

CH 380

Loanhead June 1st 1844

My dear Uncle

I am afraid you will
think me very negligent in writing
you but better late than never, I
have heard say your last commu-
nication came punctually to hand
and I intended to write you at that
time but not being in my usual health
I felt a disinclination to write my
mind was so deppressed with past
events and not feeling well nor strong
but I have reason to bless the Lord
that He has restored me almost
if not entirely to my usual health
and vigour, and first of all I must
inform you about an accident that
happened to me and which I am very
much troubled about you was so kind
and indulgent to me as to send me
your own portrait and I was so delight-
ed

with it and the first time I went to
Huntly I had it along with me in a
the wind was blowing very hard and ^{small basket} and
when I went to Huntly and opened my basket
so my much prized portrait was gone
I am almost ashamed to ask you for another
and yet I am more anxious than ever
to obtain it now that I have seen you
I was sure you would be very much
stunned at the intelligence of my Brothers
Death, Alas the King of Texas has been
no stranger among us he has written
us again and again till we are few
in number Oh it is a sad dreary home
to me now deprived almost at once of
the companionship of my Mother and
Brother, alone almost in the wide wide
world I know what you would reply to
me you have your Father tis true and
I ought to be very thankful but I loved
my Mother best she was so kind and
gentle still I ought not to murmur for
I know she is infinitely happier than she

she could have been here her end was
peace but oh it was not so with William
the day will declare it but his Death would
not have been half so severe upon us if
he had had light through the valley
but it was all darkness the Lord knoweth
why Satan was permitted to have such
power over him I cannot believe that he
is a castaway and yet I shudder to rem-
ember the despairing expressions that
escaped his lips it may be the Lord
was punishing him for some secret
sin and snatched him as a brand
from the burning after as it were sus-
pending him over it, he was not without
his faults but I never knew him indulge
in any known sin, and I always
thought he had in him some good
thing toward the Lord God of Israel
Oh it were good for the thoughtless world
to stand by a Deathbed such as his
I often trembled to be in the immediate
presence of the evil ones he spoke of surround-
ing

him Oh the realities of Eternity how little
thought of and yet how near it will
be but a little time when we will all
meet around the great white throne
I have many dear Friends that I would
like to meet at the Banquets right hand
God grant that none of them be wanting
We are to have two days open air
meetings at Huntly the same as last
year God willing, but many in and around
Huntly that attended last year will
be absent experiencing the realities of ~~the~~
eternall world. There is still a deeper feeling
prevailing all classes mostly in this district
although many a fair blossom has pro-
duced no fruit still. He has been gathering
in His chosen ones, and I trust He has
got an abundant harvest in store.

I mentioned in my last that I
believed my Father would not
keep the Farm but he has been
advised it seems to keep it I am a
little disapointed but I never said

so to him I like the place well en-
ough but it keeps me confined and
then we lie at too great a distance
from Thurtly to attend any of their
evening meetings and besides I can
only get a sermon once a Fortnight
but I have never interfered with his
arrangements and if God had ordered
it otherwise He could have put it
into his heart I feel another want
in the want of society nobody to open
my mind to but servants for I suppose
you know that my Father has a still
disposition does not like to be spoken
to and rarely allows me to quit home
but why should I complain nobody
wants their trials and should I
be exempt from mine I have been
very ungrateful for the book you
sent me our Minister and others
think it is a most valuable book
of its kind a work much needed

and that the author has been fully
competent of the task he had in
hand & mean the Archer I do not
recollect anything of importance at present
I saw the Duke last week he is a
half looking old man I have not heard
from Boyndie for some time when I did
hear last my Aunt was very frail
Please present our compliments to your
Son and his Lady and Family and
accept the same for yourself my Father
is in his usual health I hope this
will find you all well.

Please dont follow my example
but write soon as I am hopeful you
will with your usual indulgence
overlook my neglect and with many
thanks for past kindnesses.

I remain

Your affectionate Niece

Jane Austen

1 June 1861

Dear Mrs. Austen
Letter