**L23-001**

Plymouth Dock January twenty sixth

1801

Lady Hamilton

23 Piccadilly

Nelson London

PLYMOUTH DOCK *[post stamp]*

**L23-002**

January 26th: 1801

My Dear Lady Hamilton when I consider

that this day nine months was your birth

day and that although we had a gale of

wind, yet I was happy, and sung come

cheer up fair Emma &.&. even the thought

compared with this day makes me melan:

:choly (melancholy). My heart some how is sunk within

me(.) I long to hear you are well keep up your

Spirits ah wile (awhile) and well the dearest friends

must part and we only part I trust to

meet again. I am I wonder that Sir Wm: *[William Hamilton]*

should have a wish for the Prince of Wales

to come under your Roof. no good can come

from it, but every harm. You are too

beautiful not to have enemies and even

one Visit, will Stamp you as his Chere Amie

and we know he is doatingly fond of such

women as yourself, and is without one

**L23-003a**

of honor in those respects, and would leave you

to bewail your folly, but my dear friend

I know you too well not to be convinced

you cannot be seduced by any Prince in

Europe. You are in my opinion the pattern

of perfection. I have no orders and can

have none before wednesday therefore sooner

than thursday or friday the ship cannot

move. I have told my Brother of your

intentions of giving him a paste *[to beat or defeat]*. he would

have had a hard matter to have got

one of mine. he proposes if no orders arrive

very soon to have me when I shall instantly

retire on board. I feel no loss in not going

to these Balls & assemblys my thoughts are

very differently engaged. I know nothing of

my destination more than I did when in

London but the papers and reports of my being

**L23-003b**

to be put in a bad Ship which although I can hardly

credit, fills me with sorrow which joind (joined) to

my private feelings makes me this day

ready to burst every movement into tears(.)

I will try & write to the Duke tomorrow this

day I could not if millions lay in my

way. Mr: Thomsons friend is this moment

come into my room he desires me to thank

you for your goodness

to his dear friend he

appears almost as

miserable as myself

he says you have

always been kind to his dear Mr: Thomson

and he hopes you will continue your

goodness to him on this trying occasion. I have

assured him of your innate worth and affect:

:tionate (affectionate) disposition. and Believe as Ever

and for ever your attatched (attached) and truly

affectionate friend Nelson & Bronte

my best respects to Sir William, Mr: Denis

& etc