

TO LADY MINTO 1

(2-1)DEAR LADY MINTO,-Mr. Constable will send your  
(2-1)Ladyship tomorrow two copies of Marmion properly  
(2-1)packed up-One splendid which I hope the Governor  
(2-1)General will do me the honor to accept & one of a  
(2-1)subordinate description for my brother-in-law Carpenter.  
(2-1)I also inclose a few lines to Lord Minto with my little  
(2-1)offering of grateful remembrance.

(2-1)As your Ladyship flattered me by expressing a wish for  
(2-1)an early perusal I send my own copy the only one yet  
(2-1)finished. I have promised to shew some part of it [to] a  
(2-1)friend tomorrow evening but if your Ladyship wishes to  
(2-1)have it returned to finish the perusal on the fast day when  
(2-1)it will be like " stolen waters " or " bread eaten in secret"  
(2-1)I will have the honor to return it on Thursday morning  
(2-1)if you will be so good as spare it me tomorrow about  
(2-1)6 o'clock. Believe me with great respect Your Ladyship's  
(2-1)most Obedient Very humble Servt

(2-1)WALTER SCOTT

(2-1)EDINR. Tuesday [1808]

[Owen D. Young]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(2-1)[Jan.] A.D. 1808

(2-1)DEAR SHARPE,-Lady Louisa Stuart is with us tonight  
(2-1)if you will look in any time after seven. I am anxious to

(2-2)congratulate you upon your safe delivery.<sup>1</sup> The first  
(2-2)literary child always gives most trouble & anxiety  
(2-2)Believe me Yours always W. SCOTT

(2-2)CASTLE STREET Thursday.

(2-2)Charles K. Sharpe Esq. 5 Charlotte Square  
[Hornel]

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE, JUNR.

(2-2)[1808]  
(2-2)DEAR SIR,-I have your note for 200., and I think it  
(2-2)will be very right to bring all these sums together when  
(2-2)I have been able to complete my advance. I rather  
(2-2)think it will be impossible for me to do so to the proposed  
(2-2)extent till next Summer. What I should wish would be  
(2-2)to see the Concern which is in so flourishing a state  
(2-2)proceed from blossom to fruit or without a metaphor I  
(2-2)would like to advance as much as may secure us (in general  
(2-2)at least) from the necessity of temporary expedients and  
(2-2)admit of my drawing my proportion of the profits which  
(2-2)at present must necessarily go to discharge these burthens.  
(2-2)The payment of the Copy Money of Marmion will put  
(2-2)this in my power even to a larger extent than you desired.  
(2-2)But till this is received I see little chance of my being  
(2-2)able to contribute above an odd hundred or two which  
(2-2)I expect from India.-I am therefore anxious about the  
(2-2)progress of this work and wish it to be set up with speed.  
(2-2)Constable informs me that the paper is daily expected and  
(2-2)that you may set up a sheet or two in the mean time. I  
(2-2)therefore send the Introduction to Canto I and will send  
(2-2)the Canto itself on Monday. I am with regard Yours truly

(2-2)CASTLE STREET Saturday

W SCOTT

(2-2)Private. Mr. John Ballantyne Junior.

[Signet Library]

1808     SIR WALTER SCOTT     3

TO J. W. ADAM

(2-3)SIR,-I have the honour to acknowledge your polite  
(2-3)letter and to return you my best thanks for the flattering  
(2-3)opinion which you have been pleased to express of my  
(2-3)literary efforts.

(2-3)My time has been lately employed upon the poem to  
(2-3)which you allude ; but as it does not give any historical  
(2-3)account of the unfortunate Battle of Flodden, being in  
(2-3)truth merely a poetical romance terminated by that  
(2-3)memorable event, I have not felt myself called upon to  
(2-3)make any minute researches into the circumstances of the  
(2-3)defeat: nor do I at present remember any thing corresponding  
(2-3)to the circumstance which you enquire about.  
(2-3)If I should happen to light upon any thing likely to be  
(2-3)useful to you in establishing your right to the arms and  
(2-3)chieftainship of your family I will have great pleasure  
(2-3)in communicating it and I am with great respect Sir  
(2-3)your obliged and obedt. Servant     WALTER SCOTT  
(2-3) EDINBURGH 12 Jany. 1808.

[Owen D. Young]

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

(2-3)EDINBURGH, 19th January 1808

(2-3)I AM much flattered. Dear Lady Louisa, by your kind  
(2-3)and encouraging remembrance. Marmion is, at this  
(2-3)instant, gasping upon Flodden field, and there I have

(2-3)been obliged to leave him for these few days in the death  
(2-3)pangs. I hope I shall find time enough this morning to  
(2-3)knock him on the head with two or three thumping  
(2-3)stanzas. I thought I should have seen Lady Douglas  
(2-3)while she was at Dalkeith, but all the Clerks of Session  
(2-3)(excepting myself, who have at present no salary) are  
(2-3)subject to the gout, and one of them was unluckily visited  
(2-3)with a fit on the day I should have been at the Duke's, so  
(2-3)I had his duty and my own to discharge.-Pray, Lady

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(2-4)Louisa, don't look for Marmion in Hawthornden or  
(2-4)anywhere else, excepting in the too thick quarto which  
(2-4)bears his name. As to the fair De Lally,<sup>1</sup> I beg her  
(2-4)pardon with all my heart and spirit; but I rather think  
(2-4)that the habit of writing novels or romances, whether  
(2-4)in prose or verse, is unfavourable to rapid credulity ; at  
(2-4)least these sort of folks know that they can easily make  
(2-4)fine stories themselves, and will be therefore as curious  
(2-4)in examining those of other folks as a cunning vintner  
(2-4)in detecting the sophistication of his neighbour's claret  
(2-4)by the help of his own experience. Talking of fair ladies  
(2-4)and fables reminds me of Mr. Sharpe's ballads, which  
(2-4)I suppose Lady Douglas carried with her to Bothwell.  
(2-4)They exhibit, I think, a very considerable portion of  
(2-4)imagination, and occasionally, though not uniformly,  
(2-4)great flow of versification. There is one verse, or rather  
(2-4)the whole description of a musical ghost-lady sitting  
(2-4)among the ruins of her father's tower, that pleased me  
(2-4)very much. But his language is too flowery and even  
(2-4)tawdry, and I quarrelled with a lady in the first poem  
(2-4)who yielded up her affection upon her lover showing his  
(2-4)white teeth.<sup>2</sup> White teeth ought to be taken great care  
(2-4)of and set great store by ; but I cannot allow them to be  
(2-4)an object of passionate admiration-it is too like subduing

(2-4)a lady's heart by grinning. Grieved am I for Lady  
(2-4)Douglas's indisposition, which I hope will be short, and  
(2-4)I am sure will be tolerable with such stores of amusement  
(2-4)around her. Last night I saw all the Dalkeith family  
(2-4)presiding in that happy scene of mixed company and  
(2-4)Babylonian confusion, the Queen's Assembly. I also

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-5)saw Mr. Alison there. I hope your ladyship has not  
(2-5)renounced your intention of coming to Edinburgh for a  
(2-5)day or two, and that I shall have the honour to see you.  
(2-5)We have here a very diverting lion and sundry wild  
(2-5)beasts ; but the most meritorious is Miss Lydia White,1  
(2-5)who is what Oxonians call a lioness of the first order,  
(2-5)with stockings nineteen-times-nine dyed blue, very lively,  
(2-5)very good-humoured, and extremely absurd. It is very  
(2-5)diverting to see the sober Scotch ladies staring at this  
(2-5)phenomenon. I am, with great respect, your ladyship's  
(2-5)honoured and obliged

WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-5)[1808]

(2-5)DEAR SIR,-The volumes of Swift (besides the first)  
(2-5)which are wanting in the copy sent me are the 7th. 8th.  
(2-5)and 18th. I should be glad to have them as soon as  
(2-5)possible & also the Examiner which is become most  
(2-5)essential. I cannot find it in the Advocates Liby. Yours  
(2-5)truly

W. S.

(2-5)Mr. Constable

[Stevenson]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-5)EDINBURGH, 22d January 1808

(2-5)DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,-I have at length got a  
(2-5)copy of Burns's Love-Letters to Clarinda 2 the little publication  
(2-5)which I mentioned to your Ladyship at Dumfries. It is  
(2-5)rather too heavy for an ordinary frank. I have therefore  
(2-5)addressed it under cover to Lord Gastlereagh, who will

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(2-6)I presume take care of it for your Ladyship. I mentioned  
(2-6)the circumstances which attended this publication but  
(2-6)as they are rather curious, I venture to remind you that  
(2-6)Clarinda was in the work-day world a Mrs. Meiklehose (in  
(2-6)English Mrs. Great-stockings). Her husband was in the  
(2-6)West Indies when she became acquainted with Burns in  
(2-6)the dawn of his celebrity. The progress and extent of  
(2-6)their acquaintance may perhaps be guessed from the  
(2-6)letters, which form the most extraordinary mixture of  
(2-6)sense and nonsense and of love human and divine, that  
(2-6)was ever exposed to the eye of the world not excepting  
(2-6)the celebrated familiar epistles of Mr. Robert Ferguson  
(2-6)to Lady Elgin.<sup>1</sup> As Mrs. Meiklehose advanced in years  
(2-6)her vanity became rather too strong for her discretion and  
(2-6)confiding in the charity other confidants and in her own  
(2-6)character as a sort of Devote she thought fit to show this  
(2-6)correspondence to particular friends and at length to a  
(2-6)faithless young divine who sat up all night to make copies,  
(2-6)put himself into the Glasgow Mail coach with peep of  
(2-6)day and sold all the amatory effusions of Sylvander and  
(2-6)Clarinda to a Glasgow Bookseller for the moderate sum  
(2-6)of ten guineas. To the great horror of poor Clarinda

(2-6)and the absolute confusion of all the Godly in Edinburgh  
(2-6)forth came a sixpenny pamphlet containing all these  
(2-6)precious productions. The Heroine of the piece being  
(2-6)respectably connected the book was suppressed partly by  
(2-6)threatening and partly by bribing the Bookseller ; and  
(2-6)now although they have put a Belfast tide upon the  
(2-6)work it is very hard to procure a copy as your Ladyship  
(2-6)may easily believe since it is so long since I could find you  
(2-6)a copy. I shall grieve if this miscarries because it might  
(2-6)be difficult to replace it; but I hope it will be more

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(2-7)fortunate than the sheets sent to you when in Ireland.  
(2-7)But as Ld. G. will receive the parcel at the same time you  
(2-7)have this note there can be no chance of a second mishap  
(2-7)of the kind.

(2-7)I am asking myself if you are at the Priory or in St.  
(2-7)James' Square. In one or other place I think it not  
(2-7)unlikely that you may see the Minstrel in the course of a  
(2-7)few weeks as Lord Advocate seems disposed to insist that  
(2-7)I shall take a corner of his post-chaise to London which  
(2-7)removes a certain weighty objection to the journey. I  
(2-7)have finished Marmion and your Ladyship will do me the  
(2-7)honour I hope to accept a copy very soon. In the sixth  
(2-7)and last Canto I have succeeded better than I had  
(2-7)ventured to hope, for I had a battle to fight, and I dread  
(2-7)hard blows almost as much in poetry as in common life.  
(2-7)-I am ever, with great respect and attachment, your  
(2-7)Ladyship's most obedient, very faithful            W. S.  
[Pierpont Morgan]

TO CHARLES ERSKINE

(2-7)[27th January, 1808]

(2-7)DEAR CHARLES,-The Bearer is a poor man who claims  
(2-7)to represent through the female line the last Kerr of  
(2-7)Fawdonside. I have explained to him that this gives  
(2-7)him no pretensions whatever to the great stake 1; but  
(2-7)if the evidence of his being the representative of Sir  
(2-7)Walter Ker of Fawdonside depends in any degree upon  
(2-7)the oral testimony of witnesses now alive & chiefly aged  
(2-7)persons it is pity it should perish. If he could be served

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(2-8)heir without much expence it would perhaps give him  
(2-8)some chance of provision as a relation by the person who  
(2-8)may eventually be Duke of Roxburghe. I confess I pity  
(2-8)this poor fellow as his grandmother only wanted a pair  
(2-8)of ba's to have put him in a better situation than Genl.  
(2-8)Kerr. Perhaps something of a judicial examination  
(2-8)might take place without the expence of a formal service  
(2-8)-Yet who knows but this estate may one day go to heirs  
(2-8)whatsoever?

(2-8)I will soon return the submission with my ultimatum.  
(2-8)I declare I tremble to think of that case as I think the  
(2-8)chance of doing gross injustice is almost inevitable.

(2-8)Clarkson promised to get for me old Brydone's broad-sword  
(2-8)but has not kept his word-I am foolishly anxious  
(2-8)about it-pray see what he is about & dont let it stick  
(2-8)for a guinea or two-I dont want a bargain of it. Be my  
(2-8)Cashier on the occasion & oblige yours truly

(2-8)W. SCOTT  
[Curle]

TO DAVIES GILBERT 1

(2-8)EDINBURGH, 29th Jan. 1808

(2-8)SIR,-In availing myself of your kind offices to transmit  
(2-8)the inclosed to Mr. Polwhele, I should be very ungrateful  
(2-8)did I omit to make my best acknowledgments to you for  
(2-8)the favourable opinion which you have been pleased to  
(2-8)express of my literary attempts. I have been labouring  
(2-8)(at least working) upon another legend connected with  
(2-8)the Battle of Flodden : I have only to wish that it may  
(2-8)experience half the kindness with which its predecessor  
(2-8)was received, and will be particularly happy should it be

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-9)the case in your instance. I am. Sir, your obliged humble  
(2-9)servant,  
[Letters of Sir Walter Scott, 1832]

WALTER SCOTT

TO [JAMES BALLANTYNE]

(2-9)DEAR SIR,-I return the two sheets. There shd. be a  
(2-9)full stop after L Envoy 1 -God grant the thing may do.  
(2-9)If you will send a boy this evening ; he will get abundant  
(2-9)copy both for the Life of Dryden & the Appendix Vol  
(2-9)XVII to follow the letters. I have rummaged up some  
(2-9)trashy materials to swell out that vol to 400 pages or so.

(2-9)I should like much to have a copy clean or foul of the two  
(2-9)last sheets of Marmion this eveng. if possible. Yours truly

[Undated, no address.]  
[Signet Library]

W. S.

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-9)5th February 1808

(2-9)DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I cannot express my sense of  
(2-9)your active & zealous exertions in my behalf, & I have  
(2-9)no doubt that Lord Melville is perfectly sincere in the  
(2-9)Interest which he expresses in my fortunes. A circumstance  
(2-9)has just happened within the common order of  
(2-9)things which I believe will enable his Lordship to carry  
(2-9)his good wishes in some degree into effect. We Clerks  
(2-9)of Session were Clerks of the Scottish Parliament and  
(2-9)as such our predecessors always claimed a right that  
(2-9)the Secretary or Clerk to any Commission of Parliament

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(2-10)which might sit in Scotland should be named out of  
(2-10)their number. It is probably not unknown to your  
(2-10)Ladyship that Lord Eldon has brought in a bill for  
(2-10)making great alterations in our forms of jurisprudence  
(2-10)and that a Commission consisting of all our high Law  
(2-10)Officers and several of those of England are to be named  
(2-10)to carry this into effect. This Commission must have a  
(2-10)Secretary well acquainted with our law and law forms  
(2-10)and my brethren at the Clerks' table without solicitation  
(2-10)or the slightest hint on my part have to my great surprize  
(2-10)made an application to Lord Melville stating their claim  
(2-10)to have this officer named out of their number and  
(2-10)recommending unanimously that I should be the person  
(2-10)so appointed. I immediately wrote a few lines to  
(2-10)Lord M. for the place though temporary is highly  
(2-10)respectable & if I discharge the duty properly may or  
(2-10)rather must pave the way to my getting forward in  
(2-10)some shape or other. For as all the old forms are to be  
(2-10)altered it is obvious that he who has the first & most  
(2-10)intimate acquaintance with the new establishments has a  
(2-10)chance of being considered as a useful man which as the  
(2-10)most respectable is generally the surest road to preferment.

(2-10)The Chief Baron & Lord Advocate are warmly  
(2-10)cordial & I cannot but think that the thing is in a fair  
(2-10)train as every circumstance point [sic] out the request as  
(2-10)regular & as it is preferred by those who cannot but  
(2-10)know how far I am; or am not qualified to discharge the  
(2-10)duties of the situation-the Chancellor will receive a  
(2-10)Memorial on the subject & I have also a friend who  
(2-10)applies to Duke of Montrose (Lord Justice Genl.). I wrote  
(2-10)to Lord Frederick Gampbell (Lord Clerk Register)  
(2-10)by this post; & I have some thoughts of writing to Sir  
(2-10)William Scott<sup>1</sup> who called on me when in town although  
(2-10)I had never seen him. If any channel occurs to your  
(2-10)Ladyship in which the matter could be privately stated

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1808            11

(2-11)to the Chancellor it would probably greatly aid our  
(2-11)public claim. You see my dear friend how little I fear  
(2-11)wearying your kindness in my behalf-& I am sure it  
(2-11)will give you pleasure to think that my prospects are  
(2-11)opening fairly & that those who have best opportunity to  
(2-11)see me as a man of business do not find that my poetical  
(2-11)excursions disqualify me for the serious pursuits of Life-  
(2-11)Lord Marmion will visit St. James' Square before he  
(2-11)becomes quite public as I shall send one copy by the Mail  
(2-11)Coach to Blackheath & another to your Ladyship so  
(2-11)soon as they can be stitched & boarded. I will at the  
(2-11)same time return Lord M's kind letter-believe me  
(2-11)it's contents are sacred-Do you think we have not heard  
(2-11)of Lord Hamilton's renown ? even in the mutilated state  
(2-11)in which a newspaper gives us the public debates it was  
(2-11)easy to distinguish the spirit & elegance of his speech &  
(2-11)I need not tell you how sincerely I rejoiced in the general  
(2-11)approbation which my noble young friends talents called  
(2-11)forth. I am glad Lord Claud is gone to the Brasils ;  
(2-11)he will see a most interesting and curious experiment in

(2-11)politics the transplantation of a whole royal family to a  
(2-11)foreign colony and we will have a chance of hearing some  
(2-11)distinct account of the success of this most extraordinary  
(2-11)migration-If we lived in any other age what should we  
(2-11)have said written and thought of the emigration of the  
(2-11)House of Braganza ; but we are turned as callous to  
(2-11)Wonders as McBeth to horrors.-This Commission affair  
(2-11)(if it succeeds) will bring me to town very soon indeed.  
(2-11)Meanwhile I am, with great regard and a deep sense of  
(2-11)your kindness, your very grateful and obliged W. S.

(2-11)P.S. Lord Advocate has just looked in & says he will  
(2-11)write to the Chancellor-so I hope will Lord Melville-

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(2-12)therefore my kind friend in St. James Square will judge  
(2-12)of the whole bearings of the affair-perhaps these letters  
(2-12)had best reach him before anything else is said about  
(2-12)the matter.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-12)DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I have a most kind satisfactory  
(2-12)answer from Lord Melville on the subject of the  
(2-12)Clerkship to the parliamentary commission & he says  
(2-12)he is to write to your Ladyship & his son upon the  
(2-12)subject. As he makes it his own affair I fancy your  
(2-12)Ladyship will think it best not to trouble any other  
(2-12)friends on the subject especially as all the high Law  
(2-12)officers are unanimous in my favour except our Presidt.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-12)who has returned no answer to my application. I believe  
(2-12)I may say with Falstaffe on a similar occasion " Good  
(2-12)faith this cold-blooded Man loves me not"-yet I know

(2-12)Tho' all manhdnd thy rivals be  
(2-12)Thou Marmion art the Clerk for me.

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(2-13)I also enclose Lord Melville's letter to me that you may  
(2-13)see how that matter stands-you will observe how much  
(2-13)I owe to your Ladyship's kind offices.

