

Transcription of letter from Mary Talbot to Henry Davenport, 2 Dec 1716

2664/3/2B/56 No.1

The mighty powers of Love as you call it, has as great an influence upon your dear Bab, I find, as on myself you need not accuse me of forgetting my friends, for though I have writ more than once, yet I can't have one kind word from her, don't think Dear brother it was want of inclination, that I did not answer both yours sooner for Beelzebub is often in my head & will still be more so if I don't hear from you soon again for then I shall think you are downright angry; as for your news you sent me, I am apt to believe, that one act wou'd easily pass; if it was once brought into the house they have so many good examples of that kind, in great Men; I suppose the freeholders has got Item of it already I am sure one very near us has, for he has promised his handmaid six hundred pound. & his man to boot to be her husband; to be sure there wanted no body but Beelzebub to make the matter compleat, for had you but seen what a stickle the whole Parish was in, for they went by dozens to the handmaid, & then back again to the wife, & then to the husband, who said it was the first fault, & so hope it wou'd be excused; but at last came a witness & spoil'd all that he had had handmaids of that sort without number, I hear nothing but sad complaints of all husbands & wives for about six miles off a woman they say has killed her husband God bless us four, for to be sure theres few like us, I heartily wish there was more such as my sweet Talbot & my good B<sup>r</sup> D there can be none more sencible of your goodness then

Your most

Affectionate & obliged sister

M Talbot

I wou'd no more cheat King George of whats his due then you wou'd but I don't think this scribble worth a half penny.

Pray remember me to my Sister.

My dear Talbot desires the same to you both.