

of your own age and rank. If it is agreeable,  
I shall be glad to be of the party. I love to  
be young now and then. Let us have ladies  
among us, they are the very life and soul of  
good company. A man may be a scholar,  
a man of business, a philosopher, an artist,  
but ladies only can form the polite complete  
gentleman; and let Lord Chesterfield say  
what he will, he may be a modest man,  
yet I must confess the sex is rather fond of  
an inclination to libertinism; but until time  
has braced every nerve at 22 or 23, let it be  
in appearance only, and afterwards too, as  
long as you can. At all events, avoid mis-  
chievous intrigues, low amours and adulterous  
connexions. Solomon was a wise man, and

had more experience in the sex than perhaps  
all that lived before or since his time, observe  
his precepts, they are just and curious. But  
perhaps you are going to the tavern - with all  
my heart - We are set. The conversation is  
awkward and trifling. The glass goes about  
the second round makes us all acquainted.  
The set consists of soakers, jokers, heaters,  
pedants and buffoons, with a few sensible  
young fellows, and well bred gentlemen. The  
first smokes his pipes and understands, at  
least speaks no other language but what is  
timed to the glass, he smiles, looks grave, and  
fills his pipe by turns, his greatest joy and  
pride is to stay longer, drink more, and triumph  
over the society of all the company. Be not

mighty to drink strong drink - The second is only happy in getting the company into a war, fun is his object, and fun he must have at all events, often at the expense of some modest well meaning man, - it is right to be merry, but ridicule is often cruel, especially when pointed at serious subjects or natural defects. In such cases join not in it. - Be merry and wise - A perpetual peater is a pest in company, he engrosses the conversation, he tells a story of his Grandmother's Cat, and introduces it head and shoulders. Lord Chesterfield is very severe upon story tellers, yet he is perpetually exemplifying by anecdotes, thus you see theory and practice are different - a well told story aptly and happily introduced

is always agreeable, but too many of them  
and too often repeated is very disagreeable.  
Remember an old Mid<sup>n</sup> who had an  
excellent budget, but he was so profuse that  
he emptied it in a fortnight, then his repetitions  
became nauseous. - Thus this example -

Learning, however agreeable in the closet  
is seldom so in company, unless it consists  
entirely or chiefly of learned men, which  
will seldom be the case at your age. If the  
conversation turns upon learning, one looks  
silly not to be able to enter into it. Watch  
however the looks of the company when they  
begin to yawn, make faces, and say come  
drink about, endeavor to turn the conversation  
or drop the present subject. Buffoons are a

more set of make weights in society, and sicken  
every body with their folly and insignificance,  
they follow jokers as a shadow, and it is hard  
to say which of the two is most contemptible.

The last class consists of those and only those  
(with) whom one would wish to associate with,  
who temper good sense with cheerfulness, who  
bound mirth with reason, and occasionally  
display all that is agreeable and engaging  
in conversation in an easy unaffected manner.

The acquaintance and society of such, cultivate,  
make one of them at stated times, for a too  
frequent use of the best viands will nauseate  
or render them insipid -

"Finally whatsoever things are true, whatsoever  
things are honest, whatsoever things are just,

whatever things are pure, whatsoever things  
are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report,  
if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think  
on these things: Those things which you have  
both learned and received, and heard and seen  
in me, do, and the God of peace shall be with  
you." Ponder on these things Oh my Son!  
and carry them into practice; then I fear  
not of your being an ornament to your  
family your country and human nature,  
happy here and hereafter, all which, that  
you may be, is the fervent Prayer of

Your most affectionate Father  
John Murray.

Norwich 31<sup>st</sup> July 1774.