TO CHARLES CARPENTER

(2-13)EDINBURGH, Feby. 8th, 1808

(2-13)MY DEAR BROTHER,-Referring you to a fuller letter,  
(2-13)which I have written along with a copy of a new book  
(2-13)Marmion which I hope Mrs. Carpenter will accept as  
(2-13)kindly as she did my last, I send this by a young cousin  
(2-13)just setting sail as a Cadet for Madras. He is a brother  
(2-13)of that Russell whom I formerly recommended to you  
(2-13)(but I think you never met), and is a very good boy ; if  
(2-13)it fall in your way to shew him any kindness or attention  
(2-13)I am sure you will do so ; his mother was my Aunt, and  
(2-13)we have always been good friends.

(2-13)I am truly happy that Mrs. Carpenter's health has  
(2-13)not compelled that separation which your last letter  
(2-13)threatened. I hope and trust she will be able to remain  
(2-13)with you till circumstances enable you to leave India for  
(2-13)good. Believe me, I often think of you and all your  
(2-13)kindness to Charlotte. It will give you pleasure to learn  
(2-13)that we are going on very well. My last step was to  
(2-13)become one of the Clerks of Session ; in doing so I  
(2-13)renounced my practice at the Bar, and what is worse,

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(2-14)as I entered by the resignation of an old and worthy  
(2-14)predecessor, he retains his salary during his life. This  
(2-14)bargain was made when I saw the administration going  
(2-14)to pieces after poor Pitt's death, and knew how little I had  
(2-14)to expect from those who came into power after that  
(2-14)calamitous event.

(2-14)To be sure I could not expect the change of Ministry  
(2-14)which took place immediately afterwards, nor though I  
(2-14)arrived in London the very day it happened could I easily

(2-14)believe my eyes and ears. As I had (contrary to many  
(2-14)who held the same political opinions in sunshine) held fast  
(2-14)my integrity during the Foxites' interval of power, I found  
(2-14)myself of course very well with the present administration.  
(2-14)The present President of the Board of Controul in particular  
(2-14)is my early and intimate friend since we carried  
(2-14)our satchels together to the High School of Edinburgh.  
(2-14)Think, my dear Carpenter, if this can be of any use to  
(2-14)you. I am sure Robt. Dundas would like to serve my  
(2-14)brother. I am also very well acquainted with your  
(2-14)present Governor-General Lord Minto, though I believe  
(2-14)he was angry with me for not ratting (as the phrase is) with  
(2-14)others, after Pitt's death. Yet I think I have some  
(2-14)influence with him; at least I am sure I deserve it, for  
(2-14)when he set his son in opposition to the Duke of Buccleuch,  
(2-14)my chieftain and friend, in Roxburghshire, I could have  
(2-14)done him more harm than I did. If you see him and  
(2-14)choose to mention our close friendship and connections,  
(2-14)I am sure you will not be the worse received. There is  
(2-14)just now proposed a high Commission of Parliament for  
(2-14)the reformation of some points of our Scotch law, and I  
(2-14)have been pointed out by my friends to be Secretary to it  
(2-14)-a post of considerable difficulty as well as distinction,  
(2-14)but which if well discharged will pave the way to good  
(2-14)appointments.

(2-14)The public has been also very favourable to me so that  
(2-14)I have profited both in pecuniary respects & in general  
(2-14)esteem by the literary reputation I have acquired. All

15            1808            SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-15)this good fortune has not been without some alloy : my  
(2-15)younger brothers affairs became involved & though I am  
(2-15)not so great a loser as I at first expected yet the necessity  
(2-15)of giving him some assistance join'd to the actual loss of

(2-15)a few hundreds have a little stinted my growth in  
(2-15)prosperity. But I have had the satisfaction to extricate  
(2-15)him & hope he will be fortunate in future. Remember  
(2-15)me most kindly to Mrs. Carpenter : she will receive a  
(2-15)copy of my new poem by these ships I have been pressing  
(2-15)daily the printer to prepare one for her. Charlotte wrote  
(2-15)two days ago : I write again with the book which I shall  
(2-15)send to the care of our friends Smith & Jenyns, both to  
(2-15)Mrs. Carpenter & you. Adieu dear Carpenter ; think  
(2-15)if the little Sunshine I have ever can be of use to you  
(2-15)though not essentially yet in any trifling degree.-I am  
(2-15)sure we have always shared in yours- My little infantry  
(2-15)now four (two of each kind) are all well-your Godson  
(2-15)Charles a stout cherry cheeked animal of two years old.  
(2-15)Believe me Ever yours affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies and Familiar Letters]

(2-15)TO FRANCIS DOUCE,1 F.S.A.

(2-15)EDINBURGH, 9 Feb. 1808

(2-15)DEAR SIR,-I have deferred from day to day returning  
(2-15)you my best thanks for the kind and most acceptable  
(2-15)token of your remembrance, which I received about a  
(2-15)fortnight since, and which, notwithstanding an unusual  
(2-15)press of business, of various kinds, has been my companion  
(2-15)for an hour or two every afternoon since. Every admirer  
(2-15)of Shakespeare, and I hope that comprehends all that  
(2-15)can read or hear reading, must be necessarily delighted  
(2-15)with the profusion of curious and interesting illustration  
(2-15)which your remarks contain.

(2-16)I meant to have offered the few remarks that occurred  
(2-16)to me while I was going through your volumes, which  
(2-16)would at least have shown the attention I had paid in the  
(2-16)perusal; but I have never had a moment's time to  
(2-16)accomplish my purpose. In particular, concerning the  
(2-16)Fools of Shakespeare, a subject of so much curiosity, and  
(2-16)which you have so much elucidated, it might be interesting  
(2-16)to you to know, that fifty years ago there was hardly a  
(2-16)great house in Scotland where there was not an all-licensed  
(2-16)fool-half crazy and half knavish-many of whose bon mots  
(2-16)are still recited and preserved. The late Duke of Argyle  
(2-16)had a jester of this description, who stood at the sideboard  
(2-16)among the servants, and was a great favourite, until he  
(2-16)got into disgrace by rising up in the kirk before sermon,  
(2-16)and proclaiming the bans of marriage between himself  
(2-16)and my friend Lady Charlotte Campbell. So you see  
(2-16)it is not so very long, at least in this country, since led  
(2-16)captains, pimps, and players have superseded the roguish  
(2-16)clowns of Shakespeare. But all this, with any other  
(2-16)scantlings of information which have occurred to me, I  
(2-16)must now reserve till I have the pleasure of returning my  
(2-16)thanks in person, which will probably be in the course of  
(2-16)a few weeks, as I have some prospect of being called to  
(2-16)London this spring.

(2-16)In this hope, I am, dear Sir, your much obliged humble  
(2-16)servant,

(2-16)WALTER SCOTT  
[Letters of Sir Walter Scott, 1832]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-16)DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-The long-promised Marmion  
(2-16)at length has the honour to kiss your ladyship's hands-  
(2-16)I shall be most anxious to know he is acceptable & next

(2-16)how the Marquis likes him whom but that I think he is a  
(2-16)little partial to my attempts I consider [as] among the

17            SIR WALTER SCOTT            1808

(2-17)first judges in England-The book is under cover to Lord  
(2-17)Castlereagh although as big as a family bible. I send  
(2-17)this card separate that you may enquire for it so soon as  
(2-17)your Ladyship thinks fit. My southward motions depend  
(2-17)upon the springs with which you are acquainted. All  
(2-17)here I find kindly anxious to serve me except the president  
(2-17)who wishes to have a tool of his own a little more passive  
(2-17)than he does me the honour to think me-but he is no  
(2-17)formidable antagonist. Believe me in great haste ever  
(2-17)ever Your most faithful & most grateful

(2-17)W. S.

(2-17)CASTLE STREET 16 feb. [1808]  
[Pierpont Morgan]

TO CHARLES CARPENTER

(2-17)EDINBURGH Feby. 16. 1808

(2-17)MY DEAR BROTHER,-This accompanies a copy of my  
(2-17)new poem for Mrs. Carpenters kind acceptance I hope  
(2-17)it will amuse her as much as she is so good as to say my  
(2-17)former ditties did : there are very few hard words in it.  
(2-17)I also hope it will reach you safe as Lady Minto is so good  
(2-17)as to take charge of sending it with the Governor Generals  
(2-17)baggage. Lord Minto & I used to be very great friends  
(2-17)& if you should happen to see him I am sure his Lordship  
(2-17)will remember me & perhaps you may experience some  
(2-17)civility on my account which would give me very great  
(2-17)pleasure indeed. I wrote to him with a copy of this same

(2-17)poem & will take the liberty to mention your name as  
(2-17)indeed I have done before : it is very probable all this is  
(2-17)of no consequence to you, yet it can do no harm & I only  
(2-17)hope you will not think me officious. The present  
(2-17)President of the Board of Controul is also my old &  
(2-17)intimate friend & schoolfellow, so if you can devise any  
(2-17)thing for your comfort or convenience or advantage I

18            1808            LETTERS    OF

(2-18)would try my interest in your behalf which would give  
(2-18)me the greatest pleasure possible if successful. I sincerely  
(2-18)hope this will find Mrs. Carpenters health amended which  
(2-18)I judge to be the case since she has alter'd her plan of  
(2-18)coming to England before you. Most heartily do I hope  
(2-18)that you will look this way together and soon. Your  
(2-18)kindness will make you anxious about our present situation  
(2-18)which is in every respect comfortable & promises  
(2-18)daily to become more so. My literary attempts have  
(2-18)been very useful in point of profit as well as for the degree  
(2-18)of general regard which I may without vanity say that  
(2-18)they have procured me. My present situation is that of  
(2-18)one of the principal Clerks to our Court of Session, the  
(2-18)income of which runs from    800 to    1000 a year. The  
(2-18)worst is that the gentleman who retired to make way for  
(2-18)me retains the appointments while I do the duty. But it  
(2-18)gives me leisure for my literary pursuits by which by my  
(2-18)sheriffdom & by my private fortune I can maintain my  
(2-18)rank in society & even make money en attendant the death  
(2-18)of the old life renter : this was rather a hard bargain  
(2-18)but it was made when the administration was dissolved  
(2-18)upon Pitts death : all was going to pieces & I was glad  
(2-18)to swim ashore on a plank of the wreck or in a word to  
(2-18)be provided any how ere the new people came in.  
(2-18)Nobody to be sure could have foreseen that in a years  
(2-18)time my friends were all to be in again : there is just

(2-18)now to be appointed a High Commission of Parliament  
(2-18)to revise some of the structure & forms of our Scottish  
(2-18)courts of Jurisprudence & I believe I am to be named  
(2-18)Secretary to the Commissioners : this I suppose will be  
(2-18)well paid but I am principally pleased with it as being a  
(2-18)very respectable appointment conferr'd on me by our  
(2-18)principal law Lords & Kings Council & consequently an  
(2-18)honourable professional distinction^ The employment  
(2-18)will be but temporary but may have consequences of  
(2-18)importance to my future lot in life if I give satisfaction in  
(2-18)the discharge of it. I wrote to you the other day by a

19                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1808

(2-19)little Cadet by name Alexander Russel a cousin German  
(2-19)of mine who goes to Madras by these ships. Should  
(2-19)chance throw him in your way I would be much obliged  
(2-19)to you to shew him kindness. I suppose you think by  
(2-19)this time that my cadet cousins grow up like crops of  
(2-19)pease & beans but I assure you this is the last you are  
(2-19)likely to hear of for I hope you will be home long before  
(2-19)an aftercrop comes up of younger exportation commodities.  
(2-19)I am sure you are obliged to us & we to you for  
(2-19)I fancy our frozen climate raises a great number of the  
(2-19)soldiers merchants & sailors that are transplanted to  
(2-19)yours. My little nursery now two of each sex are  
(2-19)thriving & hearty : your little namesake a merry cherry  
(2-19)cheeked fellow with an unrestrain'd stock of health &  
(2-19)spirits. I sincerely hope this will find you in health,  
(2-19)Mrs. Carpenter quite recovered & your land in quiet:  
(2-19)since Russia has quarrelled with us we are looking rather  
(2-19)anxiously towards you from a general idea that Bonaparte  
(2-19)has a scheme of marching an army through Persia  
(2-19)against our India dominions. I am no believer in  
(2-19)the possibility of executing such a plan though I think  
(2-19)it not improbable he may attempt it as his success

(2-19)hitherto gives him a right to calculate on anything : he  
(2-19)seems tired of the threat of invasion especially since the  
(2-19)seizure of the Danish fleet which might have had their  
(2-19)sails bent at this moment ready to sail north about to  
(2-19)Ireland with 20000 Frenchmen had it not been for the  
(2-19)precautionary measure of seizing their ships & stores.  
(2-19)The emigration of the Royal family of Portugal to the  
(2-19)Brazil is another of those wonderful events which our time  
(2-19)has been destined to witness : its effect on the spirits of  
(2-19)the Merchants has been that of a cordial. Once more  
(2-19)dear Carpenter remember me kindly to your lady &  
(2-19)thank her in my name for her affectionate letter to which  
(2-19)I am sending a handsome reply by the ships. Charlotte  
(2-19)also writes by the ships & besides this by the little cousin  
(2-19)Cadet. I must have worse than usual ill luck if none

20            LETTERS        OF            1808

(2-20)of these letters come to hand. Believe me Your  
(2-20)affectionate brother

(2-20)WALTER SCOTT  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO ROBERT SURTEES

(2-20)DEAR SIR,-I have been shockingly ungrateful ; but  
(2-20)I have been moreover very busy, which I hope will be  
(2-20)some apology for what the Scriptures state to be greatly  
(2-20)worse than the sin of witchcraft. In evidence of my  
(2-20)diligence, I have to request your acceptance of a thumping  
(2-20)quarto entitled " Marmion," in which you will find I  
(2-20)have availed myself with suitable acknowledgments of  
(2-20)your tale of Sir Ralph Bulmer, and the ballad of the feud  
(2-20)between the Ridleys and the Featherstonehaugh family.  
(2-20)I have your acc[ou]nt of the Fugitives in salva custodia. The

(2-20)necessity of diligently comparing each sheet of Sadler's  
(2-20)Letters with the original (though, thank God, that labour  
(2-20)I have no concern with), and the press of business at my  
(2-20)friend Ballantyne the printer's, has occasioned some delay  
(2-20)in that work. I am not yet arrived so far as to profit by  
(2-20)your kind annotations. The book with the MSS. concerning  
(2-20)the Rebellion shall be taken care of and returned ;  
(2-20)and I shall be happy indeed if the time and manner of a  
(2-20)visit to London, which I believe I must make this season,  
(2-20)will allow me to pay my personal compliments to you upon  
(2-20)the occasion.

(2-20)When you cast your eye over " Marmion," remember  
(2-20)mercy in your judgment. I had idly come under an  
(2-20)obligation to produce that preux chevalier by a certain time,  
(2-20)-sufficient indeed to have done him ample justice in the  
(2-20)way of arming and equipment, but some very unpleasant  
(2-20)family affairs left me neither head nor heart to work that  
(2-20)kind of work for six months ; and at last I had nothing  
(2-20)for it but dispatch, which was so rapid, that of the last

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1808            21

(2-21)four Cantos no part was written twice over ; and it was  
(2-21)printed sheet by sheet, as fast as composed. This prepares  
(2-21)you for all its faults. Its merits, for some I must hope it  
(2-21)has, will speak for themselves.

(2-21)I am in great haste ; but with best compliments to  
(2-21)your lady. Ever your truly obliged,

(2-21)WALTER SCOTT

(2-21)EDINBURGH, 20 Feb. 1808.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-21)EDINBURGH, February 23, 1808

(2-21)Sleepest thou, wakest thou, George Ellis ?

(2-21)BE it known that this letter is little better than a fehde  
(2-21)brief,-as;, to the meaning of which is it not written in  
(2-21)Wachter's Thesaurus and the Lexicon of Adelung (l) ? To  
(2-21)expound ,more vernacularly, I wrote you, I know not  
(2-21)how long ago, a swinging epistle of and concerning  
(2-21)German Romances, with some discoveries not of my own  
(2-21)discovering, and other matter not furiously to the present  
(2-21)purpose. And this I caused to be conveyed to you by  
(2-21)ane gentil knizt, Sir William Forbes, knizt, who assures me  
(2-21)he left it as directed, at Sir Peter Parker's.<sup>2</sup> " Since," to  
(2-21)vary my style to that of the ledger, " none of yours."  
(2-21)To avenge myself of this unusual silence, which is a  
(2-21)manifest usurpation of my privileges (being the worst

22            LETTERS OF            1808

(2-22)correspondent in the world, Heber excepted), I have  
(2-22)indited to you an epistle in verse, and that I may be  
(2-22)sure of its reaching your hands, I have caused to be  
(2-22)thrown off 2000 copies thereof, that you may not plead  
(2-22)ignorance.

(2-22)This is oracular, but will be explained by perusing the  
(2-22)Introduction to the 5th canto of a certain dumpy quarto,  
(2-22)entitled Marmion, a Tale of Flodden-field, of which I  
(2-22)have to beg your acceptance of a copy. " So wonder on  
(2-22)till time makes all things plain." One thing I am sure  
(2-22)you will admit, and that is, that-" the hobby-horse is  
(2-22)not forgot;" nay, you will see I have paraded in my

(2-22)Introductions a plurality of hobby-horses-a whole stud,  
(2-22)on each of which I have, in my day, been accustomed  
(2-22)to take an airing. This circumstance will also gratify  
(2-22)our friend Douce, whose lucubrations have been my study  
(2-22)for some days. They will, I fear, be caviare to the  
(2-22)multitude, and even to the soi-disant connoisseurs, who  
(2-22)have never found by experience what length of time, of  
(2-22)reading, and of reflection, is necessary to collect the  
(2-22)archaeological knowledge of which he has displayed such  
(2-22)profusion. The style would also, in our Scotch phrase,  
(2-22)thole amends, i.e. admit of improvement. But his extensive  
(2-22)and curious researches place him at the head of the class  
(2-22)of black-letter antiquaries ; and his knowledge is  
(2-22)communicated without the manifest irritation, which his  
(2-22)contemporaries have too often displayed in matters of  
(2-22)controversy-without ostentation, and without self-sufficiency.  
(2-22)I hope the success of his work will encourage this  
(2-22)modest and learned antiquary to give us more collectanea.  
(2-22)There are few things I read with more pleasure. Charlotte  
(2-22)joins in kindest respects to Mrs. Ellis. I have some  
(2-22)hopes of being in town this spring, but I fear you will be  
(2-22)at Bath. When you have run over Marmion, I hope you  
(2-22)will remember how impatient I shall be to hear your  
(2-22)opinion sans phrase. I am sensible I run some risk of being  
(2-22)thought to fall below my former level, but those that will

1808            SIR WALTER SCOTT            23

(2-23)play for the gammon must take their chance of this. I  
(2-23)am also anxious to have particular news of your health.  
(2-23)Ever yours faithfully,

(2-23)W. S.

