

Jane Austen to Cassandra Austen, Thurs 14-15 January 1796

Steventon Thursday

I have just received yours & Mary's Letter, & I thank you both, tho' their contents might have been more agreeable. I do not at all expect to see you on tuesday since matters have fallen out so unpleasantly, & if you are not able to return till after ^{^that} day, it will hardly be possible for us to send for you before Saturday; tho' for my own part I care so little about the Ball that it would be no sacrifice to me to give it up for the sake of seeing you two days earlier. — We are extremely sorry for poor Eliza's Illness—I trust however that she has continued to recover since you wrote, & that you will none of you be the worse for your attendance on her. — What a good-for-nothing-fellow Charles is to bespeak the Stockings! —I hope he will be too hot all the rest of his Life for it!—I sent you a letter yesterday to Ibthrop, which I suppose you will not receive at Kintbury. It was not very long or very witty & therefore if you never receive it, it does [end of p. 1] not much signify. I wrote principally to tell you that the Coopers were arrived & in good health—the little Boy is very like D^r. Cooper & the little Girl is to resemble Jane they say. Our party to Ashe tomorrow night will consist of Edward Cooper, James (for a Ball is nothing without him), Buller, who is now staying with us, & I—I look forward with great impatience to it, as I rather expect to receive an offer from my freind in the course of the Evening — I shall refuse him however unless he promises to give away his white Coat. I am very much flattered by your commendation of my last Letter, for I write only for Fame without any veiv to pecuniary Emolument.—Edward is gone to spend the day with his freind John Lyford, & does not return till tomorrow. Anna is now here; She came up in her chaise to spend the day with her young Cousins; but she does not much take to them or to any thing about them, except Caroline's Spinning-Wheel. I am very glad to find from Mary that M^r. & M^{rs}. Fowle are pleased with you, & I hope you will continue to give Satisfaction. [end of p. 2]

How impertinent you are to write to me about Tom, as if I had not opportunities of hearing from him myself. The last letter that I received from him was dated on friday the 8th, & [^] he told me that if the wind should be favourable on Sunday, which it proved to be, they were to sail from Falmouth on that Day. By this time therefore they are at Barbadoes I suppose. The Rivers are still at Manydown & are to be at Ashe tomorrow. I intended to call on the Miss Biggs yesterday, had the weather been tolerable. Caroline, Anna & I have just been devouring some cold Souse, & it would be difficult to say which enjoyed it most—Tell Mary that I make over M^r. Heartley & all his Estate to her for her sole use & Benefit in future, & not only him but all my other Admirers into the bargain wherever she can find them, even the kiss which C. Powlett wanted to give me, as I mean to confine myself in future to M^r. Tom Lefroy, for whom I donot care sixpence. Assure her also as a last & indubitable proof of Warren's indifference to me, that he actually drew that Gentleman's picture for me, & delivered it to me without a Sigh. — [end of p. 3]

Friday—

At length the Day is come on which I am to flirt my last with Tom Lefroy, & when you receive this, it will be over—My tears flow as I write, at the melancholy idea. W^m. Chute called here yesterday. I wonder what he means by being so civil. There is a report that Tom is going to be married to a Litchfield Lass. — [address panel]

John Lyford & his Sister bring Edward home to day, dine with us & we shall all go together to Ashe. I understand that we are to draw for Partners.—I shall be extremely impatient to hear from you again, that I may know how Eliza is, & when you are to return. With best Love, &c. I am affec:^{te}ly Yours

J: Austen

[middle of p. 4] Miss Austen,
The Rev.^d Mr. Fowle's,
Kintbury,
Newbury [inscribed at right angles in the address panel]