

## Jane Austen to Cassandra Austen, 15 – 16 September 1813

Henrietta S<sup>t</sup>. Wednesday—½ past 8—

Here I am my dearest Cassandra, seated in the Breakfast, Dining, sitting room, beginning with all my might. Fanny will join me as soon as she is dressed & begin her Letter. — We had a very good Journey—Weather & roads excellent—the three first stages for 1<sup>s</sup>–6<sup>d</sup> & our only misadventure the being delayed about a q<sup>r</sup>. of an hour at Kingston for Horses, & being obliged to put up with a p<sup>r</sup>. belonging to a Hackney Coach & their Coachman, which left no room on the Barouche Box for Lizzy, who was to have gone her last stage there, as she did the first;—consequently we were all 4 within, which was a little crowd.—We arrived at a q<sup>r</sup>. past 4—& were kindly welcomed by the Coachman, & then by his Master, & then by W<sup>m</sup>, & then by M<sup>rs</sup>. Perigord, who all met us before we reached the foot of the Stairs. —M<sup>de</sup>. Bigeon was below dressing us a most comfortable dinner of Soup, Fish, Bouillée, Partridges & an apple Tart, which we sat down to soon after 5, after cleaning & dressing ourselves & feeling that we were most commodiously disposed of.—The little adjoining Dressing-room to our apartment makes Fanny & myself very well off indeed, & as we have poor Eliza's bed, our space is ample every way.—Sace arrived safely about ½ past 6. — At 7 we set off in a Coach for the Lyceum—were at home again in about 4 hours & ½—had soup & wine & water, & then went to our Holes. — Edward finds his quarters very snug & quiet.—I must get a softer pen.—This is harder. I am in agonies.—I have not yet seen M<sup>r</sup>. Crabbe.—Martha's Letter is gone to the Post. — [end of p. 1]

I am going to write nothing but short Sentences. There shall be two full stops in every Line. —Layton & Shears is Bedford House. We mean to get there before Breakfast. — (if it's possible.) — For we feel more & more how much we have to do. And how little <sup>Time</sup>. This House looks very nice. —It seems like Sloane S<sup>t</sup>. moved here. I beleive Henry is just rid of Sloane S<sup>t</sup>.—Fanny does not come, but I have Edward seated by me, beginning a Letter, which looks natural. —Henry has been suffering from the pain in the face which he has been subject to before. He caught cold at Matlock, & since his return has been paying a little for past pleasure.—It is nearly removed now—but he looks thin in the face—either from the pain, or the fatigues of his Tour, which must have been great. —Lady Robert is delighted with P&P—& really was so as I understand before she knew who wrote it—for of course she knows now.—He told her with as much satisfaction as if it were my wish. —He did not tell me this, but he told Fanny. —And M<sup>r</sup>. Hastings — I am quite delighted with what such a Man writes about it. —Henry sent him the Books after his return from Daylesford—but you will hear the Letter too. — Let me be rational & return to my two full stops. I talked to Henry at the Play last night. —We were in a private Box.—M<sup>r</sup>. Spencer's. —Which made it much more pleasant. —The Box is directly on the Stage. —One is infinitely less fatigued than in the common way.—But Henry's plans are not what one could wish. He does not mean to be at Chawton till y<sup>e</sup> 29.—He must be in Town again by Oct<sup>r</sup>. 5.—His plan is to get a couple of days of Pheasant Shooting & then return directly; his wish was to bring you back with him. [end of p. 2] I have told him your scruples.—He wishes you to suit yourself as to time. And if you cannot come till later, will send for you at any time, as far as Bagshot.—He presumed you w<sup>d</sup>. not find difficulty in getting so far. —I c<sup>d</sup> not say you would. —He proposed your going with him into Oxfordshire. It was his own thought at first. I could not but catch at it for you. —We have talked of it again this morn<sup>g</sup> — (for now we have breakfasted) and I am

convinced that if you can make it suit in other respects you need not scruple on his account. —If you cannot come back with him on y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> therefore, I do hope you will contrive to go to Adlestrop.—By not beginning your absence till about the middle of this month I think you may manage it very well. —But you will think all this over. —One c<sup>d</sup>. wish he had intended to come to you ~~early~~ <sup>earlier</sup>, but it cannot be helped. — I said nothing ~~of~~ <sup>to</sup> him of M<sup>rs</sup>. H. & Miss B.— that he might not suppose Difficulties. —