[Lockhart]

## TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-23)EDINBURGH 26th Febry., 1808

(2-23)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-I have your letter & must be  
(2-23)satisfied with the mode of publishing the Round Table as  
(2-23)our fathers in the Row are pleased to appoint. There is  
(2-23)indeed a propriety in its being of the same size with your  
(2-23)other Romances ; although I think it a work of a very  
(2-23)different description. I was I believe to have had the use  
(2-23)of a very ancient copy of the Morte Arthur said to be in  
(2-23)possession of Mr. Dent the member of Parliament  
(2-23)commonly & alliteratively termed Dog-Dent. If you can  
(2-23)get at him I presume he will not be so much of the Dog  
(2-23)in the Manger as to refuse you the same favour. I would  
(2-23)offer my assistance but the ladder by which I hoped to  
(2-23)scale the top-gallants of his favour was rather too long &  
(2-23)will not bear to have another round added to it. But this  
(2-23)will perhaps find you in London & with Heber before whom  
(2-23)in all Libraries

(2-23)- open locks

(2-23)whoever knocks

(2-23)You can be at no loss to get at least a sight of this curiosity.  
(2-23)Concluding that you will be soon in London I have  
(2-23)requested John Murray Bookseller Fleet Street to send to  
(2-23)Longman's care for you a copy of my new poem Marmion  
(2-23)a goodly volume in point of size but I had not time to  
(2-23)write the poem shorter. Looking over Madoc the other  
(2-23)day I found I had committed a piracy unconsciously upon  
(2-23)an idea of yours. I have said in a description of a distant  
(2-23)view of a battle I have mentioned the

(2-23)- Plumed crests of chieftains brave

(2-23)Floating like foam upon the wave

(2-24)which although my mind was upon Henry IVths white  
 (2-24)plume is exactly similar to that of Madoc " floating like  
 (2-24)foam on the wave tempest." If my powers were equal  
 (2-24)to my sense of honesty as I would to heaven they were  
 (2-24)I would offer you the fourfold requital of the Levitical  
 (2-24)law, but that would be no easy matter. I have been very  
 (2-24)much interested lately with the Remains of H. K. White 1  
 (2-24)which however left a very melancholy impression on my  
 (2-24)mind. Was there no patron for such a man but Simeon  
 (2-24)and Wilberforce who with the best intentions in the world  
 (2-24)seem to have encouraged his killing himself by religious  
 (2-24)enthusiasm. I am afraid that sort of people do not  
 (2-24)recollect that enthusiasm like other potent draughts  
 (2-24)should be tempered to the strength of the patient. A  
 (2-24)dram which hardly warms the veins of a rough-nerved  
 (2-24)Scotchman will drive to frenzy a more sensitive system.  
 (2-24)I wish Simeon & Levi would confine their operations to  
 (2-24)hard headed cantabs and make no excursions to Nottingham  
 (2-24)for cramping young poets-

(2-24)I have some very curious letters from a spy sent into  
 (2-24)Scotland at the time of the great Northern Rebellion in  
 (2-24)which there is a good deal mention made of the Nortons.<sup>2</sup>  
 (2-24)I have written to Wordsworth to offer him copies or  
 (2-24)extracts but adding that I suppose his siege is finished as  
 (2-24)Vertot said when he received some original materials  
 (2-24)from Malta. You make me very curious to see his poem :  
 (2-24)he is a great master of the passions.

(2-25)I have some hopes we may meet in London. God  
 (2-25)speed your magnum opus. I venture to prophesy it will be  
 (2-25)generally interesting. It will give me great pleasure to

(2-25)learn that my preux Chevalier Marmion has afforded you  
(2-25)any pleasure. He is popular here but we are you know  
(2-25)national in our taste so I wait my doom from London and  
(2-25)shall abide it sans pew et sans reproche, taking that phraze  
(2-25)a little differently than as it applies to Bayard.

(2-25)Believe me with great regard Dear Southey Yours truly  
(2-25)WALTER SCOTT

(2-25)Should this find you at Keswick do not fail to remember  
(2-25)me to your fireside. I give you joy of the fortunate  
(2-25)addition to it-

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-25)DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I am both shocked and  
(2-25)surprized at the second Miscarriage of Marmion. I saw  
(2-25)the copy duly addressed but I suspect the brute of a  
(2-25)bookseller has confounded it with some others that were  
(2-25)going by sea. I learned two days ago that the Princesses 1  
(2-25)copy had come safe & yours ought to have reached you  
(2-25)the day after. If you go to Blackheath her Royal Highness  
(2-25)will perhaps shew you her copy for which James  
(2-25)Skene made some pretty drawings of the scenery described  
(2-25)in the poem. I hasten to remedy the error of the bookseller  
(2-25)by sending another copy addressed to Lord Gastlereagh  
(2-25)which must be in his office at the moment this  
(2-25)reaches your Ladyship's hands unless as Othello says  
(2-25)" theres magic in the web on't."-When the stray copy  
(2-25)arrives (for it will arrive sooner or later) Lady Maria will  
(2-25)I hope do me the honour to accept it-I am impatient for  
(2-25)the Marquis's opinion of the last canto, which I am better

(2-26)pleased with than with any of the former ; but that is no  
(2-26)good criterion after all.

(2-26)I shall be much pleased if the proposed appointment  
(2-26)takes place in my favour not merely for the emolument  
(2-26)but because it will give me an early opportunity of making  
(2-26)myself thoroughly master of the new forms of judicial  
(2-26)procedure which may qualify me for promotion should I  
(2-26)continue to merit the favour of my friends-I am on the  
(2-26)eve of concluding a bargain with a bookseller<sup>1</sup> to edit  
(2-26)Swift's work for which he offers me 1500 guineas it will  
(2-26)occupy me occasionally for two years but labour is to me  
(2-26)really pleasure & the profit is not to be despised. In the  
(2-26)meantime I will collect ideas for my Highland poem  
(2-26)which I intend to begin two years hence if I have life  
(2-26)health & spirits.

(2-26)I quite agree with your Ladyship that Lord M. having  
(2-26)taken so kind an interest in my appointment will manage  
(2-26)it in his own way with the Chancellor-My motions are  
(2-26)of course at present unsettled. I would rather know what  
(2-26)is likely to be settled about the Scotch bill before I come  
(2-26)up. Our Lord Advocate has promised me timely notice-  
(2-26)Believe me unfeignedly your faithful & obliged

(2-26)EDINR. 28th Feby 1808

W. S.

(2-26)I send this letter with Marmion by my own servant to  
(2-26)the general post office so there can be no second mistake  
(2-26)unless among Lord C's clerks-This being Sunday I have  
(2-26)adjourned scolding the bookseller till tomorrow-  
(2-26)meanwhile I am

(2-26)Gathering my brows like gathering storm  
(2-26)Nursing my wrath to keep it warm.

[Pier font Morgan]

1808

SIR WALTER SCOTT

27

TO MRS. PRINGLE OF WHITEBANK 1

(2-27)MY DEAR MRS. PRINGLE,-I am truly flattered &  
(2-27)affected by your applause. A great French critic says  
(2-27)rien n'est beau quele vrai and were the counterpart true, and  
(2-27)that which is vrai always beau, my verses respecting my  
(2-27)little sporting friends 2 would have some tide to public  
(2-27)favour, since nothing is more sincere than my feelings  
(2-27)towards them. We will talk over them one day soon.  
(2-27)Meanwhile believe me, dear Madam Your much obliged  
(2-27)and faithful

(2-27)W. SCOTT

(2-27)CASTLE STREET, Thursday [Feb.-March 1808]

[Our Forefathers]

To LADY LOUISA STUART

(2-27)DEAR LADY LOUISA,-Day after day I hoped to have  
(2-27)had it in my power to have taken a ride as far as Newbattle  
(2-27)or Dalkeith before your Ladyship left the vicinity of  
(2-27)Dun Edin and day after day the pressure of official  
(2-27)business increased by the indisposition of one of my  
(2-27)colleagues rendered my excursion impossible. So as I learn  
(2-27)from Mr. Alison 3 that this will find you at Tynningham  
(2-27)I must take this mode of wishing your Ladyship a good  
(2-27)journey and all health and happiness- I have thought

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1808

LETTERS OF

(2-28)on your reading about the death of Constance and with all  
(2-28)the respect which (sans phrase) I entertain for every thing  
(2-28)you honour me with I have not made up my mind to the  
(2-28)alteration and here are my reasons- Clara has no wish  
(2-28)to embitter Marmions last moments and is only induced  
(2-28)to mention the death of Constance because she observes  
(2-28)that the wounded mans anxiety for her deliverance  
(2-28)prevents his attending to his own spiritual affairs. It  
(2-28)seems natural however that knowing by the Abbess or  
(2-28)however you please the share which Marmion had in the  
(2-28)fate of Constance she should pronounce the line assigned  
(2-28)to her in such a manner as perfectly conveyed to his  
(2-28)conscience the whole truth although her gentleness  
(2-28)avoided conveying it in direct terms. We are to consider  
(2-28)too that Marmion had from various workings of his own  
(2-28)mind been led to suspect the fate of Constance-so that  
(2-28)the train being ready laid the slightest hint of her fate  
(2-28)communicated the whole tale of terror to his conviction-  
(2-28)Were I to read the passage I would hesitate a little like one  
(2-28)endeavouring to seek a soft mode of conveying painful  
(2-28)intelligence

(2-28)In vain for Constance is your zeal  
(2-28)She-died at Holy Isle

(2-28)Perhaps after all this is too fine spun and requires more  
(2-28)from my gentle readers to fill up my sketch than I am  
(2-28)entitled to exact. But, I would rather put in an explanatory  
(2-28)couplet describing Constance's manner of speaking  
(2-28)the words than make her communication more full or  
(2-28)specific. Mrs. Scott has quite recovered her health and  
(2-28)feels no inconvenience unless from her regret at being so  
(2-28)awkwardly deprived of the honour of your Ladyships  
(2-28)company. We have Miss Baillie here as a visitor at  
(2-28)present. I hope she will make some little stay in

(2-28)Edinburgh.

(2-28)I have been much distressed by the late bad account of  
(2-28)dear little Lord Scotts health. God grant he may  
(2-28)recover-out of my own family there is no loss I would so

29                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1808

(2-29)deeply deprecate. Believe me ever dear Lady Louisa  
(2-29)Your obliged and faithful

(2-29)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-29)EDINR. 3rd March 1808

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO MISS SMITH I

(2-29)MY DEAR Miss SMITH,-My late engagements have  
(2-29)made me seem very ungrateful when I would most wish  
(2-29)to seem otherwise but I throw myself upon your goodness  
(2-29)to admit an apology founded upon various avocations  
(2-29)literary and poetical not to mention the daily discharge  
(2-29)of official duty. As a sort of peace offering I have to beg  
(2-29)you to accept what I hope is already in your hands a  
(2-29)copy of my new poem called by the hard name of  
(2-29)" Marmion." I shall be much flattered indeed if you  
(2-29)like it half as well as my little folks did the Panorama your  
(2-29)kind gift which they have studied and quoted every day  
(2-29)since to the great edification of Papa who daily learns  
(2-29)something he did not know before.

(2-29)We have Mrs. Siddons here-I believe to take her  
(2-29)farewell of the Edinburgh audience. I observe you have  
(2-29)been performing along with her in town and was most  
(2-29)happy to hear (for I did not fail to enquire) that you

(2-29)sustained the comparison as triumphantly as your warmest  
(2-29)friends could wish. I wish London had been within  
(2-29)100 miles. I would certainly have come to see you both  
(2-29)on the same stage.-We have Miss Baillie 2 here at present  
(2-29)who is certainly the best dramatic writer whom Britain  
(2-29)has produced since the days of Shakespeare and Massinger.  
(2-29)I hope you have had time to look into her tragedies (the

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(2-30)comedies you may [pass] over without any loss) for I am  
(2-30)sure you will find much to delight you and I venture to  
(2-30)prophecy you will one day have [an] opportunity to  
(2-30)distinguish yourself in some of her characters. I mean  
(2-30)if the real taste for the Drama independant of shew and  
(2-30)scenery should ever happen to revive, of which I think  
(2-30)your being permitted to remain upon the shelf as you call  
(2-30)it is no very promising symptom.-We have an actor  
(2-30)here of considerable merit called Young1; he is a well-  
(2-30)educated and gentlemanlike man and an enthusiast in  
(2-30)his profession. I sometimes have the pleasure of seeing  
(2-30)him in private and like him very much.

(2-30)Mrs. Scott joins in kindest and best remembrances-  
(2-30)and the children desire a thousand thanks which they hope  
(2-30)will not be less acceptable for my laziness-John Murray  
(2-30)Bookseller Fleetstreet has directions to send you Marmion.  
(2-30)I flatter myself you will make inquiry after it in case it  
(2-30)has not reached you before this letter. I have some  
(2-30)hopes to be in town this spring when I will seek an early  
(2-30)opportunity to express personally how much I am your  
(2-30)faithful and affectionate friend

(2-30)WALTER SCOTT

(2-30)EDIN. 4th March. 1808

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-30)EDINBURGH, 13th March 1808

(2-30)MY DEAR FRIEND,-I see with pleasure that both the  
(2-30)Marmions have been at last received-what should have  
(2-30)delayed the delivery of the first I cannot guess. As to  
(2-30)the Holland House copy assuredly I know nothing of it  
(2-30)not holding any correspondence with that mansion. The  
(2-30)bookseller here satisfied me by showing his invoices that  
(2-30)he sent off none so early as that to the Princess and your

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(2-31)Ladyship's. I suspect strongly that Miller<sup>1</sup> who has a  
(2-31)share in the Book had fallen on some means to get a copy  
(2-31)privately being anxious I presume to gratify the Hollands  
(2-31)since he became purchaser of Fox's work. All the Whigs  
(2-31)here are in arms against Marmion-if I had satirised Fox  
(2-31)they could have borne it but a secondary place for the  
(2-31)god of their idolatry puts them beyond the slender degree  
(2-31)of patience which displaced patriots usually possess. I  
(2-31)make them wellcome to cry till they are hoarse against  
(2-31)both the book and author as they are not in the habit of  
(2-31)having majorities upon their side. I suppose the crossed  
(2-31)critics of Holland House will take the same tone in your  
(2-31)Metropolis.

(2-31)You ask me why I do not rather think of original  
(2-31)production than editing the works of others and I will  
(2-31)frankly tell your Ladyship the reason. In the first place  
(2-31)no one acquires a certain degree of popularity without  
(2-31)exciting an equal degree of malevolence among those who  
(2-31)either from rivalry or the mere wish to pull down what

(2-31)others have set up are always ready to catch the first  
(2-31)occasion to lower the favour'd individual to what they call  
(2-31)his real standard. Of this I have enough of experience and  
(2-31)my political interferences however useless to my friends  
(2-31)have not failed to make me more than the usual number  
(2-31)of enemies. I am therefore bound in justice to myself  
(2-31)and to those whose good opinion has hitherto protected  
(2-31)me not to peril myself too frequently. The naturalists  
(2-31)tell us that if you destroy the web which the spider has  
(2-31)just made the insect must spend many days in inactivity  
(2-31)till he has assembled within his person the materials  
(2-31)necessary to weave another. Now after writing a work of  
(2-31)imagination one feels [in] nearly the same exhausted  
(2-31)state with the spider. I believe no man now alive writes  
(2-31)more rapidly than I do (no great recommendation), but  
(2-31)I never think of making verses till I have a sufficient stock

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(2-32)of poetical ideas to supply them. I would as soon join  
(2-32)the Israelites in Egypt in their heavy task of making bricks  
(2-32)without clay. Besides I know as a small farmer that good  
(2-32)husbandry consists in not taking the same crop too  
(2-32)frequently from the same soil and as turnips come after  
(2-32)wheat according to the best rules of agriculture I take it  
(2-32)that an edition of Swift will do well after such a scourging  
(2-32)crop as Marmion. Meantime I have by no means relinquished  
(2-32)my thoughts of a Highland poem but am  
(2-32)gradually collecting the ideas and information necessary  
(2-32)for that task-Perhaps I shall visit Green Erin to collect  
(2-32)what I can learn of Swift: if so I hope you will be at  
(2-32)Barons Court when I undertake my pilgrimage to your  
(2-32)native Land of Saints-My journey to London is unsettled,  
(2-32)for Robert Dundas or rather his Lady seem to think  
(2-32)there is no immediate occasion for it-As Ld Melville  
(2-32)will be in town shortly after this reaches your Ladyship

(2-32)I fancy his presence will quicken the passing of the Scotch  
(2-32)Bill and when that has passed parlt. my motions will  
(2-32)be decided by the order of the Commission appointed  
(2-32)under-that is-if I am successful in being named their  
(2-32)Secretary.

(2-32)Duchess of Gordon is here very gay and very angry  
(2-32)with me-I believe I have been a little negligent in my  
(2-32)attentions upon her but she should consider how little my  
(2-32)time is at my own disposal and pity instead of abusing  
(2-32)me. We are however very civil when we meet.

(2-32)My poor dear Lord Scott will never leave my memory.  
(2-32)I had a sort of feudal attachment to the boy who was all  
(2-32)the friends of his family could wish-Dalkeith and his  
(2-32)Lady are gone to Bothwell as I learn by a letter from Ld  
(2-32)Montagu-I hardly know how the arrow of fate could  
(2-32)have hit a more vulnerable point-But great and small  
(2-32)we are alike her butt. One thing alone is out of her  
(2-32)power-[the] unalterable and sincere regard with which  
(2-32)I am dear Lady Abercorn your much obliged and very  
(2-32)faithful

W. S.

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1808      33

(2-33)P.S. You will be pleased to hear that the Princess 1  
(2-33)honoured me so far as to send me an elegant silver cup  
(2-33)in acknowledgement of the compliment pd. in Marmion  
(2-33)to the D. of Brunswick's Memory-

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO MRS. DUNDAS 2

(2-33)MY DEAR MRS. DUNDAS,-I was honourd by your letter  
(2-33)& truly sorry for the state of Mr. Dundas' health-I hope

(2-33)he is now better and that he will not let his freindly zeal  
(2-33)for Lord Wellesley or Lord any body else interfere with  
(2-33)the necessary care of himself. Marmion has by this time  
(2-33)reachd their hands-the Whigs here are furious at the  
(2-33)inferior rank in which I have placed the God of their  
(2-33)Idolatry & my own conscience is on the other hand a  
(2-33)little twinged at having done him fully more than  
(2-33)justice. But he was a great man & is gone-& that must  
(2-33)be the justification to myself-as for the others Marmion  
(2-33)has been amid to little purpose if he cannot keep his  
(2-33)ground in a good cause. I am led just now to trouble  
(2-33)you with these few lines on account of the situation of a  
(2-33)very deserving young man a Cousin German of mine  
(2-33)educated in the Companys service & who has made  
(2-33)several voyages as first & second Mate & bears a most  
(2-33)excellent character. I believe he commanded an extra  
(2-33)ship one voyage. His father Walter Scott of Reaburn  
(2-33)is a Scotch Laird of the old stamp who loves a hunter & a  
(2-33)fox chase better than any son he has in the world. As  
(2-33)however he is of an old branch of the Buccleuch family

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(2-34)& a voter in Roxburghshire I would upon any other  
(2-34)occasion have endeavoured to interest them in behalf of  
(2-34)this young man his third son but the melancholy state  
(2-34)of Dalkeith House precludes all thought of this. I am  
(2-34)unfeignedly reluctant to intrude on Mr. Dundas's freind-  
(2-34)ship yet in the present case I am sure you will excuse my  
(2-34)preferring a petition whatever success it may have.

(2-34)This said youth " Hugh Scott" by name writes me  
(2-34)after two months unsuccessful solicitation that he thinks  
(2-34)if backd with Mr. D.'s countenance he might obtain the  
(2-34)Command of a ship in David Scotts house & if not  
(2-34)perhaps a nomination for a Bombay or China Voyage for

(2-34)next season or that following. This is the object as to  
the practicability or propriety of the request I am no  
(2-34)judge : but if it be what Mr D. can do without interfering  
(2-34)with other engagements or departing from his usual rules  
(2-34)he will serve an excellent seaman & a very worthy tho'  
(2-34)unprotected young man. The death of a near relation  
(2-34)who had considerable India influence has in a manner  
(2-34)renderd him freindless in his line of profession. I beg  
(2-34)my best Compliments to Mr. Dundas and with every  
(2-34)apology for this intrusion I am with great respect Dear  
(2-34)Madam Your most obedient & obliged humble Servant

(2-34)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-34)EDINR. 13 March 1808.  
(2-34)Honble Mrs. Dundas.  
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-34)CASTLE STREET, 3d April 1808

(2-34)DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,-Accept with your usual  
(2-34)goodness a copy of the Life of Dryden of which Mr. Miller  
(2-34)has thrown off a few separate from the works. We have  
(2-34)often heard of a rivulet of text meandering through a  
(2-34)meadow of margin. But these books (saving that the

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1808      35

(2-35)shape is square) rather look like St. James's Square with  
(2-35)the pool of water in the midst of it. My Southern motions  
(2-35)remain uncertain till I learn whether the Commission of  
(2-35)Parliament meets in London or in Edinr.

(2-35)The Morning Chronicle of the 29th March has made a  
(2-35)pretty story of the cancel of page 10th of Marmion, which



(2-36)1808

(2-36)DEAR SHARPE,-I return you " Spanish Vengeance,"  
(2-36)wt. best thank for the pleasure the perusal has afforded.  
(2-36)It contains much fine poetry and many striking situations,  
(2-36)but rather belongs to the second school of the English  
(2-36)drama-to that of Congreve and Rowe-than to that of  
(2-36)Shakespeare and Massinger. Whether it would succeed  
(2-36)on the stage I cannot tell, but I am sure many many far  
(2-36)inferior have been received with good approbation.  
(2-36)Should you ever think of this, a few harshnesses in the  
(2-36)language might be smoothed away with advantage.  
(2-36)I have marked one or two things for consideration in  
(2-36)pencil.-Believe me, yours truly,

(2-36)W. S.

