. & Mrs. G. & to Mr. & Mrs. G.