

30
Stills Street Saturday morn

Dear Madam

Your obliging letter yesterday
was a very pleasant cordial to a poor Invalid. I had so
worn down my flimsy constitution by going to the Royal
Drawing room on Thursday morning, visiting in the
afternoon, & staying late in the evening at an assembly
that I was ~~too~~ ill to get any sleep all night, & yesterday
was but half alive. I rose much better this morning,
but expecting a great deal of company, ^{at dinner}, I thought discretion
required me to manage mon soufflé de vie by keeping
myself in quiet solitude till the friends I had engaged
arrived, so I gave an order to my Porter not to let any
Person enter, & you as Lady's Porter, tho he has but one
head, & that perhaps not a good one, keeps as guard as
strict as Cerberus himself would do, so alas this human
Cerberus denied entrance to Mr Thrale, at which I
was exceedingly mortified, he was gone past recall before
I knew he had call'd, for I was but just now informed

of Feb, & I have not been in good humours since, for I really
longed to see him. You will make me very happy whenever
you will call, but as I am engaged on Monday, I shall
hope for that favour on Tuesday morning, if you
cannot give me the happiness of seeing you then, bes
of you to let me know when you can. I take ye are
every fine day when nothing better engages me
therefore am glad you should not come at an uncertainty.
Are you not shocked at that Mr Macaulay has
taken Minerva from her couch to put Venus couchant
& Cupid rampant in the place of ye chaste & prudent
Goddess? Had she married one of ye Congress, or even
a distant descendant of one of ye Presidencies it had
been in character, but a surgeon's mate aged 22, it is
both posing strange & wondrous pitiful!

The same morning which brought me yr letter
was so beautiful as I wish to bestow on me for
new Publication, Moral eclogues, which if you have
not seen, I will venture to recommend, they are perfectly
classical, & in my humble opinion the nearest ^{to Virgil} in elegance
suitable to pastoral subjects & characters of any I have

seen. When is ye lovely Stratford? I beg my compl^{ts}
to Mr Thrale, & tell him I trust he knows out-
better than to be discouraged by ye foolish denial Miss
Gregory is much yr & Miss Thrale's, & also Mr Thrale most
obed^t my affectionate compl^{ts} attend Miss Thrale & my blessing
the fair Goddaughter.

I am Dear Friend am

Yours most affectionately

L. G. Montagu

Elizabeth Montagu

that yr good heart may
not feel painful compunction
I will tell you my indisposition
was accidental & that I have
been very well in ye main
since I saw you. If Dr Johnson
is with you I beg my affectionate
respects to him