(2-36)Friday.

[Sharpe's Letters]

TO ROBERT SURTEES

(2-36)MY DEAR SIR,-My best thanks attend you for the  
(2-36)curious and valuable additions which your letter of 29th  
(2-36)February enables me to make to the letters in Sadler's  
(2-36)collection, relating to the Grand Northern Rebellion.  
(2-36)Heartily do I wish it were possible to have the Bishop of  
(2-36)Durham's letter transcribed. Mr. Ellis of the Museum,  
(2-36)at the request of Mr. Rose, was so good as to promise  
(2-36)me his assistance to this effect; but having been

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-37)frequently on the point of coming to London, I have always  
(2-37)delayed writing till I should see him. I would not, by

(2-37)any means, burden you with a task so odious and fatiguing  
(2-37)as transcription, but perhaps there may be some one  
(2-37)about the Museum capable of that labour and willing  
(2-37)to accept of a recompense for his pains ; should such a  
(2-37)person be to be had, I would without scruple request  
(2-37)you, supposing the Lansdowne papers now arranged, to  
(2-37)take the trouble of pointing out such passages or letters  
(2-37)as may tend to throw new light on the state of the North  
(2-37)in Queen Elizabeth's reign. After all, that part of  
(2-37)Sadler's Letters will owe to you all that is curious in the  
(2-37)illustrations. I heartily wish the whole had been under  
(2-37)your management, as I am certain you would have done  
(2-37)them much more justice than is in my power. As for  
(2-37)Prince Charles, " He, that wandering knight so fair," we  
(2-37)will talk about him when we meet. I have always  
(2-37)thought of a Highland poem before hanging my harp on  
(2-37)the willows ; and perhaps it would be no bad setting for  
(2-37)such a tale to suppose it related for her amusement, in  
(2-37)the course of his wanderings after the fatal field of  
(2-37)Culloden. Flora Macdonald, Kingburgh, Lochiel, the  
(2-37)Kennedies, and many other characters of dramatic  
(2-37)[interest] might be introduced ; and the time is now past  
(2-37)away when the theme would have had both danger and  
(2-37)offence in it. When you have read over Marmion, which  
(2-37)has more individuality of character than the Lay,  
(2-37)although it wants a sort of tenderness which the personage  
(2-37)of the old Minstrel gave to my first-born romance, you  
(2-37)will be a better judge, whether I should undertake a work  
(2-37)which will depend less on incident and description than  
(2-37)on the power of distinguishing and marking the dramatis  
(2-37)personae. But all this is in embryo, the creation of your  
(2-37)letter, and may never go further. When you look into  
(2-37)the notes of the aforesaid Marmion, you will see how  
(2-37)valuable a correspondent you have been to me.

(2-37)Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe is here at present; he is,

(2-38)I find, an old college friend and correspondent of yours.  
 (2-38)He is a very ingenious as well as agreeable young man,  
 (2-38)and, I think, will be an excellent poet, when the luxuriance  
 (2-38)of his fancy is a little repressed by severer taste. I never  
 (2-38)saw so excellent a drawer of comic figures, for I will not  
 (2-38)debase his sketches by calling them caricatures. He is  
 (2-38)making some extracts from our MSS. in the Advocates'  
 (2-38)Library: I heartily wish you would one day find it  
 (2-38)absolutely necessary to do the same.

(2-38)I must not finish my letter without saying, that if you  
 (2-38)can make a contract with an amanuensis for me, I will  
 (2-38)request Mr. Miller, bookseller, of Albemarle-street, to  
 (2-38)pay him the amount of his labours.

(2-38)I do not know if you are so much attached to chivalrous  
 (2-38)poetry as to admire the ancient metrical romances. If  
 (2-38)so, you will be interested in a plan which I have greatly  
 (2-38)at heart, namely, to have these venerable poems carefully  
 (2-38)published. For this purpose I have found a patient, and  
 (2-38)at the same time an enthusiastic editor in the person of  
 (2-38)Henry Weber, an Anglo-German.<sup>1</sup> He has made transcripts

(2-39)to the amount of many thousand lines. I think I  
 (2-39)could get some of my friends in London to add some  
 (2-39)notes, and would what I could myself. My present idea  
 (2-39)is to get so many names as will ensure the bookseller  
 (2-39)against loss (for such a book will be "caviare for the  
 (2-39)multitude,") and give some little recompense for the  
 (2-39)editor. I think, if I can get 100 names at 5l. 5s. I can  
 (2-39)afford them three quarto volumes of romantic poetry.

(2-39)Will you be one of my round table ? We do not intend  
(2-39)to publish those which Ritson has already given. Believe  
(2-39)me ever, dear Surtees, Your truly obliged,

(2-39)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-39)EDINBURGH, 4th April, 1808.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

(2-39)EDIN. 7th April 1808

(2-39)MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,-I was honoured with your  
(2-39)Ladyships letter this morning. Unless the report in  
(2-39)question be an express punishment from heaven for your  
(2-39)hiding your talent in a napkin or that " there's magic  
(2-39)in the web on't," I cannot offer any satisfactory solution.  
(2-39)I never I am positive mentioned your Ladyships name<sup>1</sup> to  
(2-39)the high personage in question or in writing to Miss  
(2-39)Hayman the only Lady of her household with whom I  
(2-39)have any correspondence. Skene as your Ladyship may  
(2-39)readily believe knows nothing of the intended publication  
(2-39)and was never so happy as to see any of the editors  
(2-39)verses. I think the artist who made the little sketch at the  
(2-39)beginning of Ugly Meg would hardly presume to mention  
(2-39)it as I cautioned him on the subject. The poem was

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(2-40)never given out of my own hand nor mentioned as your  
(2-40)Ladyships although I must plead guilty to having shown  
(2-40)it to one or two literary friends as a piracy which I had  
(2-40)committed upon a Lady of my acquaintance. If it is  
(2-40)possible that the little drawing has been thus converted  
(2-40)into a set of embellishments by Skene, the six pages of

(2-40)Manuscript into fifteen copies of a printed book wire  
(2-40)wove hot-pressed and with a suitable margin I shall  
(2-40)deeply regret being the cause however innocently of  
(2-40)having done any thing that could contribute to so  
(2-40)wonderful a transformation. Yet I can hardly think it  
(2-40)as I am certain I never showed the poem to more than  
(2-40)three persons. I cannot find in my heart to condemn  
(2-40)Ugly Meg to the flames as a witch being convinced she  
(2-40)had so very little to do with the mysterious report in  
(2-40)question but in future she shall be condemn'd to as  
(2-40)severe seclusion as if she was the fairest Circassian in the  
(2-40)seven Towers. Depend upon it my dear Lady Louisa  
(2-40)that if any enquiry is made at me by her Royal Highness  
(2-40)upon this subject I will attend most heedfully and  
(2-40)pointedly to your injunctions. I must just say if I am  
(2-40)pointedly charged with the existence of Ugly Meg that  
(2-40)she had been reclaimed by your Ladyship in consequence  
(2-40)of some reports which had gone abroad other being about  
(2-40)to be given to the world and that I had forgotten every  
(2-40)line of her. By the way I forgot to mention that I never  
(2-40)showed Ugly Meg to any one since your Ladyship made  
(2-40)my plunder lawful; so that I have been in all respects  
(2-40)a thief of honour.-I think it by no means unlikely that  
(2-40)a jumble may have been made by that long tongued  
(2-40)Gossip Fame between the sermon which was printed the  
(2-40)poem which was not printed, the drawings which Mr.  
(2-40)Skene did make for the princess, the drawings which he  
(2-40)did not make for Ugly Meg and out of this hedge podge  
(2-40)with a considerable mixture of unadulterated lye the cup  
(2-40)has been brewed which your Ladyship regards with so  
(2-40)much terror. I am less surprised at any thing of the

(2-41)kind as by a process equally well founded and oracular  
(2-41)I had the inexpressible happiness to see myself but the

(2-41)other day pronounced by the Morning Chronicle guilty  
 (2-41)of garbling my own poem and giving one sort of book  
 (2-41)to Mr. Pitts friends and another to the public yet I  
 (2-41)believe that your Ladyship is more teased with a report  
 (2-41)the nature of which is not only innocent but would if true  
 (2-41)do your talents honour than I am with one that would  
 (2-41)argue me guilty of equal meanness and folly. But the  
 (2-41)feelings of a professed author and such I must be while  
 (2-41)my family continues to require my exertions get very  
 (2-41)callous to this species of scandal. I have adopted your  
 (2-41)Ladyships kind suggestion about the speech of Constance v  
 (2-41)but after much consideration have placed only one  
 (2-41)hyphen or dash to express her confusion. The death of  
 (2-41)poor dear Lord Scott<sup>1</sup> was such a stunning blow to me,  
 (2-41)that I really felt for some time totally indifferent to the  
 (2-41)labours of literary correction. I had very great hopes  
 (2-41)from that boy, who was of an age to form, on the principles  
 (2-41)of his father and grandfather, his feelings towards the  
 (2-41)numerous families who depend on them. But God's will  
 (2-41)be done. I intended to have omitted the lines referring to  
 (2-41)him in Marmion in the second edition ; for as to adding  
 (2-41)any, I could as soon write the Iliad. But I am now glad  
 (2-41)I altered my intention, as Lady Dalkeith has sent for  
 (2-41)the book, and dwells with melancholy pleasure on  
 (2-41)whatever recalls the memory of the poor boy. She has  
 (2-41)borne her distress like an angel, as she is, and always has  
 (2-41)been ; but God only can cure the wounds he inflicts.

(2-41)Marmion in consequence of an unexampled demand

42            LETTERS OF            1808

(2-42)has been hurried through the press & the second edition  
 (2-42)is on the eve of publication. Millar in Albemarle street  
 (2-42)will have a copy of which I have to intreat your kind  
 (2-42)acceptance. A copy of the life of Dryden will also kiss

(2-42)your hands in a day or two. I either did write or intended  
(2-42)to write a few lines along with the last mentioned book  
(2-42)but I was in such a hurry at dispatching matters with my  
(2-42)printer who was to carry the books to London that I have  
(2-42)absolutely forgotten which- Adieu dear Lady Louisa.  
(2-42)I regret I am not the Knight for whom it is reserved to  
(2-42)break the charm which has converted a high born and  
(2-42)distressful Lady into a professed authoress. I have no  
(2-42)doubt it will soon disclose of itself

(2-42)For never spell by fairy laid  
(2-42)With strong enchantment bound a glade  
(2-42)Beyond the bounds of night

(2-42)Ever your obliged  
[Abbotsford Copies]

WALTER SCOTT 1

TO [JAMES] BALLANTYNE

(2-42)[April 1808]

(2-42)DEAR BALLANTYNE,-As you are going to town before  
(2-42)me I wish you to be possessd of the outlines of a little  
(2-42)adventure which I think might be conducted with great  
(2-42)success if under the management of our friend in Albemarle  
(2-42)Street. Constables projected Swift will find me  
(2-42)serious work for two years but I do not anticipate that  
(2-42)it will be half so difficult as Dryden all the sources of  
(2-42)information lying within reach ; & you know that while  
(2-42)labouring at Dryden I found time not only to make two  
(2-42)trips to England but to write Marmion. I therefore  
(2-42)wish to provide for occupation of my idle time as I  
(2-42)intend to write no more poetry for two years & I have  
(2-42)turnd my thoughts to making a classical collection of our

(2-43)English tales and Romances of wonder with notes &  
(2-43)critical prefaces.<sup>1</sup> I understand something of the kind  
(2-43)has been lately attempted but I have no doubt of being  
(2-43)able in a department which I understand but too well to  
(2-43)bear down all competition. I have several translations  
(2-43)by myself & others from the German and other languages  
(2-43)with which such a collection might be enrichd. The best  
(2-43)eastern tales ought of course to be included as the persian,  
(2-43)arabian & so forth with notes on the manners & some  
(2-43)enquiry into the authenticity of each collection. The  
(2-43)work should be publishd on the plan of the well known  
(2-43)Cabinet des fees. I should like very much to know  
(2-43)Millars opinion on such a speculation perhaps to publish  
(2-43)six volumes yearly with a good engraving to each if he  
(2-43)liked it. On the subject of editorship I am inclined to  
(2-43)be moderate as I do not mean to give my name to the  
(2-43)titlepage. If it should be found necessary to add any  
(2-43)original matter of length that of course would be a  
(2-43)separate consideration. If Mr. Millar dislikes it he will  
(2-43)of course observe profound secrecy & you will then  
(2-43)proceed as I shall further direct you by letter for I am  
(2-43)by no means inclined lightly to relinquish my plan being  
(2-43)possessd of considerable materials for giving it effect.

(2-43)This letter will serve you for a memorandum of one or  
(2-43)two other trifles.

(2-43)Inclosed is an order from Mr. Polwhele for some poems  
(2-43)from Messrs. Cadell & Davies. Mr. Millar will be so kind  
(2-43)as to receive them & they may be sent down with my  
(2-43)Dodsley. In requital of Mr. P's civility I wish to send him  
(2-43)a[n] 8vo Marmion & Lay which Mr. Millar or Murray will  
(2-43)readily give you packd up for Revd. Mr. Polwhele  
(2-43)Kenwyn, Truro care of Messrs. Cadell & Davies.

(2-44)Item see if you can find me a few 4to. volumes of old  
(2-44)plays about the age of Charles II. They sell for about  
(2-44)5 or 7/ a volume & are to be found chiefly in old Book  
(2-44)shops. Pick up also if you meet with such any wonderful  
(2-44)tales as the History of Peter Wilkins I & the like. You can  
(2-44)hardly go wrong if you do not give too much money. I  
(2-44)beg you will write to me when you get to town & am  
(2-44)with regard yours very truly

(2-44)W SCOTT

(2-44)CASTLE STREET Sunday-

(2-44)Will you ask Mr. Millar what he is doing with Thomson ?  
(2-44)-I wish it to be going on immediatly.

(Undated.)

[Signet Library]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(2-44)DEAR BALLANTYNE,-As it may be of consequence to  
(2-44)you to have early information of the politics of the  
(2-44)Trade here I have to inform you (for your private ear)  
(2-44)that Constables principal errand to Londn. is to establish  
(2-44)an agency office or shop there for the sale of his own  
(2-44)books; to be managed by Park & young Hunter. This  
(2-44)I think he may repent unless he keeps a very tight hand  
(2-44)over them, & so I hinted to him.

(2-44)Among the copies of Marmion orderd for friends is one  
(2-44)intended for John Marriot which as I could give no  
(2-44)direction has not I dare say been forwarded by Murray.  
(2-44)You may possibly learn his address from Mr. Nott & I beg  
(2-44)you will take the trouble to see the book is forwarded.

(2-44)Miller has suggested the Republication of Somers

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1808      45

(2-45)Tracts 1 which would in one point of view be a capital job

(2-45)(12 vols in quarto). I have made my terms therefore as

(2-45)low as he can well expect my name vizt.      105,, a volume

(2-45)which is cheaper than Dryden almost.

(2-45)John is going on very well. Yet I shall be anxious for

(2-45)your return-pray let me hear from you on affairs in

(2-45)general-I am .now anxious to know how Dryden will

(2-45)strike the public taste.2 Dont omit to pick up all the 410.

(2-45)volumes of plays you can find. I have various projects

(2-45)about them-also all marvellous tales. Believe me Yours

(2-45)truly      W SCOTT

(2-45)CASTLE STREET 11th April 1808

(2-45)Mr. James Ballantyne Care of Mr. Miller Bookseller

(2-45)Albemarle Street London

[Signet Library]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-45)DEAR SIR-I never allow any person to forget a

(2-45)promise in my favour especially one of my high and

(2-45)mighty allies of the Trade. Do you remember you was

(2-45)so good as to say you would get me a copy of the cancelled

(2-45)print to Hopners 3 tales. I think the anecdote so diverting

46      LETTERS OF      1808

(2-46)that I beg if you can conveniently do so you would

(2-46)oblige me by sending it in your next parcel to Constable  
(2-46)and tell me at the same time what Campbell is about.  
(2-46)I have heard nothing of him since I left town. If the  
(2-46)Magazine goes on you will send it me and I will do what  
(2-46)I can for it here. I should be glad to see you if you come  
(2-46)to Scotland and am Your obedt. Servt.

(2-46)WALTER SCOTT

(2-46)ASHESTIEL 16 April [1808]

[Sir A. J. Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(2-46)ASHESTIEL 22nd April [1808]

(2-46)DEAR BALLANTYNE,-I begin to be impatient to hear  
(2-46)from you concerning your success in London. But this  
(2-46)letter principally respects your friend & mine Mrs.  
(2-46)Siddons. I wrote her a long letter from Arnistoun & at  
(2-46)the Chief Barons request on the subject of the Edinburgh  
(2-46)Theatre<sup>1</sup> to which I have been anxiously expecting a  
(2-46)reply & fear my cause has already suffered by delay.

1808            SIR WALTER SCOTT            47

(2-47)The letter was addressd Covent-Garden Theatre;  
(2-47)pray enquire its fate. The substance (for you may be  
(2-47)safely trusted with all that concerns Mrs. Siddons) was  
(2-47)that the patent of the Edr. theatre which expires this year  
(2-47)was to be vested in a set of gentlemen for the public  
(2-47)advantage. Rock is moving heaven & earth with the  
(2-47)Town Council & others to get a lease & I found the  
(2-47)Provost at Arnistoun come on purpose to solicit the Chief  
(2-47)Baron with a positive assurance on Rocks part that  
(2-47)Mrs. S. had not the most distant thoughts of the matter.

(2-47)I beggd leave to doubt this assertion extremely and  
(2-47)accordingly the C.B. commissiond me to write to Mrs. S.  
(2-47)with the assurance that if she had any view for herself  
(2-47)or Mr H. Siddons he would do all in his power to forward  
(2-47)it. I think I can also answer for Dalkeith House being  
(2-47)favourable if spoke to in time. All that I wish is that Mrs.  
(2-47)Siddons would let me know whether she has any thoughts  
(2-47)of the management or not. In the former event she need  
(2-47)bind herself to nothing till we see what sort of terms can  
(2-47)be offerd. But by simply stating her wishes she will  
(2-47)enable me to put an effectual stop to the present system  
(2-47)of intrigue and cabal which may otherwise foreclose  
(2-47)their being complied with. And if (which I should  
(2-47)think a great disappointment) Mrs. S. has no thought on  
(2-47)the subject Mr. Henry Mackenzie & I think of looking  
(2-47)out for some other candidate. Our friend Young would  
(2-47)do well if joind by any person of capital. One thing  
(2-47)you will understand better than I can express namely  
(2-47)how completely Mrs. Siddons' plan may be foild if it  
(2-47)shall appear to come through the hands of a certain  
(2-47)bustling political party For with however little reason, you  
(2-47)know as well as I, that the Magistrates would take the  
(2-47)alarm as if the theatre was to be thrown into the hands  
(2-47)of these persons-it would be asking a favour of De  
(2-47)Monfort in the name of Rezenvelt. I fear [Miss] D's  
(2-47)active kindness in this matter & if possible would have  
(2-47)Mrs. Siddons stand upon her own high ground without

48        LETTERS    OF        1808

(2-48)the most distant shadow of party bustle. I hinted this in  
(2-48)my letter to Mrs. S. which I shewd the Chief before  
(2-48)sealing it & I am most anxious to hear her determination.  
(2-48)It is the last calling of the Bans. The instant those are  
(2-48)spoke to who must be secured I will take it upon me to  
(2-48)mention the matter to Miss Dallas but sooner I think it

(2-48)could do no good & might be of prejudice. I believe  
(2-48)Mr. Mackenzies name & perhaps Wm. Erskines & mine  
(2-48)will be in the patent. Will you get to the bottom of this  
(2-48)business & write to me about it.

