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MISERIES PERSONAL

After Dinner when the ladies retire with you from a party of very pleasant men, having to entertain as you can half a score of empty, or formal females then after a decent time has elapsed and your patience and topics are equally exhausted ringing for the tea, &c. which you sit making in despair for above two hours, having three or four times sent word to the gentlemen that it is ready, and overheard your husband, at the last message answer, "Very well - another bottle of wine." By the time that the tea and coffee are quite cold they arrive, continuing as they enter, and for an hour afterwards their political disputes occasionally suspended by the master of the house by a reasonable complaint to his lady at the coldness of the coffee; soon after the carriages are announced and the company disperse.

13 June 1847

'After dinner, when the ladies retire with you from a party of very pleasant men, having to entertain as you can half a score of empty or formal females; then after a decent time has elapsed, and your patience and topics are equally exhausted, ringing for the tea, &c., which you sit making in despair for above two hours, having three or four times sent word to the gentlemen that it is ready, and overheard your husband, at the last message, answer, "Very well, another bottle of wine." By the time the tea and coffee are quite cold, they arrive, continuing as they enter, and for an hour afterwards, their political disputes, occasionally suspended by the master of the house by a reasonable complaint to his lady at the coldness of the coffee; soon after the carriages are announced and the company disperse.'

9th Nov 1847