

TMIS 14

Dear Sir

Canton. 24 April 1804

I was in hopes of being able to  
send you chinen & rare paintings <sup>of fruit, flowers, & such things</sup> but the person  
employed has disappointed me he brought me home some  
miserable drawings that I would not accept <sup>of his own hand</sup>.  
He was not at all disconcerted at first in fact

I knew good paintings from bad, but pleaded  
hurry of prep of business. Another disappointment  
I have met with from the English botanist, Mr.,  
who had promised me some seeds of curious plants  
he said I meant to have sent you for your green  
house. He was called off suddenly to Mexico, & I have  
not heard from him since. Against next season

I shall be able to let my meanness more  
spectably. I have sent off a few of the very  
best pencils I could procure with a little  
good chine Ind. You may perhaps meet with those  
things just as good in England, but tis a chener  
showy note I am sure they will not have the same  
value because of the hard work put them over  
will easily guess that I <sup>forsee</sup> that your hands  
will sometimes use them. Indeed Mr. Webb I  
cannot recall your excellent & amiable daughter to my  
mind without having my affection now. I am very  
affectionate by disposition, & vanished <sup>myself</sup> as I am  
can you wonder if my recollection now overpowers me?

If I was the Brook I would feel stronger affection  
for them. I with the most domestic love am  
always a wanderer! I have a heavy load of thoughts  
& sensations to distract me unceasingly <sup>to strew trifles</sup>. I think I  
have nothing <sup>absolutely nothing</sup> in my collection <sup>but</sup> which is called crack-ban  
giffes of the old I shall be able to justify myself  
& my undertakings. I know that I am writing to a  
man now

I shall write to you again soon & shall make you  
some more <sup>more</sup> sea-farer's interest in observations.  
for ~~all~~<sup>over</sup> that I have said <sup>her</sup> you knew before.  
Every thing visible tangible sensible that strikes  
my senses here makes me more and more anxious  
the account Dr. Holden's account of this region  
tis owing <sup>no doubt</sup> to the unceasing change of fashions here over  
in the most minute & ~~continual~~ <sup>unintentional</sup> particular  
~~writters~~ <sup>particular</sup> part / <sup>not</sup> unchanged

his descriptions are still curiously exact  
as if he wrote but yesterday. Dishes have  
both appetites of feasts & occasions trials & an  
afflition in the most minute particulars like  
Dish & saucers. If I could find another more  
<sup>in embryo</sup> & claim a more original domestic happiness, &  
language I might return & say bid by the next flask  
but I too well know why I came here  
Adieu God bless you & yours... believe me  
your most sincere friend. F. Scott.

P.S. Remember me to Mr. Roberts. The name of  
the president he is Roberts, one by relations?

I have been very unwell with a cold & cough, but am now recovering  
the marks of it appearing in my letters. Indeed I have been hardly  
able to write at all, such adder of pain I have been & that  
my mind quite out of gear. But I am recoverying now &  
expect shall be sea beore at Mecca (where we go on after 2 days) I  
will let you write again.

The changes of temperature are sudden & extraordinary at  
Coton - now both by day & night & more particularly by  
evening. From today last it is nearly as it was beneath cold &  
shining sun & so as to make us all draw round the fire.

Letter to C. W. at. 1807.

P. W.

Thomas Manning to Mr Willis (?) -

Canton 24 April 1807.

Dear Sir

I was in hopes of being able to send you some Chinese paintings of fruits & flowers which they are very skilful in here, but the person employed has disappointed me, he brought me home some miserable daubings that I would not accept if he had given them to me.

He was not at all disconcerted at finding that I knew good paintings from bad, but pleaded heavy & press of business. Another disappointment I have met with from the English botanist, who had promised me some seeds of curious plants which I meant to have sent you for your greenhouse. He was called off suddenly to Macao, & I have not heard from him since.

Against next season I shall be able to take my measures more effectually. I have sent a few of the very best pencils I could procure with a little good Chinese Ink. You may perhaps meet with those things just as good in England, but 'tis a chance.

At any rate I am sure they will not have the less value because of the hand that sent them. You will certainly guess that I foresee what fair hands will sometimes use them. Indeed Mr Willis I cannot recall your excellent & amiable daughters to my mind without having my heart moved. I am very affectionate by disposition, & banished man as I am, can you wonder if my recollection now, as I write, overpowers me? If I was thine Brother I could not feel stronger affection for them. I with the most domestic turn of disposition, am always a wanderer! I have a strange power of thought & sentiments that impel me unconsciously to strange trips. I think I have nothing, absolutely

nothing, in my constitution of what is called crack-brained, & if so, at the end I shall be able to justify myself & my undertakings. I know that I am writing to a man of very strong intellect & excellent judgement, or else I should be afraid that this very letter would give evidence against what I am saying, & prove the craziness of my upper story.

You must consider me sitting alone in a room at the very extremity of the earth in the evening hearing nothing but the tones of a Chinese string instrument played on by a Chinese servant belonging to the factory. Surrounded on all sides by people whose thoughts words, actions, dress, & affections have nothing in common with Europe, & where the only people with whom I can have intercourse are a few men drawn here by commerce, who are waiting the fulfilment of their fortune, with their eyes turned towards their own country, ready to take wing the moment their honey bags are filled, & who, instead of forming a sort of arch of communication between me & the inhabitants of the country, gather themselves up in a round knot which seems to admit of no point of contact with the natives. like water on a cabbage leaf, they drop off in succession, & leave no traces. (I ought to observe that I am very handsomely & kindly treated by them; what I speak of is not [their] fault.) Think of this, Isay, & imagine me calling to mind your family assembly. I give you here a true picture; yet far all that you are not to suppose me unhappy, quite the contrary. I have not undertaken what is above my strength. I shall write to you again soon I hope, & shall give you some clearer & more interesting observations, for every thing that I have said here you knew before.

Everything that strikes my senses here makes me more & more admire the accuracy of Duhald's account of this region, his owing no doubt to the unchangeableness of fashions here, even in the most minute & uninteresting particulars, that his descriptions are still so curiously exact, as if he wrote but yesterday. Dresses, houses, boats, apparatus of feasts, processions, trials etc etc etc all true in the most minute particulars like so many Dutch paintings. If I can't find anything more to learn on the articles of morals, religion, domestic happiness, & language, I might return to England by the next fleet, but I too well know why I came here.

Adieu. God bless you & yours - believe me your most sincere friend

T. M.

P. S. Remember me to Mr Roberts. The name of the president here is Roberts, are they relations?

I have been very unwell with a cold & cough; the marks of it perhaps remain in my letter. Indeed I have been hardly able to write at all, I have been indolent, & my mind is quite out of gear. But I am recovering now, & expect that the sea-breezes ~~at~~ Macao (where we go in a few days for the summer) will set me quite right.

The changes of temperature are sudden & extraordinary at Canton - both by thermometer & more particularly by sensation. From sultry heat, it instantly as it were becomes cold & shivery, so as to make us all draw round the fire.