(2-48)I left John very busy but only 10 presses mand ; for  
(2-48)want of pressmen-while the Compositors were  
(2-48)likely to desert because the presses were over-burdened.  
(2-48)Surely we suffer by want of hands. Beneath I write an  
(2-48)order on Messrs. Longman & company to settle with you a  
(2-48)few pounds which they owe me. I owe Messrs. Wood &  
(2-48)Green Newsmen No 9 Holywell Street Strand the sum  
(2-48)of 4, 7, for the Courier newspaper on my account. I  
(2-48)will write to them to send the receipt to Mr. Millars, who  
(2-48)can pay it & settle with you. We are here up to the  
(2-48)knees in snow. No other news stirring except that  
(2-48)Jeffrey has written a very sharp review of Marmion in  
(2-48)which however he gives Canto VI most extravagant  
(2-48)praise. Do you know who writes " The Crusaders or  
(2-48)Minstrels of Acre " lately published by Cadell & Davies 1-  
(2-48)It has some spirited Stanzas and is much above the every  
(2-48)day tone of poetry-Will you be so good as to write as  
(2-48)soon as you can & let me know how Dryden is selling  
(2-48)etc etc. Direct to Ashestiel Selkirk N.B. as I shall be here  
(2-48)for a fortnight at least. Believe me Yours truly

(2-48)Mr. James Ballantyne                      WALTER SCOTT  
(2-48)Care of Mr. Miller Bookseller

(2-48)Albemarle Street London  
[Signet Library]

49                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1808

TO MISS SEWARD

(2-49)CATHEDRAL CLOSE, LICHFIELD [23rd April 1808]

(2-49)MY DEAR Miss SEWARD,-It is long since I have been  
(2-49)honoured with your kind letter containing so favourable  
(2-49)and partial an analysis of Marmion. It is now lying  
(2-49)before me and the contents are enough to warm the blood  
(2-49)to the finger ends although our coals are all expended,  
(2-49)the snow lying two feet deep and the roads impassable  
(2-49)while the almanack impudently pretends to my very face  
(2-49)that to-day is the twenty-third of April. We expect a  
(2-49)visit from Miss White in the course of next week ; certainly  
(2-49)if the weather permits her to accomplish her journey  
(2-49)at all, she will deem herself in Siberia or Nova Zembla.  
(2-49)I submit to most of your strictures<sup>1</sup> those excepted where  
(2-49)we differ on principle-a word which I respect however

50            LETTERS OF            1808

(2-50)as much when I think it really ranks against me as when  
(2-50)it combats on my side : and I hope withal I have equal  
(2-50)spirit to condemn the assistance of party partiality and  
(2-50)the enmity of party prejudice when they assume its  
(2-50)respectable disguise and enlist themselves in either party.  
(2-50)The word butchery has been noted by several of my friends  
(2-50)as well as by you so I think it must be wrong-Yet to  
(2-50)me the dragging of a victim to death sounds butchery  
(2-50)as well as the actual use of the knife or mallet. I am  
(2-50)not familiar with the Poetical Register. I see I must get  
(2-50)[it] to make myself acquainted with such beautiful verses  
(2-50)as those you quote from the fifth volume. They are  
(2-50)uncommonly striking. I wrote you a pretty long letter  
(2-50)on the subject of collecting and publishing a few of your  
(2-50)original poems on which I will not now [say anything]  
(2-50)further than to express my sincere hope that in some shape  
(2-50)or other you will gratify us so far.

(2-50)My reason for transporting Marmion from Lichfield was

(2-50)to make good the minstrel prophecy of Constance's song.  
 (2-50)Why I should ever have taken him there I cannot very  
 (2-50)well say. Attachment to the place, its locality with  
 (2-50)respect to Tamworth, the ancient seat of the Marmions,  
 (2-50)partly perhaps the whim of taking a slap at Lord Brooke  
 (2-50)en passant, joined in suggesting the idea which I had not  
 (2-50)time to bring out or finish as the concluding canto of  
 (2-50)*Marmion* was written in four days and sent piece-meal to  
 (2-50)the press as the ink dried on the paper without copying or  
 (2-50)revisal. I plead guilty of trifling with my theme in  
 (2-50)concluding, but in God's name what could I do-all  
 (2-50)interest died with *Marmion* but my subordinate characters  
 (2-50)remained on my hand to be " wooed and married and a' "  
 (2-50)as our old song says. I should have been torn to pieces  
 (2-50)if I had not given some account of them but to make  
 (2-50)it interesting was impossible. I therefore treated them as  
 (2-50)the author in the *Critic* treats the confidante of *Tilburina* 1

51            SIR WALTER SCOTT            1808

(2-51)-een took them by the shoulders and pushed them off  
 (2-51)the stage the best way I could.

(2-51)I am quite glad you have seen Southey. Delighted  
 (2-51)with him you must be, yet in conversation (great as he is)  
 (2-51)he is inferior to Wordsworth, perhaps because he is a  
 (2-51)deeper and more elaborate scholar. Southey rarely  
 (2-51)allows you any of those repose of conversation when you  
 (2-51)are at liberty to speak, as the phrase is, " whatever  
 (2-51)comes uppermost." But in return, if an idle fellow like  
 (2-51)me is sometimes a little gene, he is at least informed, and  
 (2-51)may be the wiser or better for all he hears. What I  
 (2-51)admire in both is an upright undeviating morality  
 (2-51)connecting itself with all they think and say and write.  
 (2-51)Southey is now I believe in London studying for the *Cid*,  
 (2-51)and the Portuguese History. I am impatient for both.

(2-51)Nothing new of the literary kind amongst us except  
(2-51)that Jeffrey has written a very sharp review of Marmion  
(2-51)for the next Edinburgh Review. Being an utter stranger  
(2-51)to the pangs of an Author's anxiety, and not very susceptible  
(2-51)of pleasure arising from poetical reputation it would  
(2-51)be very hard if I were subjected to the distress arising  
(2-51)from wretched feelings on critical attacks. We dined  
(2-51)together and went over the subject of his criticism with  
(2-51)mutual good humour. I cannot say I am sorry for the  
(2-51)circumstance as I firmly believe if ever I write again I  
(2-51)shall do better without one half of my popularity (I  
(2-51)suppose I must call it) and furthermore, it will exhibit  
(2-51)the impartiality of the critic which has been considerably  
(2-51)assailed-

(2-51)Mrs. Jackson (l) leaves Edinburgh in a short time to be  
(2-51)Governess to Mr. Arbuthnot's 1 children (late our Resident

52                    LETTERS OF                    1808

(2-52)at Constantinople). I hope it will answer but I fear she  
(2-52)will find the task of teaching " the young idea how to  
(2-52)shoot" one fully more laborious than that of planting  
(2-52)cabbages. Her sons are prospering in the West Indies-  
(2-52)that is a better hope-they owe her I have been told,  
(2-52)much. I hope they will have both the means and the  
(2-52)desire to repay her amply. The said Mrs. Jackson wrote  
(2-52)me a letter just as I left Edinburgh, about a Mr. Whalley  
(2-52)who is, God bless the mark, ambitious of becoming LL.D.  
(2-52)and can find no better road to it than through a Scotch  
(2-52)University. I believe Edinburgh and Glasgow have  
(2-52)long declined dealing in this sort of literary Simony,  
(2-52)though St. Andrews and Aberdeen still as Johnson said  
(2-52)get rich by degrees. But as Mr. Whalley is stated to be a  
(2-52)friend of yours I will endeavour to assist him if he comes

(2-52)here to be-doctored, though I think his ambition an odd  
(2-52)one. I hold your letter too valuable to be employed as a  
(2-52)talisman in conjuring up the benevolence of any periodical  
(2-52)critic from Dan to Beersheba. Mr. Fellows 1 will I dare  
(2-52)say write what he likes about Marmion, but let him write  
(2-52)what he will " these things grieve not Cecil." My  
(2-52)connection with my poem drops as compleatly with its  
(2-52)publication as that of the bird with her nestlings when she  
(2-52)has turned them off-But no man values the applause of  
(2-52)his friends more highly, and particularly Miss Seward's,  
(2-52)than her very faithful

(2-52)W. S.

(2-52)Mrs. Scott joins in compliments and kindness as warm  
(2-52)as weather will permit. She has been just alarmed with a  
(2-52)mad dog or one so called shot under the window.

[British Museum]

1808            SIR WALTER SCOTT            53

TO ROBERT SURTEES.

(2-53)MY DEAR SURTEES,-I have been a little way out of  
(2-53)town, and only yesterday received your kind letter.  
(2-53)Upon maturely considering your obliging offer, I have  
(2-53)determined to be contented with copies of the Bishop's  
(2-53)two letters, which you are kind enough to offer me.  
(2-53)There would be no end of publishing every thing relative  
(2-53)to the period, nor is it perhaps desirable, where so much  
(2-53)depends on minute accuracy, that state papers should  
(2-53)be printed where the proof-sheets cannot be collated with  
(2-53)the originals before their being thrown off. I do grudge  
(2-53)a little the necessity of relinquishing the more complete  
(2-53)illustrations which might be derived from the Lansdowne

(2-53)papers ; but, I believe, I must e'en confine myself to my  
(2-53)own materials. Among the Cotton MSS. are four letters  
(2-53)respecting Sir Ralph Sadler's earlier life. They occur  
(2-53)upon pages, 343, 370, 375, 378 ; and No. 102, 118, 121,  
(2-53)112, on the respective pages of the Catalogue. (By the  
(2-53)way, is there not a new Catalogue ?) May I give you  
(2-53)the trouble of looking into them to see what they contain,  
(2-53)and whether they throw any light on the rise of his  
(2-53)fortunes. There is also on page 344, No. 161, a letter  
(2-53)from Sir Ralph, about some commotions in the Northern  
(2-53)counties : this, I presume, may be interesting, at least  
(2-53)to you and me. You see how I presume on your goodness ;  
(2-53)but as you have taught me how to beg, you will  
(2-53)not, I hope, teach me how a beggar should be answered.  
(2-53)My own motions townward are absolutely uncertain. I  
(2-53)would have been there before now; but as I have a  
(2-53)prospect of being called up on business, I rather chose to  
(2-53)postpone my journey till it became necessary than to run  
(2-53)the risk of having my stay protracted beyond what would  
(2-53)be pleasant or convenient. At any rate, I hope to see  
(2-53)you either in town, or by the road. When you write to  
(2-53)John Marriot, will you say, with my kind compliments,  
(2-53)that a copy of Sir Marmion intended for him is at

54            LETTERS    OF       1808

(2-54)Murray's, the bookseller, in Fleet-street, not being enough  
(2-54)of a knight errant to venture into the wilds of Cornwall  
(2-54)without a direction. The truth is, I should have written  
(2-54)to him long ago, but an event deeply afflicting to him, and  
(2-54)the thoughts of which still make me sick-I mean the loss  
(2-54)of his former pupil. Lord Scott-took from me all heart to  
(2-54)write to him. I am truly happy to hear of his giving so  
(2-54)effectual proof of convalescence as to enter into the holy  
(2-54)bonds of matrimony, and should like much to know  
(2-54)where he is to establish himself and all about it.

(2-54)I am very glad you like Marmion, it has need of some  
(2-54)friends ; for Jeffery shewed me yesterday a very sharp  
(2-54)review of it; I think as tight a one as he has written since  
(2-54)Southey's Madoc. As I don't believe the world ever  
(2-54)furnished a critic and an author who were more absolute  
(2-54)poco curantes about their craft, we dined together, and had  
(2-54)a hearty laugh at the revisal of the flagellation. Ever  
(2-54)yours, &c.

(2-54)EDINBURGH, April, 1808.

[Abbotsford Copies and Surtees Memoir]

TO ROBERT SURTEES.

(2-54)MY DEAR SIR,-I do not delay to write to thank you for  
(2-54)the transcripts received to-day in your own excellent &  
(2-54)most distinct hand. I am quite ashamed of the trouble  
(2-54)you have had. In requital annuntio vobis gaudium magnum.  
(2-54)The old pedigree I was quite right; and Norton the father

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1808      55

(2-55)certainly escaped abroad, in spite of all ballads and  
(2-55)traditions whatever. Here is the proof:-In the eighth  
(2-55)volume of the Harleian Miscellany you will find, about  
(2-55)page 584, a letter to a friend concerning Doctor Story,  
(2-55)the famous persecutor, who was taken and executed in  
(2-55)Queen Elizabeth's time ; in which the said Story is said  
(2-55)to have confessed that, in 1570, he held many conferences  
(2-55)and much intercourse with the English exiles in Flanders,  
(2-55)amongst whom old Norton is distinctly and repeatedly  
(2-55)mentioned. It is needless to say that this evidence is  
(2-55)decisive, whether Story, made any such confession or not;  
(2-55)because if Norton had been hanged at York the year  
(2-55)before, it would have been absurd in a partizan of Queen

(2-55)Elizabeth to represent Story as conversing and  
(2-55)corresponding with him in Flanders in 1570. So that's a  
(2-55)difficulty solved. I like the crazy old Bishop's nolo  
(2-55)episcopari on the subject of his York preferment. As for  
(2-55)Lady Margaret Gray, I would fain hope that her spiritual  
(2-55)backslidings have been made the foundation of charging  
(2-55)her with carnal inaccuracies. The fury of the times  
(2-55)against the Papists amounted to persecution, especially  
(2-55)when they fell into fanatical hands. There is a good  
(2-55)deal in Lodge's Illustrations about the proceedings against  
(2-55)a Lady Constance Foljambe in Derbyshire, whom her own  
(2-55)grandson apprehended (by the assistance of God ! as he  
(2-55)said), and despoiled grievously.

(2-55)About Marmion, I can safely say, though it sounds very  
(2-55)like affectation, that my anxiety was past, after it received  
(2-55)in a considerable degree the suffrages of a few of my  
(2-55)friends. I hardly know how or why it is, but I really  
(2-55)lose all concern for my labours after they get before the  
(2-55)public ; and the fate of those that sunk and those that  
(2-55)swam, and I have had a good many of both, made an  
(2-55)equally indifferent impression upon their unfeeling parent.  
(2-55)As to the special objections you mention, they fall within  
(2-55)my plan, which has always been rather to exhibit ancient  
(2-55)costume, diction, and manners, than to display my own

(2-56)ingenuity in making an ideal world, or in dealing in  
(2-56)general description, which may be as correct among the  
(2-56)Iroquois as when the scene is laid in feudal Europe. No  
(2-56)doubt this may easily be carried too far, and one may be  
(2-56)induced to dwell on minute particulars, because they are  
(2-56)ancient, which would not be worth mentioning were the  
(2-56)costumes modern. But as the Venetian General told his  
(2-56)(2-56)soldiers, when fighting against the Pope, that they were

(2-56)Venetians before they were Christians ; even so I, having  
(2-56)been an antiquary many years before I thought of being  
(2-56)a poet, may be permitted to sacrifice to my original  
(2-56)studies, while pursuing those of later date. Adieu, my  
(2-56)good friend, and believe I will think myself happy if an  
(2-56)opportunity should ever occur to me of repaying in part  
(2-56)your manifold kindnesses. I intend to write to Marriot,  
(2-56)and will address the letter to your care, not knowing his  
(2-56)proper direction.

(2-56)ASHESTIEL, SELKIRK, 26th April, 1808.

[Abbotsford Copies and Surtees Memoir]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE 1

(2-56)[April 1808]

(2-56)DEAR Miss BAILLIE,-I quite forgot yesterday to mention  
(2-56)to you what Constable said about Mr. Struthers  
(2-56)poem.<sup>2</sup> He thinks the price should not be below 5

1808                SIR WALTER SCOTT                57

(2-57)Shillings printed by Ballantyne and if a subscription goes  
(2-57)forward he will take 250 copies at Booksellers price which  
(2-57)will be about 2/10. If 250 more can be disposed of to  
(2-57)the Booksellers it will discharge all the expence of printing  
(2-57)and paper, so that the Subscription money when recoverd  
(2-57)will go all into the Authors pocket, deducing a trifle for  
(2-57)boarding &c. If however Mr. Struthers would prefer  
(2-57)a sum certain Mr. Constable will give him L30,, for an  
(2-57)edition of 1000 copies. The deuce is that it is much more  
(2-57)easy to get names to a subscription paper than to get the  
(2-57)money afterwards and I think in general not less than  
(2-57)20 or 25 per cent is lost. I should therefore incline to

(2-57)believe that if in addition to the 30,, Constable will  
(2-57)allow Mr. S. to dispose of 30 or 40 copies for his own  
(2-57)benefit which might be easily disposed of at 7/ a piece,  
(2-57)your protege will make more money with less trouble  
(2-57)than even by a large subscription. Besides it is to be  
(2-57)considerd that it will in the latter case be the interest of  
(2-57)the Bookseller to push the work off and that a new edition  
(2-57)will have the better chance to be calld for. You will be  
(2-57)so good as consider which of these modes you think will  
(2-57)do best. Constable seems to think it absolutely necessary  
(2-57)it should be printed by Ballantyne as he very knowingly  
(2-57)says that a small lady-looking book must always be  
(2-57)done in the best stile. I think I could get off ten or  
(2-57)twelve copies and be answerable for the money but though  
(2-57)I could get many more names I would not like to be  
(2-57)responsible for people whom I could not dun [sic].

(2-57)Finding Erskine is still out of Town I send you the  
(2-57)scroll copy of the Tragedy of Tragedies, if any part of it  
(2-57)be totally illegible it will be no great loss but I regret it  
(2-57)should cost you more trouble than could be helped. In  
(2-57)your judgement pray remember mercy especially since

58                                      LETTERS OF                                      1808

(2-58)the case is that of your sincere admirer and most respectful  
(2-58)and much obliged                                      W SCOTT

(2-58)CASTLE STREET Saturday-1  
[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-58)26th April [1808]

(2-58)MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,-I cannot you see permit

(2-58)your conscience to be long at ease without putting you  
(2-58)anew into my debt for though I think I would hardly  
(2-58)even to your Ladyship yield the palm of being the laziest  
(2-58)correspondent on earth yet the chance of being forgotten  
(2-58)by our friends is still more intolerable than the chance of  
(2-58)annoying them by too frequently refreshing their memory.  
(2-58)If a wish could transport me to the Priory I should not be  
(2-58)long in paying my personal respects-Your heavenly  
(2-58)weather makes me envy you could I envy any advantage  
(2-58)that is so well bestowed. We are here among hills white  
(2-58)with snow and rivers red with rain, the atmosphere being  
(2-58)an ambigu between the one and the other, the land looking  
(2-58)like Nova Zembla though I am not conscious of having  
(2-58)left Scotland and the climate feeling like Christmas though  
(2-58)the Almanack maintains to my very face that it is the  
(2-58)26th of April. Very sad all this-and what is worse the  
(2-58)groom says he cannot get forage for the horses, and the  
(2-58)dairy maid protests that there is no food for the cows and  
(2-58)the lambs are dying by scores as fast as they are yeaned,-  
(2-58)and the pigs-and the poultry-and the dogs-and  
(2-58)lastly the children are are [sic] all in some danger of being  
(2-58)actually starved. Seriously I believe that if the weather

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(2-59)does not mend speedily we shall have a terrible year in  
(2-59)our South Highlands and still worse in the North.

(2-59)To call up a less lamentable subject-I hope your  
(2-59)Ladyship has received an odd sort of copy of the Life of  
(2-59)Dryden printed in quarto. It was entrusted to the care  
(2-59)of Ballantyne the great Edinburgh printer who is now in  
(2-59)London. If it has not reached your hands if your Ladyship  
(2-59)will cause any one send a note to Miller the  
(2-59)Bookseller he will see what Ballantyne has made of it.  
(2-59)I desired it should be sent to St. James Square.

(2-59)I have looked out in vain for a copy of the Elgin Epistles.  
(2-59)There was no occasion for printing them here nor do I  
(2-59)think any got abroad except what [some words omitted here].  
(2-59)Truly it is a pity such edifying communications of love  
(2-59)& devotion should be lost to the public. I believe they  
(2-59)rival any productions of the kind (Ld. Blandford's [?] not  
(2-59)excepted) since the days of the D. of Gloucester who wrote  
(2-59)Billets Doux " without anyone by [?] him except himself  
(2-59)alone at sea." Yet Robert Fergusson was held a young  
(2-59)man of some promise untill this terrible fit of Love turned  
(2-59)his brain with the seamy side outwards. He was always  
(2-59)to be sure a sort of Celadon for I remember his almost  
(2-59)dying for Miss Berry many years ago. You fair ladies  
(2-59)have much to answer for the ravages you make in our  
(2-59)upper stories.

