on reasonable terms I did not propose him to reside
in America nor can I discover the most distant mark
of any thing like the want of confidence in Mr Hodder
in such a proposition my own incapability not his was
surely the reason I ~~such~~ candidly assigned it. Whatever
Hodder may for argument or other causes say respecting
his being deprived in my friendship a confidence he does
not seriously believe either — I know that no man can
properly do the business that has fallen to my lot for
these two years I am sure that all circumstances taken
in view there are not many who could have done more
I will continue to do all in my power but my mind has
for several months been all anxiety I have thought the
fall of the year declined all new & many old Correspondents
did it at a time when I was in full credit and it
was the only thing that could have proved it thus took
a different bias I may have judged more perfectly I am
sure that had I shipped as many goods last Fall as I
did the Spring & Fall before that I should not have been
able next Spring & Fall to have commanded goods
from the best warehouses for the best terms — Therefore
was it not more prudent as well as more honest to
decline a rather curtail when I found myself in high
credit —. I have no letters since those who ordered goods
would know of this disappointment how they will
relish it I cannot tell but no one man who was within
no third of paying (in fifteen what should have been had
in twelve months was refused those who were so very
unpunctual in the outset could not be depended
on in future — I dare say I shall get much abuse
it is however better than risking my own safety &
the property of others. —

You have in the Fortune a lot of fine but
Tobacco I have ever seen — I have all the books
before me but I think it sold for 9.d when by the
parcel the best average of Tob.o is 3/4. — —

Mr Stuart and Mr Dan Candle have both lately
been Mary and given cards that are truly pleasing I send
you Mattingleys last letter which also mentions him

as

MdHS 1974 [735-126]