

My dear Margaret

April 1825

I have long wished to trouble you with a letter, but for the humiliating thought that my former letter was not thought worthy of an answer, but what may be your thoughts on this subject, I consider you as owing me a ^{debt} ~~letter~~ which if you do not discharge, I shall tax you with ingratitude. I imagined your cousin Margaret could tell me some news about you but, she pleads ignorant, as you have treated her as shabbily in the way of correspondence as you have done me, and she has not been ~~blest~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~sight~~ ~~of~~ you since last Christmas. I admire your cousin very much for her ~~guilt~~ of the sin of exaggeration, in describing her perfections, so I acquit you on that score. She has been giving me a long account of adventures up the country, I think she told me something of a Mr Ashby. are you acquainted with such a character? but I am sure you are not, you never heard of him before! if you ascent to this I shall be very apt to accuse you of telling white T's. But I am in hopes that you are so totally engrossed with your studies that you have not a thought to throw away on such trash, and believe me my Dear Margaret that the love of literature and love of beaux cannot both reign in the heart, at least it is so with me, I shall endeavour

