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1-31-1798

### Jessey Perovany to Susan Kean, January 1798

Jessey Perovany

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O dear, very dear madam,

how shall I find words to express my thanks for so kind so agreeable a letter? I am charmed, I am enchanted, and I lament it is not in my power to testify by my words, actions, and looks how much I am sensible of your kindness and condescension and I promise if I can help it never to think more you have forgotten me. We do pray let me know all the obligations she has to you, I was delighted altho' it was no more than I expected from you — I made war some time with M<sup>rs</sup> Capron on her account but could not prevail, and I plainly saw he was pre-determined not to assist her, I spoke to every body, I raised her to the skies but was every where baffled; I can assure you dear madam, that she gave me many an anxious thought, in the dead of night my whole frame trembled when I represented to myself her more than dreadful situation, I saw it in all its horrors for I have felt it. O! poverty how I hate thy meagre visage! Heaven preserve me and mine from thy chilly embrace! we have a proverb in my land and I a very true one it is (altho' the wealthy think not of it) a full sorrow is a good sorry but an empty sorrow, who can bear?

I thank you for your information about laidson, it was impossible for the poor sig<sup>r</sup> to secure any thing but he's as happy as if he possessed worlds, provided he has a pencil in one hand, and a piece of bread ~~than~~ <sup>and</sup> ether he's satisfied, he is passionately fond of his profession



continually contemplating the beauties of nature and certainly  
a mind so disposed is more independent than other men.  
he is got engaged at the circus but upon another footing as you may  
suppose since I have the direction he has nothing to do with any  
of the troop 3 wealthy citizens have employed him and they  
have bound themselves to pay him. you <sup>give</sup> me then dear good Mrs  
mean full liberty to indulge my reflections, I bow humbly  
in acknowledgement of so great a favor. heaven be praised I have  
no disagreeable ones to trouble you with at present. but I will  
never forget injuries. especially those that have overwhelmed <sup>me</sup> from a  
certain quarter. no they are of a nature not to be forgotten. you  
say I have I have been greatly indulged in my youth and for that  
reason things appeared to me different from what they did to other  
people, Ah! madam had you been in my place you would  
have thought as I did. mortifications are not to be borne. why write  
me? why press me to come? why receive me with motherly tender-  
ness? and then treat me with wanton and cruelly cruelty to sport with  
those feelings which caused my heart to bleed. She is not yet out of the  
world there is time enough to feel over and over those pangs that she  
has with ecstacy inflicted <sup>on</sup> others. anguish may assault her from all  
the points of the compass, however it is my sincere prayer that the  
eve of her life may be as smooth and tranquil as the morning of it  
has been light and frivolous. my esteem, my love, my friendship  
are so completely fled that I care not what she thinks of <sup>me</sup> nor what  
she says. away with such a subject! it is too disagreeable.

I have long since finished the charming Camilla, I next  
amused my self with the Italian. I read it to ~~the~~ the greatest advantage  
chiefly at midnight it does not much please me. how much to the



to the romance of the forest. I am going now to speak <sup>to</sup> you of a favor-  
ite who is angry with ~~not not~~ notwithstanding I used my best con-  
seavours to <sup>sway</sup> wipe your offence. I told him how much you esteem him  
how you regretted his departure, how happy you would be to see  
him again, but all would <sup>not</sup> if I could not clear <sup>you</sup> in one point  
why does she not write to me? says he, I am persuaded she  
would said if she knew you desired it, her esteem for you is  
so great that she would do any thing to oblige you. that's all nonsense  
replied he, she must know it would give me great pleasure, but  
she don't love me, she don't care for me. why didn't she come and  
see me sooner? it was her earnest desire to go ~~and~~ as soon as she  
heard of your arrival but female delicacy opposed it. why did not  
she come oftener? having no Carriage, <sup>and</sup> living so far off not being  
accustomed to walk owing to a pain she has in her feet. why does  
she not write to me? I dare say she will. Ah when you talk  
I says he, but that won't do, it <sup>ought</sup> to have sprung up in her own

So mighty exigent (as the french say,) is the brave Proserpine  
I had a very long conversation with him, it seems he wrote to ~~her~~ and  
she answered him by ~~her~~. A hurt him exceedingly but he imputes  
to a spirit of pride and an ignorance of the usage of the world she  
is no favorite I can assure you. he pointed her in her true colors and  
he cares not who hears her talk. he sends you his compliments, and  
to ~~Mr~~ plenty of kisses to Peter it was his intention to send him  
something he sends 3 bags to ~~Mr~~ Chardeley, Milton.  
his friend visits me pretty frequently, he waited on me with tickets  
to the presidents hall. ~~Mr~~ would be offended at that if she knew it,  
she would think it was doing me too much honor. I saw it displeas'd her and  
her spouse when I said I was received in genteel houses, and he would insist  
once that I never had been in company with ~~Mr~~ Ternon. ~~Mr~~ Nonstruitt  
passed the evening with us yesterday he begged to give his compliments to you and  
to the ladies. They leave this city in 3 weeks. my Italian kisses your feet.  
It was my intention to have written to ~~you~~ dear friend Peter but



but my paper fails. I hope I shall soon have a favorable opportunity.  
 as for my gown dont be uneasy about it a year hence will just  
 do as well as now. My love and many kisses to peter. I am afraid dear  
 little fellow he's losing time. however you're the best judge  
 adieu dear Madam may you always have your hearts desire is  
 the sincere prayer

10

Mrs J. Hean  
 Elizabeth Town  
 New Jersey

52

of your most obliged most devoted  
 servant  
 and  
 friend  
 Henry Crook  
 my best compliments to your  
 good morning  
 my best compliments to your  
 and the wife's many thanks my love  
 to wife's good, compliments to Mr & Mrs Weston. I am happy to hear there is no further  
 by --- I'm extremely free from the disorder