Appendix

Burns and "Clarinda" Manuscript Letters
from the
G. Ross Roy Collection of Robert Burns & Scottish Poetry
University of South Carolina Libraries

1. Facsimile of autograph letter from Robert Burns ("Sylvander") to Agnes M'Lehose ("Clarinda"), 1 p., [January 12, 1788]. First published 1843; in *Letters of Robert Burns*, ed. Roy (1985), I: 205.
2. Facsimile of autograph letter from Robert Burns ("Sylvander") to Agnes M'Lehose ("Clarinda"), 2 pp., [February, 1788]. First published 1802; in *Letters of Robert Burns*, ed. Roy (1985), I: 205.
3. Facsimile and transcription of autograph letter from Agnes M'Lehose ("Clarinda") to Robert Burns ("Sylvander"), 3 pp., [February 5, 1788]. Not in 1802 or 1843; published in *Glasgow Herald* (March 31, 1928; dating letter March 18, 1788); reprinted in *Burns Chronicle* (1929), 13-15.

You talk of weeping Clarinda, some involuntary drops wet your lines as I read them. — Oh! mind me, my dearest Angel! you cannot offend me: you never offended me! If you had ever given me the least shadow of offence; harder, my God, wd I forgive Clarinda — I have read yours again: it has blotted my paper. —

Tho' I find your letter has agitated me into a violent headach, I shall take a chair and be with you about eight. — A friend is to be with us at tea on my account, which hinders me from coming sooner. — Forgive, my dearest Clarinda, my unguarded expressions. — For Heaven's sake forgive me, or I shall never be able to bear my own mind! —

Your unhappy Sylvander

Jan. 12. 1788 - Publisher

both of which attachments you have done me the

[redacted] 2, o'clock

I just now received your first letter of yesterday, by the careless negligence of the Penny Post. — Clarinda, matters are grown very serious with us: Then seriously hear me, and hear me Heaven — I met you, my dear, by far the first of womankind, at least to me; I esteemed, I lov'd you at first sight,

honor to return; the longer I am acquainted with you, the more innate, amiableness and worth I discover in you — You have suffered a loss & confess for my sake; but if the firmest, steadiest, warmest friendship; if every endeavor to be worthy of your friendship; if a love, strong as the ties of Nature, and holy as the duties of Religion — if all these can make any thing like a compensation for

Clarinda

Feb. 14, 1788. Published

the evil I have occasioned you, if they be worth your acceptance, or can in the least add to your enjoyments — to help Sylvander, ye Powers above, in his hour of need, as he freely gives them all to Clarinda!

I esteem you, I love you, as a friend; I admire you, I love you, as a Woman, beyond any one in all the circle of Creation: I know I shall continue to esteem you, to love you; to pray for you — may to pray for myself for your sake. —

Respect me as ever — — remember me to ever, My dearest Madam, your most entirely —

Sylvander

Tuesday forenoon

Your attention in writing me before you set out this Morning was one of those delicate Compliments, which give a nameless pleasure to Incestible minds! — I am now convinced, that in the wide circle of the universe, there are not two Souls so completely form'd for each other as Ours —

My Spirits are a little weighted to day — but I'm not unhappy — last night I saw you low & depress'd — my heart was bent upon soothing & raising your Spirits — the Intention was good — but it led me perhaps too far. — today, I am quite sensible of it — even, "present in the very lapse of Love" I was check'd at the Idea of impropriety — however, I hope to be enabled to do better in future. Happy, for me, I've learnt not to depend on my own weak resolves — but on the "Rock of Ages" —!

I must forgive you — but I wish you may not need to ask it, on the same account again! — Why, do you allow yourself in Melancholy Reflections? I hope you are seeking the Divine Blessing on your careful Effort for a livelihood — & if so, can you not rely on His Goodness who "feeds the young Ravens when they cry"!

Besides, has not Clarindas fondest warmest friendship been sought ardently after as your Chief Earthly Happiness — and has it not been attained to your utmost wish? Ah! Sylvander, it is indeed attained — it will depend on yourself to secure it — while you are the same — Clarinda will be so too. — what a complicated Creature is Man! a little month ago, Clarindas affections, would (you thought) have made your happiness complete — that is ensured — and other wishes spring up, & command your anxious pursuit. I will be so — till we be united to Infinite Perfection — I can now carry you with me to God's footstool — there, I pour out my ardent requests for your success in Life, for your happiness in Eternity! — 'tis only since Saturday last, I could do so — and I feel a sensation so delightfull, so serene, as makes me almost hope that Heaven itself approves our union — I tremble for many, least she feel an involuntary throb in your Favour. — I'm not so much afraid of you — amiable, & Bonie as she is — I think Clarinda is more entirely congenial to the Heart of Sylvander —

why did not you see Mrs first? Young, Blooming, disengaged! — but — tis too late — dear as I have her — I could not spare her a Heart so precious to Mine — no, unless you wished it! 'twould be an effort more than Human!

Come, tomorrow day as soon as you can get off — you'll see no Stars — without at least, within you find the Star Venus which always attends the Sun you know. interrupted

a Call from Mr Kemp — offering, to pay Andrew's quarter at School — I have refused it — I told him "unless I had his Friendship, I would not be under Pecuniary Obligations" — He expressed Compassion for my Situation — a talent in a Stranger that has pleased me a good deal! Oh! If I be disappointed in my Lent — I'll not wound you even with the Cruel Supposition — I see you with your noble Patron — may He who has the "Hearts of all in his hand" turn many to love & serve you — Adieu! my Prayers & wishes are yours

I thought this letter would be welcome on your return.

Your's Clarinda

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