To Wm. Delany.

May 16, 1759

You have inexpressibly obliged me, good Madam, by your kind and judicious Remarks on the two Letters. Were I so favored, as to receive occasionally the Benefit of your Correction and Instruction, therewith I should find every Opportunity, that any Health and Safety could afford me, to proceed. You have confirmed me, Madam, in my Opinion, by Hope the more, that nobody living can give me Help for forming my Good Plan, so much as my Wife on the Lady of the Dean of Down. Why are you, dear Lady? As who was the Beloved Sister of the Honorable Richard Sir John Stanley? You were pleased to tell me, that, with regard to the modern Politic., you were of the same Opinion. I, Madam, am of no Opinion at all—but do I not propose to go back 20 Years for the Time of my Brother's Appearance, were you right, which were cannot be, in your Opinion? And may not all or most of the Calumniators of late State matters call for Reprisal more Applied?—Hence the suspected Iniquity of love-Lace's Pye-Wig, and Clarice's front-Cloak at St. Albe's, instead of a Reprisal, for which I have been failed at? To bring the Age, or rather to throw in my Stake to help to bring the Age, from what it is, to what it should be, the End, is not in this Case (not to exclude the amably polite) to whom can I so properly apply as to Wm. Delany?

I have not yet done myself the Honor of introducing myself to Mrs. D. It is hardly to be how much my Time has been filled up of late. My Sioness Lady has not been able to take up a portion of it. My Business has had more Calls upon me, than I have been able to perform and a certain Required, especially when I have an high Opinion. And I am too much addicted in life to hope to overcome it. But I intend to pay my Respect soon to that good Lady; yet as Time has elapsed, perhaps, Madam, you would think of some Method, that I might go with a better Grace, than I now, I fear, can do.

I have had the Honor of a Visit at St. Et from the Bishop of Oxford and Stroweler, and Miss Pocock, and her Mother. Do you think, Madam, I was not very proud of it? Indeed I was.

That which the good Dean and you, and your Brother and Sister, made me. This of the two.

Signature:

Samuel Richardson

Samuel Richardson 1689-1764
Bishops, and keep two excellent ladies: And more than one, from Lady A. will add without fail have made me look upon my house as it would with more pleasure than I had done of long time before.

I have sent to Mr. Livingston the order about the books: which he will carefully receive.

I find one only of the essays on Pythagoras, having no more Pythagorean will do for that, and for this letter. The Dean will be glad I give me his commands as to the rest, and I will speak Mr. Livingston, in whose way it lies, with the observance of him.

I am got pretty forward in an abridged edition of Clarissa. Sorry I am, that I did not pass your objection as to the wind entries. I don’t love to have my ladies delight to be thought affected. Yet I might not have ladies so ready to give up to the wind, as not to be thought ever knowing (as reading and writing ladies) at 20, as men of 20. If ladies give, men will take. Overmodesty will suffer always by arrogance. Yet entries as intellect, to which you so properly object, I wish I had observed. I want machinery, however, to impel the ladies with a little more candor than that of Dell and Passion. To have them laughed at by the men for their conversations about passion; yet to deny them the more solid talents, to make them submit as learners, to make they are able to teach, on the thin of being otherwise thought affectionate—Indeed I can’t bear it.

I have but few left of the 2d edition, and shall print one in February from the octavo, having printed but a small number of the latter. Will you, good Madam, favour me with any corrections, any observations, that you may remember to have made as you read it?

If my wretched hand writing is illegible, or painful to read, the kind that wrote the two letters shall translate. Hope I may have the means of writing to you better. May, good Madam, that I promise myself a subsistence of your favours at your full leisure.