(2-59)My motions southwards depend entirely on the Scotch  
(2-59)Judicature Bill. If I am to be Clerk to the Commissioners  
(2-59)named under that Act of Parliament. I rather think  
(2-59)[their] meeting must take place in London for the first  
(2-59)arrangements at least in which case I must attend them  
(2-59)there. I am much obliged as I have always been to Lord  
(2-59)Melville for his kind exertions on my behalf.

(2-59)The Whiggs here and in London are furious and yet  
(2-59)I think with very little reason. If I did not rather dislike  
(2-59)satire from principle than feel myself altogether disqualified  
(2-59)from it by nature I have the means of very severe  
(2-59)retaliation in my power particularly with respect to

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(2-60)Holland house which has busied itself much more in my  
(2-60)matters than I approve of. Is it not astonishing that people  
(2-60)will begin to throw stones with so many glass windows

(2-60)in their own heads ? Nobody cares what these great folks  
(2-60)can say of me but should I take the humour of returning  
(2-60)their abuse I suspect I would find auditors enough.

(2-60)Sotheby told me he wrote his last poem l to discharge  
(2-60)his conscience of a religious duty and without any reference  
(2-60)to temporal popularity. I am concerned to observe  
(2-60)from your Ladyship's letter that he is again suffering  
(2-60)worldly ambition to creep in upon him. I am much  
(2-60)flattered with Lawrence's approbation of Marmion-he is  
(2-60)truly a man of genius, his own art cannot be practised  
(2-60)without constant exercise of the imagination and therefore  
(2-60)his vote is worth that of hundreds.

(2-60)Have you heard by the bye that little Mrs. Riddell 2 of  
(2-60)Hampton Court (Burns's Mrs. Riddell) has married a  
(2-60)young officer of Dragoons. My friend Mathias (the  
(2-60)author of the pursuits of literature) will in all probability  
(2-60)break his heart upon this melancholy occasion. I am  
(2-60)obliged to break off abruptly for I see the carriage of a  
(2-60)crazy Welsh woman of our acquaintance who is come  
(2-60)(Lord help hur) to see our romantic scenery when it is  
(2-60)ancle deep in snow-Have you ever seen hur ? She is a  
(2-60)certain Miss Lydia White, nineteen times dyed blue,  
(2-60)lively and clever and absurd to the uttermost degree but  
(2-60)exceedingly good-natured. I think I must let her run  
(2-60)some risque in fording the Tweed that we may show to  
(2-60)more advantage from her joy at finding herself on dry

1808

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-61)land. But as this joke must not be carried too far Good-  
(2-61)bye, my dear friend.

W. S.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO ROBERT SURTEES.

(2-61)MY DEAR SIR,-I do not delay acknowledging your kind  
(2-61)letter, and begging you will give yourself no further  
(2-61)trouble on my account than you mean to take on your  
(2-61)own concerning Sadler's letter from Darlington. I would  
(2-61)not publish it entire, and should only be glad to glean  
(2-61)from it any particulars which might serve to throw light  
(2-61)on Sadler's situation & private history. If you will trust  
(2-61)me with the perusal of your own memorandum, I will  
(2-61)return it safe, and save you the trouble of obtaining or  
(2-61)making a transcript. My motions are still very  
(2-61)undetermined : whether I shall remain at Edinburgh during  
(2-61)the next summer session, or move southwards, I am very  
(2-61)uncertain.

(2-61)The letter from Sir Ralph's father argues that he was a  
(2-61)man of inferior rank ; probably only a steward or auditor  
(2-61)to the proprietor of Cilney, whom I trust to discover  
(2-61)when I go to Edinburgh. I think it would seem he  
(2-61)expected his wife to return by the Great Hadham carts  
(2-61)or waggons.

(2-61)I have been favoured with a letter from Mr. Lowes,<sup>1</sup>

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(2-62)of Ridley Hall, stating that it is a different place from  
(2-62)Willimoteswick, which is situated two miles higher up the  
(2-62)river, was embattled, and still exhibits an oblong tower  
(2-62)in tolerable preservation. What is more afflicting, by  
(2-62)confounding these two mansions, I have conferred,  
(2-62)according to Mr. Lowes, Ridley Hall, the immemorial  
(2-62)possession of his ancestors, upon the Ridleys of  
(2-62)Willimoteswick. I don't know how all this gear cottons with  
(2-62)the matter of fact, but you will of course be able to tell me

(2-62)exactly. I think Wallis or Camden led me into the  
(2-62)blunder ; yet, as I had your letter on the subject before  
(2-62)my nose, I hardly know how I could make so gross an  
(2-62)error. Believe me, my dear Sir, Ever yours truly,

(2-62)ASHESTIEL, 2nd May, [1808].                      WALTER SCOTT  
(2-62)Written in haste, as appeareth.  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-62)DEAR SIR,-I was favoured two days ago with the  
(2-62)account of your proposed day of weighing anchor &  
(2-62)suppose this will find you at moorings in London. I  
(2-62)have no commissions to trouble you with except of &  
(2-62)concerning the Swift. A set of Gibbers lives would be very  
(2-62)desireable-also a Granger 1 -also any original editions  
(2-62)you may be able to pick up. I have heard something  
(2-62)of collections for a Life of Swift in Dublin but I own I do  
(2-62)not fear an Irish editor. It was also intimated to me  
(2-62)that some of these materials might perchance be purchased  
(2-62)but unless they were of more consequence than I apprehend  
(2-62)them to be this wd. not be worth while. Miller

1808              SIR WALTER SCOTT              63

(2-63)declined to buy Wartons notes on Dryden in the same  
(2-63)circumstances which were probably more valuable.

(2-63)I wrote to Mr. Smythe 1 of Cambridge under cover to Mr.  
(2-63)Weber which I suppose he would find at the post Office  
(2-63)there. But I doubt greatly the professor himself may  
(2-63)have been absent. I presume that if you found that from  
(2-63)this or any other circumstance his access to the Library  
(2-63)was impeded you would bring him on to London where  
(2-63)the Museum is an unfailing resource.

(2-63)I will not tax your civility with writing to me from  
(2-63)London knowing how busy you must needs be. But I  
(2-63)expect much literary news [on] your return. The Fox for  
(2-63)example must be started while you are in London. You  
(2-63)will also learn how the Dryden about which Miller is so  
(2-63)anxious is likely to repay him.<sup>2</sup>

(2-63)If you can pick me up any 4to. plays at a reasonable  
(2-63)rate I should be glad to have them-not however at  
(2-63)connoisseur prices. I am glad the new Marmion is at  
(2-63)length out. Ever yours very truly      WALTER SCOTT

(2-63)ASHESTIEL 3d. May. 1808

(2-63)Miss Whyte & her niece are here with us an[d] enjoying  
(2-63)delightful weather. I have made them expect moss  
(2-63)troopers.

(2-63)Mr. Archibald Constable  
(2-63)Care of Mr. Murray, 33 Fleet Street London

[Stevenson]

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TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-64)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE,-Your letter found me in this  
(2-64)quiet comer and while it always gives me pride and  
(2-64)pleasure to hear from you I am truly concerned at  
(2-64)Constable's unaccountable [delays]. I suppose that  
(2-64)in the hurry of his departure for London, his promise  
(2-64)to write to Mr. Struthers had escaped ; as for any desire  
(2-64)to quit his bargain it is quite out of the question. If Mr.  
(2-64)Struthers will send to my house in Castle Street the copy

(2-64)of his Book and the Manuscripts designed for the press I  
(2-64)will get him a short bill for the copy money the moment  
(2-64)Constable returns or perhaps before he comes down.  
(2-64)He may rely on the bargain being definitively settled and  
(2-64)the printing will I suppose be begun immediately on  
(2-64)the Great Bibliopolist's return on which occasion I shall  
(2-64)have according to good old phrase " a crow to pluck  
(2-64)with him and a pock to put the feathers in."

(2-64)I heartily wish we could have had the honour to see  
(2-64)Miss Baillie and you at our little farm which is now in its  
(2-64)glory, all the twiggs bursting into leaf and all the lambs  
(2-64)skipping on the hills. I have been fishing almost from  
(2-64)morning till night, and Mrs. Scott and two ladies our  
(2-64)guests are wandering about on the banks in the most  
(2-64)Arcadian fashion in the world. We are just on the point  
(2-64)of setting out on a pilgrimage to the " bonny bush aboon  
(2-64)Traquair," which I believe will occupy us all the  
(2-64)morning. Adieu my dear Miss Baillie nothing will give  
(2-64)me more pleasure than to hear that you have found the  
(2-64)northern breezes fraught with inspiration. You are not  
(2-64)entitled to spare yourself and none is so deeply interested  
(2-64)in your labours as your truly respectful friend and Admirer

(2-64)ASHESTIEL SELKIRKSHIRE

WALTER SCOTT

(2-64)7th May 1808

(2-64)P.S.-We quit our quiet pastures to return to [Edinr.]  
(2-64)on the 10th. So Mr. Struthers' parcel will find me there  
(2-64)if he is pleased to intrust me with the care of it. Mrs.

1808

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-65)Scott joins in kindest compliments to Miss Baillie. Happy  
(2-65)shall we think ourselves when we can see you again.

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(2-65)MY DEAR CHARLES,-I have looked out the old

(2-65)Ballads. One I think very pretty

(2-65)There lived a wife in the Wilds of Kent.

(2-65)I have seen a copy or rather another version of the same

(2-65)riddle me ree beginning

(2-65)The Elphin Knight sate on a hill

(2-65)Ba, ba, lile ba.

(2-65)The tale of the Doune Shepherdess is curious & I believe

(2-65>true. The tale of (Piren) Reed I intend for the Border

(2-65)Minstrely, but if you like to print it in the meantime you

(2-65)shall have all the illustrations I can give. It is a tale of

(2-65)Redesdale & still well remembered. Yours ever

(2-65)WALTER SCOTT

(2-65)Saturday CASTLE STREET [1808]

(2-65)I would like to have back the copy of the Wife in the

(2-65)Wilds of Kent as I want Anne to learn a few of the verses :

(2-65)the line is very pretty-Child Horn you will recognise

(2-65)as a version of the old Romance. Please send back the

(2-65)music at your own good time.

(2-65)A thousand thanks for Dame Tweedale.

(2-65)Charles Sharp Esq. Princes Street.

[Rosebery]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(2-65)MY DEAR CHARLES,-I have a ballad or two for you-  
(2-65)will you dine here on Wednesday at 6 o'clock to meet  
(2-65)Chaunty the celebrated sculptor, who is a real good  
(2-65)cut of John Bull. Yours ever                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-65)CASTLE STREET Sunday 15 May [1808]  
[Rosebery]

66              1808              LETTERS      OF

TO MRS. SCOTT OF HARDEN

[1808]

(2-66)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-I was honoured with your letter  
(2-66)and will carefully attend to your instructions respecting  
(2-66)Schetky's prints. I cannot learn that they are yet  
(2-66)finished although it is long since he wrote to me that they  
(2-66)would be out of the engravers hands in a fortnight. But  
(2-66)printers & engravers are a very perfidious set of persons.  
(2-66)I do not believe that the printed descriptions of the views  
(2-66)to which I added a few border anecdotes are yet quite  
(2-66)printed off-

(2-66)Mr. Scott cheated us of a visit the last time he was in  
(2-66)town and as we afterwards learned had by just retribution  
(2-66)almost been cheated of his dinner at Newbottle-

(2-66)I have been just dismissing to press a new edition of  
(2-66)Marmion which the booksellers say is wanted instantly so  
(2-66)the Review has not spoiled the sale. Indeed Jeffery's  
(2-66)flagellation is of a kind not calculated to do much harm  
(2-66)and has much more the appearance than the essence of  
(2-66)severity. The specimens are carefully selected from the

(2-66)best passages of the poem and the criticisms on the plan  
(2-66)are so general that they involve the credit of Ariosto and  
(2-66)Tasso as much as mine. I can have no objection to be  
(2-66)tried on such an issue-I suspect Jeffery made an odd sort  
(2-66)of compounding between his own character & mine on  
(2-66)the occasion and was willing rather to amuse the public  
(2-66)with cracking his whip than to annoy the culprit with  
(2-66)laying on the lash.

(2-66)Mrs. Scott joins in kind Compliments to Mr. Scott we  
(2-66)hope to see you at Ashestiel in July while the days are long  
(2-66)and the hills pleasant. Believe me very truly Dear Madam  
(2-66)Your obliged & respectful humble Servant

(2-66)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-66)EDINR: 25 May [no year date]

[Polwarth]

67            SIR WALTER SCOTT            1808

TO CHARLES ERSKINE

(2-67)DEAR CHARLES,-I sent the processes yesterday but  
(2-67)foolishly left out a note I had made upon that of Murray  
(2-67)whose litigations seem to be endless. It was merely  
(2-67)directing you to employ neutral persons to survey the  
(2-67)houses & report what it would cost to put them in  
(2-67)sufficient repair in terms of the Tack.

(2-67)The Chief Baron has issued a precept from Excheqr.  
(2-67)respecting the gold ring found in Carterhaugh now in  
(2-67)possession of the worthy Advocate Gurrie. You will see  
(2-67)the propriety of taking his examination yourself about it  
(2-67)& making the proper return to Excheqr. I was much  
(2-67)surprized to hear it but find it has been lately done in

(2-67)similar cases: Yours truly

(2-67)EDINR. 25 May [ 1808].

W. SCOTT

(2-67)I suppose the order would go to Borrowman-

[Curle]

TO MRS. HUGHES

(2-67)MY DEAR MADAM,-I was honourd with your letter  
(2-67)some time ago and immediatly wrote to Mr. Atwood to  
(2-67)express my thanks for the honour he has done my Lullaby  
(2-67)in wedding it to his music.-I have inclosed the notes of  
(2-67)the original Gaelic air procured after much enquiry and  
(2-67)some difficulty for the character of the Highland music  
(2-67)is so wild and irregular that it is I am informed extremely  
(2-67)difficult to reduce it to notes. I fear it would puzzle  
(2-67)any one except Mrs. Hughes herself to unite the words  
(2-67)and music-they do sing however and I hope though  
(2-67)I fear after more trouble than either words or tune are  
(2-67)worth you will at length be able to find out how. This  
(2-67)Ditty should have been sent in search of you long ago but  
(2-67)I really thought I must have waited till the Highlanders  
(2-67)came down to get in the harvest which they do as the  
(2-67)Irish with you come over to the Hay-making. Should

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(2-68)you like the air I will endeavour to find you more Gaelic  
(2-68)music, for they have a tune and a song to almost everything  
(2-68)that they set about.

(2-68)Marmion is much flattered by your approbation-he  
(2-68)has been very successful with the public 5000 copies being  
(2-68)already disposed of. The critics (I mean the professional  
(2-68)critics) have not I understand been so favourable as to

(2-68)the Lay but with this I laid my account for many causes.

(2-68)It would give me great pleasure could I hope to see

(2-68)Miss Hayman and you this summer but the chance which

(2-68)there was of this taking place seems daily more uncertain.

(2-68)I believe now that my autumn will be spent in Ettricke

(2-68)forest. I wish you could come there and make our hills

(2-68)vocal with your melody.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Scott would be delighted

(2-68)to see you & so should I to receive Dr. Hughes at my

(2-68)farm. Make my kindest compliments to him and believe

(2-68)me Dear Madam Your obliged humble servant

(2-68)WALTER SCOTT

(2-68)EDINR 1st June [1808]

(2-68)I hear with regret that Miss Hayman has been much

(2-68)afflicted by the loss of a relation.

[Gabriel Wells]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW

(2-68)DEAR WILLIAM,-Mrs. Scott joins her thanks to mine

(2-68)for the superb pikes : being scientifically stew'd with rich

(2-68)sauce they make a most excellent dish. I am quite

(2-68)astonished at George's dexterity, and as much obliged by

(2-68)his generosity. This accompanies a copy of Marmion,

(2-68)which I will see put up with my own eyes. Constable

(2-68)is greatly too busy to be uniformly accurate. I have

(2-68)promised Lord Somerville that he shall hear from you,

(2-68)and I think your plan, being a little talked of as yours

(2-68)among the English Agriculturalists, may recommend an

(2-68)experiment to my friend Lord Dalkeith. But he would

(2-68)certainly hardly hold me a competent judge upon such a

(2-69)subject ; yet I will take the first opportunity to jog his  
(2-69)recollection about it. I have only heard from him once  
(2-69)since his family loss, and that was upon another topic.

(2-69)Your father spoke to me in the Parliamt. House about  
(2-69)a farm for you near Edinb. I have not learned the  
(2-69)success of his scheme, but I heartily wish you were doing  
(2-69)something for yourself. Believe me, Yours very truly,

(2-69)EDIN. 7 June, 1808

W. SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-69)EDINBURGH, 9th June, 1808

(2-69)MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,-I was some time ago  
(2-69)honoured with your letter & deeply regret the loss of the  
(2-69)lovely little boy whom I saw at Dumfries. I hardly ever  
(2-69)saw a prettier cherub-like head & can easily understand  
(2-69)what the Marquis was likely to suffer upon so severe an  
(2-69)infliction of providence. No one is so sensible as I am  
(2-69)of what deficiencies occur in my poetry from the want of  
(2-69)judicious criticism and correction, above all from the  
(2-69)extreme hurry in which it has hitherto been composed.  
(2-69)The worst is that I take the pet at the things myself after  
(2-69)they are finished and I fear I shall never be able to muster  
(2-69)up the courage necessary to revise Marmion as he should  
(2-69)be revised. But if I ever write another poem, I am  
(2-69)determined to make every single couplet of it as perfect  
(2-69)as my uttermost care and attention can possibly effect.  
(2-69)In order to ensure the accomplishment of these good  
(2-69)resolutions I will consider the whole story in humble  
(2-69)prose, and endeavour to make it as interesting as I can

(2-69)before I begin to write it out in verse and thus I shall have  
(2-69)at least the satisfaction to know where I am going my  
(2-69)narrative having been hitherto much upon the plan of  
(2-69)blind man's buff. 2ndly Having made my story, I will  
(2-69)write my poem with all deliberation and when finished  
(2-69)lay it aside for a year at least, during which quarantine I

70                    LETTERS                    OF                    1808

(2-70)would be most happy if it were suffered to remain in  
(2-70)your escritoire or in that of the Marquis who has the best  
(2-70)ear for English versification of any person whom in a  
(2-70)pretty extensive acquaintance with literary characters I  
(2-70)have ever had the fortune to meet with nor is his taste  
(2-70)at all inferior to his power of appreciating the harmony  
(2-70)of verse. 1 In this way I hope I shall be able to gain the  
(2-70)great advantage of his Lordship's revision and consideration  
(2-70)provided he should find it in any respect worthy his  
(2-70)attention. You see what good resolutions I am forming  
(2-70)whether they will be better kept than good resolutions  
(2-70)usually are time which brings all things to light will shew  
(2-70)your Ladyship.

(2-70)As for her Grace of Gordon 2 she is certainly the most  
(2-70)ungracious of Graces if she says I read over Marmion to  
(2-70)her. The only time she saw Marmion (excepting however  
(2-70)the first Introduction, which your Ladyship remembers  
(2-70)was printed separately) was at the Priory when I read  
(2-70)some part of it one evening and whether the Duchess was  
(2-70)then so good as to point out any of its numerous errors  
(2-70)I really cannot recollect. I certainly neither had her  
(2-70)Grace's particular amusement nor the least intention of  
(2-70)consulting her critically, in my head at the time. Our  
(2-70)real quarrel is some supposed neglect in my not attending  
(2-70)her parties last winter in Edinburgh. I have had a very  
(2-70)handsome compliment from the booksellers who published

(2-70)Marmion-no less than a hogshead of excellent Claret,  
(2-70)which is equally flattering as a pretty sure mark that the  
(2-70)book has succeeded with [the] public and agreeable to a  
(2-70)poor bard whose cellars are not quite so well replenished  
(2-70)with wine as his head with whimsies. I am endeavouring

71            SIR WALTER SCOTT            1808

(2-71)to get a copy of the Elgin Letters by my interest with  
(2-71)Jeffrey the Reviewer who was the fair Lady's counsel  
(2-71)in the case but I doubt greatly being able to succeed in  
(2-71)that quarter for since I gave up assisting him in the  
(2-71)Review when their politics became so warm my credit  
(2-71)with him is a little at ebb.

