

My dear Sir

New-ham 12 April 1808

I do assure you we were very much gratified in receiving your Letter from Canton, my fields were all at home, & they gladdened their countenances at news from a friend so distant ~~perhaps~~ I know not of any news here worth informing you it is all local at least & comes on so gradually day by day that we at least think not of it though you ~~perhaps~~ may perhaps be somewhat struck with the changes when you return - our mutual friend Davy still resides in the Lodge an old Batchelor & would perhaps be in danger of fainting if he saw a petticoat in the Chamber of his house - Boston is living at his parsonage nursing up a youngy Boston which his Spown has produced him, Malbly rolling in his Carriage from good luck in burying the Incumbent on his prebendal Estate & happy in the receipt of something about £2000 per Ann - My son living in Town, not content with one of my Girls for a Housekeeper but has got them all three to the great discomfiture of the old folks who are grumbling at New-ham - a devilish cold easterly wind which has prevailed for two Months keeping back vegetation - Taxes encreasing - Trade decreasing - yet when the sun shines we are all merry My son George is going to the next parish to Boston - a poor Curate next a fat Rector but the Country is fertile & will perhaps suit them both - Mr. W. has had a long illness but is now growing well & young again, in appearance - I myself Renovated by a Weeks fit of Cough

Thus we go on here and not ungraciously guessing at your adventures in a strange
Country - which we hope sincerely will prove not only a resource of pleasure to
you, but ultimately of comfort and happiness and as there is no doing well in
this life without some Risks we also hope that fortune will throw a few of them
into your lap towards your ease in your old days - But there is no happiness
without health therefore pray run no risque of losing Health by staying
too long in a bad climate - I am ever & very truly, My dear Sir

London April 24th 1708

Yours William Wilkins

With respect to the last sentence of my dear Father's letter
I hope sincerely you will pay particular attention to, for
you must be well assured my dear Mr. meaning it would
add greatly to the anxiety of your friends here to
know that your health suffered & they not able to
render you the smallest assistance - I need
not repeat to you, how much the sight of your letter
reviv'd our spirits, for altho' we did not doubt but you
would fulfil your promise in writing to us when you
got to Canton, yet the dreadful winds which at that
time prevailed, & which caused so much damage to the
shipping, gave us some reason to fear that your letters
might miscarry - Fanny tells us that there is a parcel
just arriv'd from Canton in which she thinks the parcels
you mentioned being sent us, are most probably inclosed -

You know my dear Sir how much we value any thing
that comes from you, but your letters, are price & treasure,
above than if you sent us all the Riches from the East, &
when they fail we shall attribute it to the winds & waves, or to any
thing but Forgetfulness because our motto is "Do not Fear" - I have fill'd
The paper allotted to my share with a sad merril & have scarcely left room enough to say how much
I love your truly affectionate friend Emma { at your return you will find that our dear Mother cost as our
as ever & her daughter I like to do so

I know it will make you happy to see
the hand writing of each although we
might so well have expressed the sentiments
of the trio; my dear Father has not
half described the joy your letter
gave us; how good you are who have
so many fatigues & dangers daily to
encounter, to suffer the remembrance
of such insignificant beings as Emma
Harnet & Gilette sometimes to occupy
your thoughts; yet I must own we
have some claim to your regard, we lay
you in the affection of Foster & in
the same interest in your welfare & your
happiness—dear Mr Manning do not
forget us, & continue to us ever your
friendship, & as a proof of your remem-
brance, write to us as frequently as possible.

Though last not least in affection to our dear friend, and
notwithstanding we are living in the gay Metropolis, the pleasure
shared with you at Newark, we consider the happiest time we
shall ever again experience, unless you return and renew the
pleasure your society then afforded us, no one looks forward to
this prospect with greater eagerness than dear Mr Manning
your attached and sincere friend Harriett

