

To the Lady
Madam,
Lyon. 1683.

Copie

I was new of the opinion of the ancient Roman poet,
 maintaining that no Woman was ever borne with a
 only uterine oyle should be it towards procreation
 I could not imagine till now, that y^r Lad^{ship} had been pleased
 to awake, and to give me some reason why she had kept so long
 still, will be inquisitive about the validity of that
 reason, y^r ~~only~~ will and pleasure having always
 been the rule of mine, and no satisfaction provided beyond
 y^r own: which I hope, madam, y^r are to find most absolute
 and complaisant in the journey y^r are proposing to the Pralls,
 and that there y^r will wash of so will all y^r infirmities
 that we may see y^r Lad^{ship} returne provided of a paire
 of Regent's hats, fatts and plumps, and such as I suppose
 they were a dozen years since. In such a case we will
 all long to see them at the Haye, though I make no account
 that y^r should be intended to trimme them up as the dutchess
 of Lorraine told me y^r noble Cousine of Newcastle doth
 use to doe, by binding a girdle piece of Ribon at the top of
 every one, and so appearing au Tour a la mode. I am
 fallen upon this Lady, by the late Lecture of Dr Woodfall
 Booke, whose extravagant stories kept me from sleeping -
 a great part of last night, in this my little solitude,
 where, since y^r Lad^{ship} hath seen it, I have built two Comfy
 glasswindowed Cabines at the water side, making now more
 use of them, than of the whole Castle of Hefringh, which
 by this means is grown to a mighty and stately building,
 as every thing in this world is great or small only by comparison.
 I dare not invite y^r L^{ady} to the view of these wonders but
 after y^r halting, when I hope y^r will stand by y^r word
 and come to informe us, what may be the reason of y^r famous
 Sybilla's riddling, and which way she may be gone, this being
 a most strange kind of news to us, as never having heard of it
 before. Plainly the tower of Abbe is a mighty lofty one,
 and should have ended in by all possible violent civilities
 so that the story of that Prison had been provided where she

hall so gloriously spend the best part of his life
If it were not too much trouble to y^e L. I could wish
to know in general, what may have occasioned so sudden
a resolution. And thus praying God almighty, to bless
that of y^e L. with a most prosperous success, I remain
as ever, and for ever y^e.

Many a new Almande, Courade, Serabande and such like
are to wait upon y^e L. coming, after I shall have
muster'd them before little ma sarr Françoise; who, I hope
will see us before winter, men for five days having some occasion
of his trade to deal wth his Highⁿ. And she will be free
from Turbulence againe.

To my Lady
at Tyltinge
23. Feb. 16