(2-71)I have been threatening for some days past to go to  
(2-71)Dunira 1 for a day or two and pay my respects to the good  
(2-71)old statesman. I wish the Marquis and your Ladyship  
(2-71)would come down this summer-I should delight to go  
(2-71)a little way into the Highlands with you as I am certain  
(2-71)you would be enchanted.

(2-71)I am truly glad you like the Dryden-I would have  
(2-71)sent your Ladyship a whole set of the works if I had had  
(2-71)a handsome one at my disposal I am still turning my  
(2-71)eyes towards Swift-my situation will not permit me to be  
(2-71)idle even if my inclination would leave me at rest. I beg  
(2-71)my most respectful thanks to the Marquis and I hope  
(2-71)your Ladyship will tell him how much I intend to profit  
(2-71)by his kind admonitions which I account a very great  
(2-71)favour among the many various kinds which I have  
(2-71)received at his hands. When this Scottish Judicature  
(2-71)Bill gets through parliament I shall learn if I am likely to  
(2-71)be wanted in London and if so I need not say how soon  
(2-71)I will be an Intruder at the Priory.-Believe me with very  
(2-71)great respect Ever your Ladyship's truly obliged and

(2-71)very faithful

(2-71)W. S.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

(2-71)EDINBURGH, 16th June 1808

(2-71)MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,-Nothing will give us more

(2-71)pleasure than to have the honour of showing every

72            LETTERS    OF            1808

(2-72)attention in our power to Mr. and Mrs. Morritt,<sup>1</sup> and I am  
(2-72)particularly happy in a circumstance that at once promises  
(2-72)me a great deal of pleasure in the acquaintance of your  
(2-72)Ladyship's friends, and affords me the satisfaction of  
(2-72)hearing from you again. If Mr. and Mrs. Morritt  
(2-72)should make a long delay in Yorkshire, perhaps we may  
(2-72)be at my little farm of Ashestiel, where we have plenty  
(2-72)of pigeon-holes to put such friends into as can be contented  
(2-72)with goat's whey, narrow quarters, and Selkirkshire  
(2-72)mutton. But we shall remain at Edinburgh till the  
(2-72)12th July, when the Courts of Law rise and set their  
(2-72)subjects at liberty. Pray don't triumph over me too  
(2-72)much in the case of Lydia.<sup>2</sup> I stood a very respectable  
(2-72)siege; but she caressed my wife, coaxed my children,  
(2-72)and made, by dint of cake and pudding, some impression  
(2-72)even upon the affections of my favourite dog :-so, when  
(2-72)all the outworks were carried, the main fortress had no  
(2-72)choice but to surrender on honourable terms. To the  
(2-72)best of my thinking, notwithstanding the cerulean hue of  
(2-72)her stockings, and a most plentiful stock of eccentric  
(2-72)affectation, she is really at bottom a good-natured woman,  
(2-72)with much liveliness and some talent. She is now set

(2-72)out to the Highlands, where she is likely to encounter  
(2-72)many adventures. Mrs Scott and I went as far as Loch  
(2-72)Catrine with her, from which jaunt I have just returned.

SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1808                      73

(2-73)We had most heavenly weather, which was peculiarly  
(2-73)favourable to my fair companions' zeal for sketching  
(2-73)every object that fell in their way, from a castle to a  
(2-73)pigeon-house. Did your ladyship ever travel with a  
(2-73)drawing companion ? Mine drew like cart-horses, as well  
(2-73)in laborious zeal as in effect; for, after all, I could not  
(2-73)help hinting that the cataracts delineated bore a singular  
(2-73)resemblance to haycocks, and the rocks much correspondence  
(2-73)to large old-fashioned cabinets with their  
(2-73)folding doors open. So much for Lydia, whom I left on  
(2-73)her journey through the Highlands, but by what route  
(2-73)she had not resolved. I gave her three plans, and think  
(2-73)it likely she will adopt none of them : moreover, when  
(2-73)the executive government of postilions, landlords, and  
(2-73)Highland boatmen devolves upon her English servant  
(2-73)instead of me, I am afraid the distresses of the errant  
(2-73)damsels will fall a little beneath the dignity of romances.  
(2-73)All this nonsense is entre nous, for Miss White has been  
(2-73)actively zealous in getting me some Irish correspondence  
(2-73)about Swift, and otherwise very obliging.

(2-73)It is not with my inclination that I fag for the book-  
(2-73)sellers ; but what can I do ? My poverty and not my  
(2-73)will consents. The income of my office is only  
(2-73)reversionary, and my private fortune much limited. My  
(2-73)poetical success fairly destroyed my prospects of  
(2-73)professional success, and obliged me to retire from the Bar ;  
(2-73)for though I had a competent share of information and  
(2-73)industry, who would trust their cause to the author of  
(2-73)the Lay of the Last Minstrel ? Now, although I do

(2-73)allow that an author should take care of his literary  
(2-73)character, yet I think the least thing that his literary  
(2-73)character can do in return is to take some care of the  
(2-73)author, who is unfortunately, like Jeremy in Love for Love,  
(2-73)furnished with a set of tastes and appetites which would  
(2-73)do honour to the income of a Duke if he had it. Besides,  
(2-73)I go to work with Swift con amore ; for, like Dryden, he is  
(2-73)an early favourite of mine : I shall do very little for

74      1808      LETTERS      OF

(2-74)Thompson, except publishing a few letters of no great  
(2-74)consequence which have fallen into my hands.

(2-74)Pray now, dear Lady Louisa, get all you can collect  
(2-74)about Swift. I believe I shall go to Ireland to see what  
(2-74)can be done there, and I hope to have a long conversation  
(2-74)with your Ladyship on that difficult chapter of "Cadenus  
(2-74)and Vanessa." There is certainly some strange confusion  
(2-74)in the arrangement of that piece, but I think it possible  
(2-74)to retrieve it in some measure, if not wholly. Perhaps  
(2-74)there are lines omitted. I find the gentleman to whom  
(2-74)Dryden's Life was committed left it at home. I will send  
(2-74)it up, however, to Longman & Co. with some books that  
(2-74)are going to them by sea. The Marmion is nearly out,  
(2-74)and I have made one or two alterations on the third  
(2-74)edition, with which the press is now groaning. So soon as  
(2-74)it is, it will make the number of copies published within  
(2-74)the space of six months amount to eight thousand,-an  
(2-74)immense number surely, and enough to comfort the  
(2-74)author's wounded feelings, had the claws of the reviewers  
(2-74)been able to reach him through the steel jack of true  
(2-74)Border indifference.

(2-74)Mrs. Scott offers her respectful compliments. Pray let  
(2-74)me have the honour of hearing from your Ladyship at an

(2-74)idle hour. The copy of Marmion will wait on you so  
(2-74)soon as the said third edition is published. Meanwhile,  
(2-74)believe me, with great respect, your Ladyship's much  
(2-74)obliged and faithful servant,                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-74)Ashestiel is only 30 miles from Edinburgh, near Melrose,  
(2-74)Newark, etc., all which I will be happy to shew Mr. and  
(2-74)Mrs. Morritt in great style.

[Lockhart and Gleanings from an Old Portfolio]

TO THOMAS SCOTT

(2-74)[20th June 1808]

(2-74)MY DEAR TOM,-I take this opportunity ... to offer  
(2-74)you my best and warmest congratulations upon your

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1808      75

(2-75)approaching military preferment. I have no doubt you  
(2-75)will now not only find yourself extremely comfortable,  
(2-75)but also in: a situation to save money, which like other  
(2-75)things wants but a beginning. . . .

(2-75)Let me exhort you most heartily to give your mind to  
(2-75)an edition of Shadwell, which I think I could dispose of  
(2-75)for something handsome for you. I have almost all the  
(2-75)original editions, and could take care that the press was  
(2-75)properly corrected, and would also revise your notes, as  
(2-75)you are diffident in point of language. I am perfectly  
(2-75)sure you will find great pleasure in this work if you would  
(2-75)but set about it; and also that your habitual acquaintance  
(2-75)with the old dramatists would enable you to make very  
(2-75)entertaining notes and illustrations. I do not mention  
(2-75)this merely as an easy way of picking up 100 guineas or

(2-75)so, but because I know by experience that one is apt to  
(2-75)tire even of reading, unless we read with some special and  
(2-75)determined object,-an employment which will fill up  
(2-75)pleasantly many hours which might otherwise hang very  
(2-75)heavy ; at least you may believe it, I find it so myself,  
(2-75)as I am just now seriously engaged in two mighty works,  
(2-75)Lord Somers' Tracts and Swift's Works, which will keep me  
(2-75)working for two or three years to come. . . .

(2-75)Charlotte is just returned from Ashestiel, and joins me  
(2-75)in warmest joy to Mrs. Scott on your promotion.-Believe  
(2-75)me, dear Tom, yours, W. S.

(2-75)Excellent news to-day from Spain-yet I wish the  
(2-75)patriots had a leader of genius and influence. I fear the  
(2-75)Castilian, nobility are more sunk than the common  
(2-75)people, and that it will be easier to find armies than  
(2-75)generals. A Wallace, Dundee, or Montrose, would be the  
(2-75)man for Spain at this moment. It is, however, a consolation,  
(2-75)that though the grandes of the earth, when the  
(2-75)post of honour becomes the post of danger, may be less  
(2-75)ambitious of occupying it, there may be some hidalgo  
(2-75)among the mountains of Asturias with all the spirit of

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(2-76)the Cid Ruy Diaz, or Don Pelayo, or Don Quixote if you  
(2-76)will, whose gallantry was only impeachable from the  
(2-76)objects on which he exercised it. It strikes me as very  
(2-76)singular to have all the places mentioned in Don Quixote  
(2-76)and Gil Bias now the scenes of real and important events.  
(2-76)Gazettes dated from Oviedo, and gorges fortified in the  
(2-76)Sierra Morena, sounds like history in the land of romance.

(2-76)James Hogg has driven his pigs to a bad market. I am  
(2-76)endeavouring as a pis aller to have him made an Excise

(2-76)officer that station being with respect to Scottish geniuses  
(2-76)the grave of all the Capulets. Witness Adam Smith,  
(2-76)Burns, etc.

[Familiar Letters and Lockhart]

TO RIGHT HONBLE. ROBERT DUNDAS, ETC., ETC., ETC.,  
(2-76)DOWNING STREET, LONDON 1

(2-76)MY DEAR COLONEL,-I am against my will again an  
(2-76)intruder upon you concerning the theatre. Upon considering  
(2-76)the matter it occurs there might be some difficulty  
(2-76)in getting the patent granted to a set of new names  
(2-76)whereas there can be none to renewing it in that of Lord  
(2-76)Mellville and adding the Duke of Buccleuchs name instead  
(2-76)of Duke of Hamiltons. The said noble peers may then if  
(2-76)they are so disposed convey the patent to trustees for the  
(2-76)public as the Chief Baron proposed. We are all a little  
(2-76)anxious to have it settled for which there are to use the

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1808            77

(2-77)words of quack advertisements more reasons than good  
(2-77)men would think. A certain party have been making  
(2-77)themselves busy in this as in all other matters.

(2-77)Should this arrangement meet your own ideas will you  
(2-77)have the goodness to signify to Campbell that an application  
(2-77)in terms of the inclosed note of which Lord Advocate  
(2-77)has a copy has your countenance and approbation-  
(2-77)I have written a few lines on the subject to the Duke of  
(2-77)Buccleuch & am with great regard Your obliged &  
(2-77)faithful

(2-77)WALTER SCOTT

(2-77)EDINR.24 June, 1808

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO LORD SOMERS

(2-77)MY LORD,-I was honoured with your Lordship's  
(2-77)letter this morning and beg to assure you that nothing  
(2-77)was further from my intention than to be guilty of the  
(2-77)least disrespect to your Lordship in the intended republication  
(2-77)of the Tracts collected under the name of your  
(2-77)great ancestor. I was indeed seeking by means of some  
(2-77)of my friends in town a proper channel of requesting your  
(2-77)Lordship's countenance to the undertaking when the  
(2-77)booksellers found themselves obliged to announce it  
(2-77)prematurely to the public from an apprehension of their  
(2-77)design being anticipated by others and executed perhaps  
(2-77)in a manner less creditable than it is their desire that the  
(2-77)present undertaking should be conducted. I have to  
(2-77)regret that the opportunity of personal communication  
(2-77)on the subject of which I was so desirous should have  
(2-77)commenced with the necessity of an apology on my own  
(2-77)part which however I trust may be admitted as the fault  
(2-77)was altogether involuntary. The plan of the undertaking  
(2-77)of which I hope in ten days to send your Lordship  
(2-77)(with your permission) an accurate detail is generally as

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(2-78)follows. The 16 volumes of Lord Somers' Tracts arc  
(2-78)to be compressed in twelve quarto volumes. The  
(2-78)arrangement is to be methodized in the following manner.  
(2-78)All the tracts are to be in the first place divided according  
(2-78)to the reigns in which they were published. Then if  
(2-78)each reign will admit of sub-division, into four classes,  
(2-78)historical, political, polemical and miscellaneous. In

(2-78)each of these sub-divisions the treatises will be arranged  
(2-78)with reference to their respective subject, placing those  
(2-78)together which refer to the same point of controversy  
(2-78)and observing in other respects a chronological order.  
(2-78)It is my desire to give upon the introduction of every  
(2-78)new subject such a concise view of the point at issue as  
(2-78)may save an ordinary reader the trouble of referring to  
(2-78)other works for the information necessary to understand  
(2-78)the Tract he is about to enter upon. And I have made  
(2-78)a considerable collection of other notes of miscellaneous  
(2-78)nature, some for the sake of criticism, others with a view  
(2-78)to elucidation. With respect to the memoir of Lord  
(2-78)Somers' Life it was my intention to prefix it to two  
(2-78)volumes of additional Tracts and in the meantime to  
(2-78)employ myself in recovering such information with respect  
(2-78)to that great man as my best exertion should procure me  
(2-78)access to. And I must own that as I hoped to procure  
(2-78)access to the Representative of the Lord Chancellor and  
(2-78)as my name is not altogether unknown to the literary  
(2-78)world I ventured to promise myself some countenance in  
(2-78)that quarter. The time for composing this Memoir will  
(2-78)be ample as the Booksellers intend publishing the Tracts  
(2-78)at the rate of four volumes in a year which will afford  
(2-78)three years before the life need go to press.

(2-78)I should be extremely glad to know whether this plan  
(2-78)is honoured with Lord Somers' approbation in the  
(2-78)outline and shall be extremely happy if his Lordship will  
(2-78)afford me an opportunity of showing my respect for his  
(2-78)judgment and person by complying with any criticism  
(2-78)or correction he may be pleased to suggest. I have the

(2-79)honour to be With all due respect. My Lord, Your most  
(2-79)obedient humble servant,

(2-79)WALTER SCOTT

(2-79)EDINBURGH 4 July, 1808

[Somers Cocks]

TO CONSTABLE AND CO.

(2-79)GENTLEMEN,-Being about to compile and edite a  
(2-79)complete. Edition of Swifts Works in nineteen or twenty  
(2-79)Volumes 8vo with a life of the Author and notes critical  
(2-79)and illustrative of his writings upon the same plan with  
(2-79)my late Edition of Dryden I hereby offer you the said  
(2-79)work in property so far as the same may belong to me  
(2-79)by Statute or Common Law for the sum of fifteen hundred  
(2-79)pounds Sterling, five hundred pounds of which to be  
(2-79)payable during the currency of the work as I may  
(2-79)require and the remaining thousand pounds to be settled  
(2-79)by bills at six twelve and eighteen months date in equal  
(2-79)sums to be dated and granted on the day of publication.

(2-79)And in case of my death before the compleating of  
(2-79)this work I agree in that case that it shall be referrd  
(2-79)to Francis Jeffrey Esquire what proportion or whether  
(2-79)any part of the said Copy money shall be payable to my  
(2-79)representatives to be judged according to the progress of  
(2-79)the work and the equity of the Case. And the work so  
(2-79)far as depends upon me shall be ready for publication  
(2-79)about Christmas 1810.1 -I am Gentlemen Your very  
(2-79)obedient Servant

(2-79)WALTER SCOTT

(2-79)EDINR. 25 July, 1808

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

SWIFTS WORKS 1

(2-80)EDITED BY WALTER SCOTT ESQ

(2-80)With a Life of the author notes critical & illustrative etc.

(2-80)The present edition of this incomparable English Classic  
(2-80)is offerd to the public on a plan different from that  
(2-80)adopted by former Editors. In the Life of the Author it  
(2-80)is proposed to collate and combine the various information  
(2-80)which has been given by Mr. Sheridan Lord Orrery Dr.  
(2-80)Delany Mr. Pilkington Dr. Johnson and others into one  
(2-80)distinct & comprehensive narrative which it is hoped  
(2-80)may prove neither a libel or apology for Swift nor a  
(2-80)collection from the pleadings of those who have written  
(2-80)upon either side but a plain impartial and connected  
(2-80)biographical narrative. By the favour of some freinds in  
(2-80)Ireland the Editor hopes to obtain considerable light  
(2-80)upon some passages in the Deans Life which have hitherto  
(2-80)perplexd his biographers. In preparing the text &  
(2-80)notes no labour or expence has been spared to procure  
(2-80)original information. The Tale of a Tub for example  
(2-80)is illustrated with marginal notes of the learned Bentley  
(2-80)transcribed from manuscript jottings on his own copy.  
(2-80)Although neither long or numerous they offer some curious  
(2-80)elucidations of the author & are a singular instance of the  
(2-80)equanimity with which the satire even of Swift was born  
(2-80)by the venerable scholar against whom it was so unadvisedly  
(2-80)levelld. Some preliminary critical observations  
(2-80)are offerd on the various literary productions of the Dean  
(2-80)of St. Patricks and historical explanations and anecdotes  
(2-80)accompany his political treatises. All those pieces which  
(2-80)though hitherto admitted into Swift's works are positively

(2-80)ascertaind not to be of his composition are placed  
(2-80)in the Appendix or altogether retrenched. On the other  
(2-80)hand the Editor is encouraged to believe that by accurate  
(2-80)research some gleanings may yet be recoverd which have

1808            SIR WALTER SCOTT            81

(2-81)escaped even the laudable and undeniable industry of  
(2-81)Swift's last Editor. So that upon the whole he hopes the  
(2-81)present Edition will be fully more complete though less  
(2-81)voluminous than those of late years. The work will  
(2-81)appear in the course of 1810.

[Stevenson]

TO THE LORD ADVOCATE

(2-81)[ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL-COLQUHOUN] 1

(2-81)MY DEAR LORD,-I send you the theatrical petition  
(2-81)which I hope may now be carried through without delay.  
(2-81)As Lord Mellville and the Duke are to transfer their patent  
(2-81)to Committee they will I hope have no farther trouble in  
(2-81)the business than to sign first the petition & then the  
(2-81)Conveyance.

(2-81)I am uncertain whether the form is quite accurate but  
(2-81)it may be easily corrected. Mr. Campbell the Solicitor  
(2-81)so soon as the petition is signed will give the necessary  
(2-81)attendance to get it through the publick offices. Believe  
(2-81)me ever My dear Lord Your obliged & faithful

(2-81)EDIN. Saturday [July, 1808]            WALTER SCOTT  
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO REV. R. POLWHELE

(2-81)ASHESTIEL BY SELKIRK, 21 July, 1808

(2-81)DEAR SIR,-Owing to my residence in London for  
(2-81)these some months past, I did not receive your letter till  
(2-81)my return to Edinburgh about a fortnight ago, since  
(2-81)which time I have been overwhelmed with the professional  
(2-81)duty that had been accumulating during my absence.

(2-81)I consider it as no slight favour that you are willing  
(2-81)to entrust me the task of reviewing my early and great  
(2-81)favourite the beautiful poem on Local Attachment, and  
(2-81)I will write to Mr. Gifford, our chief commander, offering  
(2-81)my services. The only objection I can foresee is the poem  
(2-81)having been for some time printed ; but it has been  
(2-81)customary of late years to get over this. I will at the same

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(2-82)time mention to Mr. G. your obliging offer of assistance,  
(2-82)which I do not doubt he will consider as highly valuable.  
(2-82)It may be necessary to say, however, that I myself have  
(2-82)no voice in the management of the Quarterly Review, and  
(2-82)am only a sincere well-wisher and occasional contributor  
(2-82)to the work. The management is in much better hands ;  
(2-82)but I am sure Mr. Gifford will be as sensible of the value  
(2-82)of your co-operation as I should be in his situation.

