

Transcription of letter from Mary Talbot to Henry Davenport, 18 May 1717

2664/3/2B/56 No.2

My good dear Beelzebub, what shall I say to you for my long silence, I wont pretend to make a long flourish of compliments, but tell the true reason at first, I have had so many unforeseen letters, that I was obliged to answer, & generally speaking am laziest of Post days, but was resolv'd nothing shou'd prevent me this time; I give you many thanks for your good advice, it came very, à propos, for I never wanted it more, one wou'd have thought you to be right Beelzebub, to foretell things to come, as you did; I desire you to acquaint my Lady, that I have great & grievous complaints to make of Sis: Ivory for I must tell you, theres no trusting her out of my sight, you must know she went on Thursday to Mrs Ernleys for me, & as soon as out of the sight of the house, forsooth, a very fine Bean met her, & stood at the coach side, & talk'd to her I don't know long, I wont pretend to manage her after this, you being a grave person, I desire to know, whether it is not proper to shut her up in the Cloysters, to tame her a little; since you commanded me to eat, I have had such a stomach, that it's well you a'n't heer; for between us, we shou'd certainly breed a famine in the town; I wont detain you any longer from your dear Bab who' I hope is pretty well. I desire my humble service to her & I am to my good B^r Davenport a very

Affectionate

Humble servant

M Talbot

My charge desires her service
But I'm forc'd to have a strict
eye over her.