I hope this letter will find you and the good Town safely and happily arrived at your Felicity. May sound Health, and fine spirits continue for many very happy years to bless you both together, pray, Dear and good lady,

Your greatly obliged, and most faithful, humble servant

S. Richardson

May 13, 1750.
To Mrs. Delany
16 May 1750

You have inexpressibly obliged me, good Madam, by your kind and judicious Remarks on the two Letters. Were I so situated, as to receive occasionally the Benefit of your Correction and Instruction, then might I be fond of taking every Opportunity, that my Health and Business could afford me, to proceed. You have confirmed me, Madam, in my Opinion, by these Remarks, that nobody living can give me Help for forming my good Man, so much to my wishes as the Lady of the Dean of Down [i.e. Mrs. Delany herself]. Whose are you, dear Lady? - And who was the beloved Niece of my honoured friend Sir John Stanley [again Mrs. Delany herself]? - You were pleased to tell me, that, with regard to the modern Polite, you were of the Spencer-Standing. - I, Madam, am of no Standing at all - But do I not propose to go back 20 Years for the Prime of my Characters Appearance, were there Weight, which there cannot be, in your Diffidence? And may not all or most of the Politeness of later date rather call for Censure than Applause? - (Hence the supposed Impossibility of Lovelace's Tye-Wig, and Clarissa's short Cloak at St. Alban's, instead of a Capuchin, for which I have been smiled at.) To bring the Age, or rather to throw in my Mite to help to bring the Age, from what it is, to what it should be, must be the Endeavour, - And in this Case (not to exclude the laudably Polite) to whom can I so properly apply as to Mrs. Delany?

I have not yet done myself the Honour of introducing myself to Mrs. D. It is hardly to be [believed?] how much my Time has been filled up of late. My Lancashire Lady has most agreeably taken up a portion of it. My business has had more Calls upon me, than I have been able to answer. And a certain Sheepishness, especially when I have an high Opinion - And I am too much advanced in Life to hope to overcome it. But I intend to pay my Respects soon to that good Lady - Yet, as Time has elapsed, perhaps, Madam, you could think of some Method, that I might go with a better Grace, than I now, I fear, can do.

I have had the Honour of a Visit at N. End from the Bishops of Oxford and Gloucester, and Miss Talbot, and her Mother. Do you think, Madam, I was not very proud of it? Indeed I was. That which the good Dean and You, and your Brother and Sister, made me: This of the two Bishops, and those two excellent Ladies: And more than one from Lady B.[radshaigh] with and without Sir R.[oger] have made me look upon my House at N. End with more Pleasure, than I had done of long time before.

I have sent to Mr. Rivington the Orders about the Books; which he will carefully execute.

I find one only of the Essay on on Tythes, having no more Franks than will do for that, and for this Letter. The Dean [Mrs. Delany's husband Patrick, the Dean of Down]
will be pleased to give me his Commands as to the rest; and I will task Mr. Rivington, in whose way it lies, with the Observance of them.

I am got pretty forward in an 8vo Edition of Clarissa. Sorry I am, that I had got past your Objection to the Word Ethics. I don't love to have my Ladies deserve to be thought affected. Yet I must not have Ladies so ready to give up to the Men, as not to be thought as knowing (if reading and writing Ladies) at 20, as Men of 20. - If Ladies give, Men will take. Over-modesty will suffer always by Arrogance. Yet Ethic (as Intellect, to which you so properly object) I wish I had adressed. I want, methinks, however, to inspire the Ladies with a Pride more laudable than that of Dress and Fashion. To have them laughed at by the Men for their Conversations about Fashions, yet to deny them the more solid Talents; to make them submit as Learners, to those they are able to teach, on the Pain of being otherwise thought affected - Indeed I can't bear it.

I have but few left of the 2d Edition, and shall print one in Twelve from the Octavo, having printed but a small Number of the latter. Will you, good Madam, favour me with any Corrections, any Observations, that you may remember to have made as you read it?

If my wretched Hand-writing is illegible, or painful to read, the Hand that wrote the two Letters shall transcribe those I may have the Honour of writing to you hereafter. You see, good Madam, that I promise myself a Continuance of your Favour at your full Leisure.

I hope this Letter will find you and the good Dean safely and happily arrived at your Delville. May sound Health, and free Spirits, continue for many very happy Years to bless you both together, prays, Dear and Good Lady,

Your greatly Obliged, and most faithful, humble Servant,

S. RICHARDSON

May 16 1750

In excellent condition. Richardson's name in red ink and pencil, and a few pencilled words in German, are at the foot of the recto, and Richardson's name in pencil is at the foot of the verso, far to the left of the signature. The signature itself has been underlined in red ink.