

St. Sinistra, 5 January
Dimsford House, London

Honored Lady,

It pleases Me that You have the Wit and
Gumption not to feel obliged to wait on your Father's
Permission to reply to my Letters. Of course He
could not refuse You The Opportunity of writing
to Myself, his new Friend and Governor.

While I customarily describe the Beauty of
my little Kingdom, this Time I have less than good
News to impart. Your Father has been taken ill of
a wasting tropical Disease. My own Surgeon has
reviewed his Condition and predicts that without loving
Encouragement, He may not survive more than a few Months.

Dimsford, too ill to write Himself, begged Me to
inform You, his only Daughter, of his Situation. With due
Respect, I suggest that You take ship to St. Sinistra
by the first Opportunity. I am convinced that the
Sight of your beloved Face will dissuade your Father
from his Melancholia.

I have instructed Capt. Bartholomew Davis,
of my Flagship *Sabond Deux*, to deliver You to my
grateful Charge; He should arrive in London directly
after You receive this Missive. Pray accept this
Banknote to defray the Cost of a new Wardrobe;
any Guest of Mine must be suitably dressed.
Trusting that your Voyage will be comfortable, I am,

Your most sovereign Lord,
Governor of St. Sinistra,

Jean Lafond