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1769, June 25 - Ann McDowall

Ann McDowell

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My Dear Mary
Antigua 25th June 1796

I am extremely happy to have it
in my power to write you a few lines. by the
youngest Mr. M. Fish. who goes to Antigua for a
few Months. I hope you and Mr. Martin are both
well and happy. This I am at a great distance from
you. I find myself a good deal interested in your
welfare. and should have been much pleased to
have heard from you frequently. I cannot think but
you must have wrote me. tho I have not had a letter
from you since 93. I heard from Aunt Sherry lately
she tells me that you had been to visit them.)
~~My~~ My uncle is highly pleased with
both yourself. and your visit. He wrote my brother
of it. and spoke of you in such friendly terms.
that I am inclined to be better pleased with him
than I used to be in former times. I should have
had no objection to make one in your party. for
I must say that I still am very partial to Scotland
but I begin to think that I am tied to this country
for life. there is no prospect of my brothers ever lea-
ving it. and where he is. must be my home.
I must now say something of this family. who are

1796
Ann & Mr. Dorval
Admrs. Antigua 25 June

William

Mrs. Martin

all in good health. My Brother has a son and daughter the girl is more than ten. and as like my sister Betty as she can be. the boy is 12 years. tall and well looked. they are busy learning French. my family consists of little Robt & my Daughter - had it not been for the war. you would have seen both by this time. his father being anxious that he should see the old people. I cannot help observing. that what will make them happy. will make me miserable. to take that Child from me. is robbing me of one half of my hearts Delight. I hope that period is at some distance. I have got him dressed in jacket and britches. & without vanity he nearly looks handsome. Leprie is Clops at school. the reads and spells a little and can work some at the needle. but her dancing has excels all her other performances. I went to the last Ball. she opened it with a minuet. to the admiration of all the company. being so little. she was only between five & six years old then. thick and short. like myself. I cannot say whether my heart was most inclined to be glad. or sorrowfull on this occasion. I believe it felt both sensations. very strongly. I must say it pleased ^{not} me to see her perform so well. at some time I could help indulging some

^{thinking} melancholy reflections. on how much more reason my poor heart would have had to rejoice. had its dearest partner been alive to have shared in the pleasing sight. but reflections will avail me nothing and here I must stop. you was at Kenilworth when you wrote. let me have a description of that place. I am told it ^{is} mended for the better. & must say there was great room for improvement. in its inhabitants at least. I was quite disgusted with their narrow minded. long before I left it. you will be George who can tell you all about us. I look on all the three Mr. McKays to be my Brothers they have all ^{me} treated as such. my love to their good old Mother. and if she will not take little Robt from me. I will pray for her long life My best wishes attend you and Mr. Martin. My Brother & Mrs. King Comfits to you both. I must conclude. with wishing you every happiness heaven can bestow. hope to hear from you soon. I am Dear Mary

your affectionate Cousin

P. S.

Ann Mc Donnell

I wrote you by white havers. as far back as 9th. but think you never got it