

Chawton,

Friday Jan^y 29.

I hope you received my little parcel by J. Bond on Wednesday even^g, my dear Cassandra, & that you will be ready to hear from me again on Sunday, for I feel that I must write to you to day. Your parcel is safely arrived & everything shall be delivered as it ought. Thank you for your note. As you had not heard from me at that time it was very good in you to write, but I shall not be so much your debtor soon. – I want to tell you that I have got my own darling Child from London; - on Wednesday I received one Copy, sent down by Falknor, with three lines from Henry to say that he had given another to Charles & sent a 3^d by the Coach to Godmersham; just the two Sets which I was least eager for the disposal of. I wrote to him immediately to beg for my two other Sets, unless he would take the trouble of forwarding them at once to Steventon & Portsmouth – not having an idea of his leaving Town before to day; - by your account however he was gone before my Letter was written. The only evil is the delay, nothing more can be done till his return. Tell James & Mary so, with my Love. – For your sake I am as well pleased that it sh^d be so, as it might be unpleasant to you to be in the Neighbourhood at the first burst of the business. – The Advertisement is in our paper to day for the first time; - 18^s – He shall ask £1-1- for my two next, & £1-8- for my stupidest of all. – I shall write to Frank, that he may not think himself neglected. Miss Benn dined with us on the very day of the Books coming, & in the even^g we set fairly at it & read half the 1st vol. to her – prefacing that having intelligence from Henry that such a work w^d soon appear we had desired him to send it whenever it came out - & I believe it passed with her unsuspected. – She was [end of p.1]

[Postscript written upside down at top of p.1]

Since I wrote this Letter we have been visited by M^{rs} Digweed, her Sister & Miss Benn. I gave M^{rs} D. her little parcel, which she opened here & seemed much pleased with - & she desired me to make her best Thanks &c. to Miss Lloyd for it. – Martha may guess how full of wonder & gratitude she was.