

which can give you a moment's uneasiness. But it is the task of true friendship—

To tell disagreeable truths: I know that is what your Ladyship would say; and, to spare you what your delicacy starts at mentioning, you have heard aspersions on my character, which are the consequences of my friendship for Col. Bellville.

I know and admire the innocent cheerfulness of your heart, but I grieve to say, the opinion of the world——

As to the opinion of the world, by which is meant the malice of a few spiteful old cats, I am perfectly unconcerned about it; but your Ladyship's esteem is necessary to my happiness: I will therefore to you vindicate my conduct: which, though indiscreet, has been really irreproachable. Though a widow, and accountable to nobody, I have ever lived
with