

Hannah Pattison.

Witham, Saturday evg July 19, 1800

Your letter, my dear friend, should have been immediately answered had I not preferred writing to you at Batterssea & then recollected that I was not in possession of Miss Webb's mother's name. Some time elapsed while writing to Sarah. To request Mr. Disson's information of the cause of my last procrastination I am sure will give you pleasure & point to London. — Your friendship was sought by me, & I hope will be long continued to me, indeed I value your regard as I should never have requested your correspondence. And my opinion of your affection was correct, for your kind letter was quite confirmatory of your previous assurances. — I am almost sorry that you miss my society though the regret is very gratifying yet I love you too well to wish you pained. — My dear Parents & Sister are so well so happy, & cheerful that I rejoice in my last interview exceedingly, had you been at Colebrooke house I would have called, but seeing you was quite impracticable. —

My stay in P. N. was very short, but as the sight of me was wholly unexpected the delight of meeting did

subside soon enough to leave leisure for the regret of
parting, indeed, not appearing thus I could hardly have seen
My wish to return was great for I had been separated
from my dear William almost 3 days. — I assure you
Wells that every week increases my happiness by
pondering me more conversant with my dearest friends
disposition, he is all I could wish him & for more than
I ever expected it possible. How your lovely Prina might
be read that she might perhaps smile at the encomiums
of a fond wife; but did she know William she would
only think I did him simple justice. But you will
think my egotism makes me forgetful of your concerns
indeed my dear girl I long to know what are your
future plans. I am incapable of advising whether your
continued residence with Mrs C — is eligible but probably
your leisure for particular & favorite studies would be
greater in another situation at least the reputation of
the same instruction would be spared & in bestowing
general information your thoughts would probably
be expanded whereas at present your ^{thought} narrow ledge of the
French tongue enables you to dwell on your past converse

without the neglect of duty. I am convinced that change
of society, occupation & mourning would be beneficial
but so many objections may be urged against your
quitting the two former I shall confine myself to
the last. — Your countenance of the sable garb
indicates singularity & ensures the renewal of grief —
It is the province of a friend to point out error & so
sach I consider your fortifying sorrow — Be advised
throw off your mourning & let your sister's character
mellow into a pleasing remembrance One you
might have replied "but not till time has calmed the
we therefore dream of happiness comfort. Do not you
stand in the lecture, does it not remind you of wisdom
part never to return. I need my frequent interference
on this subject is a proof of my affection & as such
receive it. I expected that in the midsummer vacation
Richard had been able to report progress to you as
to reading &c. but alas! my friend, writes to London
the circumventous demands of business & the
arrangement of some trivial concerns, very spiteful to comfort
have employed my time which seems to have impeded
liberty idleness & quiet domestic happiness, do not think

Literary improv^{mt} & domestic happiness

What I speak of there, as one considerable I believe
 them concomitants of hope from experience to tell you
 so: but Winter is the season for settled attention to
 every pursuit. A delightful garden & frequent kind
 invitations to stroll with my beloved William I neither
 have the power nor wish to refuse.

Received of Mrs
 & Misses
 Lane to Clark
 Maria & Sumner
 not forgetting the
 Cobblets & Beer

Mrs. Webb
 Mrs. Jaggies
 of Battersea
 Surrey.
 July 19th

108 Clock
 JY 21
 1800 P.M.

117 1/2
 1800

You must my affectionate friend write to me as often
 as your important engagements will allow, tell me
 all your plans & improvements. I acknowledge myself
 your debtor for mental improvement & as I cannot discharge
 my debt I shall be happy to encure it with kind respects to
 Miss Webster & accept the continued affection, my dear Wells,
 of your obliged &c
 William Patterson