Shall not you put them into our own Room? —This seems to me the best plan—& the Maid will be most conveniently near. Oh! dear me, when I shall ever have done? — We did go to Layton & Shears before Breakfast. —Very pretty English Poplins at 4.3. —Irish D<sup>o</sup> —at 6— more pretty certainly—beautiful.—Fanny & the two little girls are gone to take Places for to night at Covent Garden; Clandestine Marriage & Midas —the latter will be fine shew for L. & M.—They revelled last night in Don Juan, whom we left in Hell at ½ past 11. —We had Scaramouch & a Ghost—& were delighted;—I speak of them;— my delight was very tranquil, & the rest of us were sober minded. —Don Juan was the last of 3 musical things;— Five Hours at Brighton, in 3 acts—of which one was over before we arrived, none the worse—& The Beehive, rather less flat & trumpery. I have this moment rec<sup>d</sup>. £5 —from kind, beautiful Edward. Fanny has a <sup>similar</sup> Gift. —I shall save what I can ~~out~~ of it, for your better leisure in this place. [end of p. 3] My Letter was from Miss Sharp.—Nothing particular.—A letter from Fanny Cage this morn<sup>g</sup>. —4 o'clock.—We are just come back from doing M<sup>rs</sup>. Tickars, Miss Hare, & M<sup>r</sup>. Spence. —M<sup>r</sup>. Hall is here; & while Fanny is under his hands, I will try to write a little more. Miss Hare had some pretty Caps, & is to make me one like one of them, only white sattin instead of Blue. —It will be White sattin & Lace, & a little white flower peeking out of the left ear, like Harriot Byron's feather. I have allowed her to go as far as £1-16. — My Gown is to be trimmed every where with white ribbon plaited on, somehow or other. —She says it will look well. —I am not sanguine. —They trim with white very much. —I learnt from M<sup>rs</sup>. Tickars's young Lady, to my high amusement, that the stays now are not made to force the Bosom up at all;—that was a very unbecoming, unnatural fashion. — I was really glad to hear that they are not to be so much off the shoulders as they were. Going to M<sup>r</sup>. Spence's was a sad Business & cost us many tears, unluckily we were obliged to go a 2<sup>d</sup>. time before he could do more than just look;—we went 1<sup>st</sup>. at ½ past 12, & afterwards at 3. Papa with us each time—& alas! we are <sup>to</sup> go again tomorrow. Lizzy is not finished yet. There have been no Teeth taken out however, nor will be I beleive, but he finds hers in a very bad state, & seems to think particularly ill of their Durableness.—They have been all cleaned, hers filed & are to be filed again. —There is a very sad hole between two of her front Teeth. —

This not seeing much of Henry. I have just seen him however for 3 minutes, & have read him the Extract from M<sup>rs</sup>. F. A's Letter —& he says he will write to M<sup>rs</sup>. Tho. A. about it, & has no doubt of being attended to, as he knows they feel themselves obliged to him. — Perhaps you may see him on Saturday next. He has just started such an idea. But it will be only for a couple of days. —Thursday morn<sup>g</sup> ½ past 7.—Up & dressed & down stairs in order to finish my Letter in time for the Parcel. —At 8 I have an [end of p. 4] appointment with M<sup>de</sup>. B. who wants to shew me something down stairs. At 9 we are to set off for Grafton House & get that over before breakfast. Edward is so kind as to walk there with us. —We are to be at M<sup>r</sup>. Spence's again at 11, & from that time shall be driving about I suppose till 4 o'clock at least.—We are if possible to call on M<sup>rs</sup>. Tilson. —M<sup>r</sup>. Hall was very punctual yesterday & curled me out at a great rate. —I thought it looked hideous & longed for a snug Cap instead, but my companions silenced me by their admiration. — I had only a bit of velvet

round my head. — I did not catch cold however. The weather is all in my favour. — I have had no pain in my face since I left you. — We had very good places, in the Box next the Stage Box—front & 2<sup>d</sup>. row, the three old ones behind of course.—I was particularly disappointed at seeing nothing of M<sup>r</sup>. Crabbe. — I felt sure of him when I saw that the Boxes were fitted up with Crimson velvet. — The new M<sup>r</sup>. Terry was L<sup>d</sup>. Ogleby, & Henry thinks he may do — but there <sup>^was</sup> no acting more than moderate; & I was as much amused by the remembrances connected with Midas as with any part of it. — The Girls were very much delighted, but still prefer Don Juan—& I must say that I have seen nobody on the stage who has been a more interesting Character than that compound of Cruelty & Lust. — It was not possible for me to get the Worsteds yesterday. — I heard Edward last night pressing Henry to come to G<sup>m</sup> —& I think Henry engaged to go there after his November Collection. — Nothing has been done as to S&S. The Books came to hand too late for him to have time for it, before he went. — M<sup>r</sup>. Hastings never hinted at Eliza in the smallest degree.—Henry knew nothing of M<sup>r</sup>. Trimmer's death. — I tell you these things, that you may not have to ask them over again. — There is a new Clerk sent down to Alton, a M<sup>r</sup>. Edmund Williams, a young Man whom Henry thinks most highly of—& he turns out to be a son of the luckless Williamses of Grosvenor Place. I long to have you hear M<sup>r</sup>. H.'s opinion of P&P. His admiring my Elizabeth so much is particularly welcome to me. [end of p. 5] Instead of saving my superfluous wealth for you to spend, I am going to treat myself with spending it myself. I hope at least, that I shall find some poplin at Layton <sup>^&</sup> Shears that will tempt me to buy it. — If I do, it shall be sent to Chawton, as half will be for you; for I depend upon your being so kind as to accept it, being the main point. — It will be a great pleasure to me. Dont say a word. — I only wish you could chuse too. — I shall send 20 yards. — Now for Bath. Poor F. Cage has suffered a good deal from her accident. — The noise of the White Hart was terrible to her.—They will keep her quiet I dare say. She is not so much delighted with the place as the rest of the Party; probably, as she says herself, from having been less well; but she thinks she sh<sup>d</sup>. like it better in the Season. — The Streets are very empty now, & the Shops not so gay as she expected. — They are at No. 1. Henrietta S<sup>t</sup>—the corner of Laura Place; & have no acquaintance at present but the Bramstons. — Lady B. drinks at the Cross Bath, her Son at the Hot, & Louisa is going to Bathe. — D<sup>r</sup>. Parry seems to be half starving M<sup>r</sup>. Bridges; for he is restricted to much such a Diet as James's, Bread, Water & Meat, & is never to eat so much of that as he wishes;—& he is to walk a great deal, walk till he drops I beleive, Gout or no Gout. — It really is to that purpose; I have not exaggerated. — Charming Weather for you & us & the Travellers & every body. You will take your walk this afternoon & ... [end of letter missing]

[p. 7 blank]

[p. 8] Miss Austen

Chawton

By favour of M<sup>r</sup> Gray [inscribed at right angles in the address panel]