

To the Lady
Madam,
17th. 1683.

Copie.

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I was new of the opinion of the ancient Roman poets,
maintaining that no Woman was ever borne with a
Widow's eye should be it towards her husband's
I could not imagine till now, that y^e Lad^d had been pleased
to awake, and to give me some reason why she had kept so long
I will be inquisitive about the validity of that
reason, y^e ~~only~~ will and pleasure having always
been the rule of mine, and no satisfaction provided beyond
y^e own: which I hope, madam, y^e are to find most absolute
and complete in the journey y^e are proposing to the Bells,
and that there y^e will wash of so will all y^e infirmities
that we may see y^e Lad^d returne provided of a pair
of Regent's fatt and plump, and such as I suppose
they were a dozen years since. In such a case we will
all long to see them at the Stage, though I make no account
that y^e should be intended to trimme them up as the dutchess
of Lorraine told me y^e noble Countess of Newcastle doth
use to doe, by binding a girdle piece of Ribon at the top of
every one, and so appearing au Tour à 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^e Lad^d hath seen it, I have built two County
glasswindowed Cabines at the water side, making now more
use of them, than of the whole Castle of Hovingham, 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^e L^d to the view of these wonders but
after y^e Balling, when I hope y^e will stand by y^e word
and come to informe us, what may be the reason of y^e famous
Syllas rimeing, and which way she may be gone, this being
a most charge kind of news to us, as never having heard of it
before. Plainly the house of Abrell is a mighty house by it,
and should have ended in by all possible violent civilities
so that the story of that Prince 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 waite 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 the 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