

Capt<sup>r</sup> W. D.

Lubbock 20<sup>th</sup> August 1786

Dear Sir

However improperly  
the Odious Term of Old Bachelor may  
have come from me, I shall be glad  
to learn you have expunged your  
name out of our list & entered your-  
self into the fraternity of your wise  
Brother & my partner and that you  
have before now Legally got under  
the lee of the Amiable Army Dow's  
petticoat, if you have I am con-  
vinced from Mrs Johnston's high  
opinion of that lovely girl & your  
own more than lukewarm Epithet  
you will be infinitely more happy  
than in the tasteless insipid state  
of Celibacy can possibly afford you:  
However far my inclination might  
have led me, or that the Connection  
might have been agreeable to either  
of the lovely objects you allude to  
I have the mortification to inform  
you that a wise and all directing  
Providence has seen fit to deprive  
me of the world of their indearing  
persons being both cut off in the  
bloom of life by a scarlet fever  
& gangrenous sore throat Miss  
Hetty on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & Miss Wainy on  
the 4<sup>th</sup> March last after an illness  
of a very few days, both laying  
Corpses in the House at the same day  
— a melancholy instance of the

futility of all sublimary things  
This disorder was very prevalent  
& mortal in Town this Spring <sup>173</sup> especi-  
ally among young people of a plethoric  
Habit & that manly promising Boy  
Billy Mackrider also fell a victim  
to its rage. — Mrs Johnston was  
attacked by it at same time with the  
Miss Taylors & was some time before  
she recovered her health, but I have the  
pleasure to acquaint you that the  
sprightly healthfull air of Lilac Hill  
(where she, Mrs Johnston & their Boy  
a most lovely promising Child have  
spent the Summer) has contributed to  
her perfect recovery.

That you may long live with  
Health to enjoy it is the sincere  
wish of Dr Sir

Yours &c