Portsmouth March first 1801

 Lady Hamilton

23 Piccadilly

 PORTSMOUTH *[post stamp]*

Nelson London

March 1t: 1801 8 o’clock morng: (morning)

My Dearest friend

 fearing that it may not

be possible to get a boat on shore in the after noon

as it has the appearance of blowing hard. I send

this line to apprize you of it that no little matter

may take place in your dear, good and

exalted mind, only always rely that I will

never omit an opportunity of writing –

therefore if at any time reports should come

from the fleet without letters you may be

sure that it is unknown to me. which

may happen from my being detatched

but those not from the same cause as Lord

Keith – not telling me. I have read over

twenty times your dear kind letters, and

although I must naturally be happy that

your affection is such as you describe

and so exactly a counterpart of my own

feelings. Yet I want by that my friend

will nor be Sick or grieve too much

for a temporary but unavoidable absence

of a few weeks, and if we were both differently

circumstanced that should not be – no not

for an hour. but recollect all my executions

are to bring about a peace, no I am sure

you will not go any where but where it is

right. I never to suffer that fellow to enter

your house. I assure you my very short trip

to London has if possible given me an ad:

:ditional (additional) confidence and I believe I never

shall have cause to think otherwise than

I do of you. You read of course my Brothers

letter, and If you like to have Mr: Nelson *[i.e. Nelson’s father, Edmund]*

up, say that I will pay their Lodgings

and then you can have as much of his

company as you please but Revd: Sir *[Reverend; i.e. Edmund Nelson]* you will

find a great bore at times therefore he ought

to amuse himself all the mornings, and not

always to dine with you, as Sir William

may not like it. they can twice or thrice

a week have a beef Stake at home.

for some people may say by & bye that Sir Wm: (William)

maintains the family of the Nelsons which

would vex me, I am brushing these

folks by and I do not find that activity

which my mind carries with it. It would

not be possible I fear for you & Sir Willm:

to give me a visit at Yarmouth. It should

 Kiss my Godchild

 for me & Bless

it

be no expense to him. tomorrow if we

can get our Ships Company paid to day

we are off for the downs – tell Mr. Thomson

that his friend is more in love with him

than ever, and I believe dreams of him. he is

sorry that she was a little unwell when he was

in London as it deprived him of much pleasure

but he is determined to have full scope when he

next sees her. Ever yours forever

 Nelson & Bronte