(2-82)Believe me, dear Sir, your much obliged truly faithful  
(2-82)humble servant,    WALTER SCOTT  
[Letters of Sir Walter Scott, 1832]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(2-82)DEAR BALLANTYNE,-I have received your long and  
(2-82)interesting letter and although it is very long since I have  
(2-82)been a principal or even a confidant in a love affair yet  
(2-82)eleven years of matrimony and quiet domestic duties &

(2-82)pleasures have not proved a greater sedative in my case  
(2-82)than old age in that of Father Dryden

(2-82)The power of beauty I remember yet  
(2-82)Which once inflamed my soul and now inspires my wit.

(2-82)You cannot suppose that a subject always interesting in  
(2-82)itself should in my eyes be less so as applicable to you &  
(2-82)involving your happiness. After the uninterrupted  
(2-82)friendship of so many years in which our reputation &  
(2-82)prosperity has been [so] intimately connected as to go  
(2-82)hand in hand it would be very strange if I did not feel  
(2-82)the deepest interest in the most important step of your  
(2-82)life. And now as the French say *Au fait*.

(2-82)Your *eclaircissement* with the parents of Miss --1 is  
(2-82)in every respect highly satisfactory shews great good

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(2-83)sense on their part & convinces me that you will not lose  
(2-83)their interest from the foolish vanity of wishing to confer  
(2-83)their daughter upon a gayer or more fashionable suitor.  
(2-83)Mr. --" I should suppose has learned from his own success  
(2-83)in life the value of commercial industry in a situation like  
(2-83)yours and must be well aware that with application to  
(2-83)your extensive business and some addition to your  
(2-83)pecuniary means of conducting it, wealth is within your  
(2-83)power to as great extent as any sober-minded parent  
(2-83)could wish his child to enjoy. One thing I miss in this  
(2-83)letter of yours you make no mention of having spoken in  
(2-83)particular to the Mother who I doubt not is warmly on  
(2-83)your side and who has both opportunities and authority  
(2-83)to remove the young Lady's scruples and abridge your  
(2-83)time of probation which even the father himself does not  
(2-83)possess. I should like to know what she said on the

(2-83)subject of promise to the Uncle for I have a notion she  
(2-83)could devise a remedy if she pleases.

(2-83)And now for the principal party concerned who I really  
(2-83)think has behaved as well and as prudently in the case as it  
(2-83)was possible for a young woman to do. And while I  
(2-83)naturally sympathize with your impatience I cannot but  
(2-83)think that her frank declaration of affection ought to  
(2-83)console you under the delay which she requests from  
(2-83)motives which are highly honourable to her sense and  
(2-83)feelings. It is no doubt a possible thing that in the course  
(2-83)of a twelvemonth she may change her mind but. I by no  
(2-83)means think that her own apprehension of such an event  
(2-83)renders it more probable. On the contrary a young Lady  
(2-83)who at an age of vowing eternal constancy can fairly  
(2-83)dread the possibility of changing her mind shows I think  
(2-83)a reflecting character & that she is conscious of the rapid  
(2-83)change and expansion of ideas which have taken place  
(2-83)in her mind during the last few years and arguing upon  
(2-83)that is diffident where it may stop. I remember asking  
(2-83)my old friend Invernahyle one of the bravest Highlanders  
(2-83)who ever wore filibeg a very childish question " what he

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(2-84)thought when he first went into battle ? " He told me  
(2-84)with great naivete that he would have given any man a  
(2-84)thousand marks to answer that he would not run away'.  
(2-84)This was the feeling of a brave man & depend upon it  
(2-84)Miss S-- thinks like a sensible girl and will be rather  
(2-84)more on her guard against first impressions & all the  
(2-84)preliminaries of inconstancy than if she professed absolute  
(2-84)confidence in the immutable steadiness of her own  
(2-84)affections.

(2-84)At the same time I trust and believe means may be

(2-84)fallen upon to shorten this period of anxious probation.  
(2-84)The uncle for example may be applied to if the Father &  
(2-84)Mother have no objections. One season in town would  
(2-84)be quite enough to give the young Lady a fair opportunity  
(2-84)of seeing other faces and hearing other tongues & to  
(2-84)show her

(2-84)-- all she has to know  
(2-84)Is powder pocket-glass and beau.

(2-84)I do not at all dread the result of this experiment  
(2-84)fortified as you are by your interest in her own feelings  
(2-84)and by the esteem and good wishes of her parents which  
(2-84)whatever novels may say to the contrary always have  
(2-84)due weight with an affectionate and grateful disposition.  
(2-84)I am only afraid of your injuring yourself by the anxiety  
(2-84)of your own temper & that your undue degree of humility  
(2-84)will lead you to be cast down or jealous about trifles  
(2-84)which has sometimes consequences that the excess of  
(2-84)affection cannot excuse. I have known several Faulklands  
(2-84)in real life but I never saw a Julia. Consider you  
(2-84)have every advantage over your rivals and it will be your  
(2-84)own fault if you are not so warp'd in with all Miss --'s  
(2-84)schemes for futurity that she shall sooner form a plan of  
(2-84)happiness without the blessing of sight than without your  
(2-84)being concern'd in it. I consider your distance as a  
(2-84)fortunate circumstance since you will undoubtedly  
(2-84)correspond regularly & your meetings may be sufficiently  
(2-84)frequent to maintain constancy on both sides & rare

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1808      85

(2-85)enough to be the object of hope and expectation.-I think  
(2-85)you told me Miss -- had a taste for literature-cultivate  
(2-85)that as anxiously as you can ; it is an excellent flyflap for  
(2-85)coxcombs & teaches a woman how soon their conversation

(2-85)must become tiresome.

(2-85)Once more keep up a good heart in so fair a cause.

(2-85)You must not suffer your spirits to be overcome 1st

(2-85)because you will become tiresome to the young Lady

(2-85)2ndly because you will lose ground with Mr. & Mrs. --

(2-85)who probably will not understand your refinements and

(2-85)Lastly because you will convert my proof sheets into love

(2-85)letters. By the way if your letter had contained less joyful

(2-85)intelligence I should have thought you had mixed your

(2-85)ink with tears for it was so pale as hardly to be legible.

(2-85)I fear our circuit which occurs about the beginning

(2-85)of September will prevent my accompanying you to

(2-85)Glasgow till about the 12th Sept. when if you think my

(2-85)presence can be useful I will be at your service. I will

(2-85)I think be in town on that day to attend a meeting on

(2-85)business & we can go next day to Glasgow together. You

(2-85)will probably wish to stay a day or two there & I will take

(2-85)the opportunity to pay two visits in the neighbourhood

(2-85)when if you please we will return by the falls 1 -perhaps

(2-85)you may prevail on the fair Lady & her pa & ma to go so

(2-85)far as Hamilton or even Lanark-It is a fine country to

(2-85)make love in. Believe me ever yours very truly

(2-85)ASHESTIEL 19th August [1808]

W S

[Glen]

TO ROBERT SURTEES.

(2-85)MY DEAR SIR,-My absence from this place for these

(2-85)ten days prevented my sooner acknowledging the receipt

(2-85)of Sadler's papers, with the very valuable commentary

(2-85)with which you have favoured me. It is real encouragement

(2-85)to persevere in researches of this kind, when one

(2-86)experiences such friendly readiness in those whose skill  
 (2-86)and information render them so well qualified to afford  
 (2-86)it. You are pleased to undervalue the kind assistance you  
 (2-86)have given, but I can only wish to Heaven that I had  
 (2-86)such an auxiliary in illustrating the other parts of the work.

(2-86)I will take the greatest care of Ritson's Ballads, and  
 (2-86)return them in the way you direct, as well as the  
 (2-86)Anecdotes of the Selby family. One of these brought to my  
 (2-86)mind, like the recollection of a dream, the story of the  
 (2-86)wounded man, who brought up from his stomach the  
 (2-86)piece of scarlet cloth which the ball had carried in : but  
 (2-86)my edition has this whimsical circumstance, that one of  
 (2-86)the Scottish captives who was in very evil apparel, having  
 (2-86)been plundered when taken at Preston, seeing his  
 (2-86)companion in calamity make this singular evacuation, begged,  
 (2-86)as a particular favour, that he would continue his exertions,  
 (2-86)and if possible bring up cloth enough to make him  
 (2-86)a pair of breeches. I heard my grandfather tell this story  
 (2-86)when I was a mere infant; perhaps he had it from his  
 (2-86)father, who was a staunch Jacobite, and out, as it was  
 (2-86)called, in the year 1715.

(2-86)The Shepherd Bard, about whom you so kindly interest  
 (2-86)yourself, is well, and I hope in the way of doing well.  
 (2-86)He has got a good farm at the head of Nithsdale, and at  
 (2-86)a moderate rent; but is as yet rather short of cash to  
 (2-86)stock it; a deficiency which he has supplied very  
 (2-86)judiciously by grazing a few scores of sheep for other farmers.  
 (2-86)Times, I think, are likely to mend with him shortly,  
 (2-86)provided he is prudent, of which I see at present no doubt.  
 (2-86)The situation of a man, with certain claims on public  
 (2-86)attention, and whose talents have procured him a considerable

(2-86)degree of attention, is always a painful one,  
(2-86)if his circumstances require close and precise economy.  
(2-86)But Hogg has hitherto shewed no indisposition to the  
(2-86)necessary toil and privation of his state, although he is by  
(2-86)no means without his own share of vanity. The Sheep-  
(2-86)book was sold to Constable of Edinburgh, whom I have

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1808      87

(2-87)desired to send you one copy only, as the emolument did  
(2-87)not go directly into the author's pocket. It is reckoned  
(2-87)by good judges a clever thing.

(2-87)Mrs. Scott and I, on our return to this place, by Lanark  
(2-87)and Peebles, found ourselves on Sunday in a most  
(2-87)unpleasing predicament. We had been to see the falls of  
(2-87)Clyde, but our journey put me in mind of the voyage a St.  
(2-87)Cloud par terre et retour par mer. For behold, we were  
(2-87)overwhelmed by an absolute deluge, in which every rill  
(2-87)became a brook, every brook a river, and every river a  
(2-87)sea. As we were in the midst of the waste hills of Tweedsmuir,  
(2-87)there was no possibility of stopping : indeed, of  
(2-87)the wretched cottages which we passed, most were  
(2-87)deserted by the terrified owners. Bridges had in many  
(2-87)instances entirely disappeared, and in others stood very  
(2-87)uselessly in the midst of the rivers which they ought  
(2-87)regularly to have traversed. We fought our way through  
(2-87)without much difficulty, fatigue, and danger, which  
(2-87)fortunately has not affected Mrs. Scott's health ; for, as  
(2-87)for me, I am never in danger of taking cold.

(2-87)That knave Constable, who was employed to trepan  
(2-87)Westmorland, was certainly the person you mention.  
(2-87)His being knighted is mentioned, I think, by Stowe.  
(2-87)What a pity it was that the father's fate had not descended  
(2-87)on a son who so richly deserved it! I should like very

(2-87)much to see the book you mention. If sent by the mail-  
(2-87)coach, to the charge of Messrs. Ballantyne, printers,  
(2-87)Edinburgh, they will forward it to me with due care. I  
(2-87)Have never seen it.

(2-87)With best thanks for so many favours, and sincere wishes  
(2-87)for a personal opportunity of thanking you for them,  
(2-87)I am ever Your much obliged,                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-87)ASHESTIEL, 10th Sept. 1808.

(2-87)As you mention Hoddam, you probably know my  
(2-87)friend Charles Sharpe.

[Abbotsford Copies]

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TO MISS SMITH

(2-88)MY DEAR Miss SMITH,-You are very kind to remember  
(2-88)so worthless and lazy a correspondent as I am by letting  
(2-88)me hear of, what is always pleasing to me, your success  
(2-88)and welfare. I had not indeed failed to make inquiry  
(2-88)and had been much pleased by hearing that the Dublin  
(2-88)audience exhibited their own good taste in the warmth  
(2-88)of their applause. I reinclose Mrs. Sterndale's very  
(2-88)interesting letter upon which it is difficult to express my  
(2-88)sentiments further than by saying that I understand the  
(2-88)value of her approbation and that with such enthusiastic  
(2-88)feeling of poetry and indulgence for its faults I heartily  
(2-88)hope she will meet with works which will give her more  
(2-88)ample scope for the exercise of the first and call less upon  
(2-88)the last good quality of a gentle reader than either the  
(2-88)Lay or Marmion. I regret that being niched in this  
(2-88)solitude it is difficult for me to procure a frank. As I wish

(2-88)the packet to find you at Limerick I am afraid I must  
(2-88)allow it to travel without privilege.

(2-88)We are as you supposed snug in our summer retreat  
(2-88)and would be heartily glad could we flatter ourselves that  
(2-88)we should see you for a week or two ; a short repose from  
(2-88)your theatrical labours and the quiet of a country retirement  
(2-88)would I believe be of great service to your health.  
(2-88)Perhaps you may be in a situation to manage such an  
(2-88)indulgence next season without interfering with engagements.  
(2-88)Your proposed trip in the winter (though I  
(2-88)heartily hope you will make it good) promises more  
(2-88)delight to the public than gratification to your private  
(2-88)friends unless as a part of it. I am glad you have become  
(2-88)acquainted with Young-he is a well-behaved gentleman-like  
(2-88)man and quite an enthusiast in his profession.  
(2-88)Edinburgh has a great number of theatrical visitants of  
(2-88)eminence this summer, Elliston, Bannister Cooke and  
(2-88)several others enough to disgust us with our usual fare

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(2-89)which is God knows sorry enough. I think as the new  
(2-89)patent is about to be issued there is some chance of  
(2-89)putting the theatre on a more respectable footing and  
(2-89)more worthy of the honour you do it occasionally.

(2-89)With the best intentions in the world of finishing and  
(2-89)despatching this letter I have let it lie by me for ten days  
(2-89)in consequence of my time being put into requisition by  
(2-89)some English visitors who engaged me in my hobby  
(2-89)horsical office of exhibiting the ruins of Melrose Abbey  
(2-89)and some of the other wonders of our wilds, seasoned with  
(2-89)many a tale of feuds and of legendary wonder.

(2-89)You wish me to dramatize my dear Miss Smith and it



(2-90)as much as the reciter to whom she has committed them-  
(2-90)Perhaps I should not understand your request about the  
(2-90)seal quite literally; but not thinking arms though  
(2-90)crowded with suns moons & stars quite a propos I have  
(2-90)used the appropriate emblem of an owl.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE 1

(2-90)ASHESTIEL SELKIRK 18 Septr. [1808]

(2-90)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE-The law you know makes  
(2-90)the husband answerable for the debts of his wife and  
(2-90)therefore gives him a right to approach her creditor with  
(2-90)an offer of payment; so that after witnessing many  
(2-90)fruitless and broken resolutions of my Charlotte I am  
(2-90)determined rather than She and I shall appear longer  
(2-90)insensible of your goodness to intrude a few lines on you  
(2-90)in answer to the letter you honourd her with some time  
(2-90)ago. The secret reason of her procrastination is I  
(2-90)believe, some terrors at writing English which you

1808 SIR WALTER SCOTT                      91

(2-91)know is not her native language to one who is as much  
(2-91)distinguishd by her command of it as by the purposes  
(2-91)she adapts it to. I wish we had the command of what  
(2-91)my old friend Pitscottie calls " a blink of the Sun or a  
(2-91)whip of a whirlwind " to transport you to this solitude  
(2-91)before the frost has stript it of its leaves. It is not  
(2-91)indeed (even I must confess) equal in picturesque beauty  
(2-91)to the Banks of Clyde and Evan but it is so sequestered  
(2-91)so simple and so solitary that it seems just to have beauty  
(2-91)enough to delight its inhabitants without a single  
(2-91)attraction for any visitors except those who come for its

(2-91)inhabitants' sake. And in good sooth whenever I was  
(2-91)tempted to envy the splendid scenery of the Lakes of  
(2-91)Westmoreland I always endeavoured to cure my fit of  
(2-91)spleen by recollecting that they attract as many idle  
(2-91)insipid and indolent gazers as any celebrated beauty in  
(2-91)the land [sic] and that our scene of pastoral hills and pure  
(2-91)streams is like Touchwoods mistress a " poor thing, but  
(2-91)mine own." I regret however that these celebrated  
(2-91)beauties should have frowned wept or pouted upon  
(2-91)you when you honoured them by your visit in summer.  
(2-91)Did Miss Baillie and you meet with any of the poetical  
(2-91)inhabitants of that district Wordsworth Southey or  
(2-91)Coleridge? The two former would I am sure have  
(2-91)been happy in paying their respects to you-with the  
(2-91)habits and taste of the latter I am less acquainted.

(2-91)Time has lingered with me from day to day in expectation  
(2-91)of my being called southward I now begin to think  
(2-91)my journey will hardly take place till winter or early in  
(2-91)Spring. One of the most pleasant circumstances attending  
(2-91)it will be the opportunity to pay my homage to you and  
(2-91)to claim withal a certain promise concerning a certain  
(2-91)play of which you were so kind as to promise me a  
(2-91)reading. I hope you do not permit indolence to lay the  
(2-91)paring of her little finger upon you we cannot afford  
(2-91)the interruption to your labours which even that might  
(2-91)occasion. And what are you doing ? your politeness

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(2-92)will perhaps lead you to say in answer Why I am  
(2-92)very like a certain King of the Thurn distinguishd in the  
(2-92)Edda who when Lok paid him a visit

(2-92)Was twisting of collars his dogs to hold  
(2-92)And combing the mane of his courser bold.

(2-92)If this idle man's employment required any apology we  
(2-92)must seek it in the necessity of seeking food to make  
(2-92)savoury messes for our English guests for we are eight  
(2-92)miles from market, and must call in all the country sports  
(2-92)to aid the larder. We had here two days ago a very  
(2-92)pleasant English family the Morritts of Rockby Park [sic]  
(2-92)in Yorkshire. The gentleman wanderd over all Greece  
(2-92)and visited the Troad to aid in confuting the hypothesis  
(2-92)of old Bryant who contended that Troy town was not  
(2-92)taken by the Greeks. His erudition is however not of  
(2-92)an overbearing kind, which was lucky for me who am  
(2-92)but a slender classical scholar. Charlotte's kindest and  
(2-92)best wishes attend Miss Baillie in which I heartily and  
(2-92)respectfully join. To you She offers her best apology  
(2-92)for not writing and hopes for your kind forgiveness. I  
(2-92)ought perhaps to make one for taking the task off her  
(2-92)hands but we are both at your mercy and I am ever  
(2-92)your most faithful obedient and admiring servant

(2-92)WALTER SCOTT

(2-92)P.S.-I had a visit from the Author of the Poor  
(2-92)Mans Sabbath whose affairs with Constable are I hope  
(2-92)settled to his satisfaction. I got him a few books more  
(2-92)than were originally stipulated and have endeavoured  
(2-92)to interest Lord Leven and through him Mr. Wilberforce  
(2-92)and through them both the Saints in general in the  
(2-92)success of this modest and apparently worthy man.  
(2-92)Lord Leven has promised his exertions and the interest  
(2-92)of the party if exerted would save a work tenfold inferior  
(2-92)in real merit. I address this scrawl to Dr. Baillie's care  
(2-92)as the surest way of reaching you. What think you of

(2-93)Spain ? The days of William Wallace and of the Cid

(2-93)Ruy Diaz de Bivar seem to be reviving there.

[Lockhart and Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-93)[October 8, 1808]

(2-93)MY giving my name to Weber's Romances is out of

(2-93)the question, as assuredly I have not time to do anything

(2-93)that can entitle it to stand in his title-page; but I will

(2-93)do all I can for him in the business. By the by, I wish he

(2-93)would be either more chary in his communications on

(2-93)the subject of my employments, or more accurate. I

(2-93)often employ his assistance in making extracts, &c., and

(2-93)I may say to him as Lord Ogleby does to Canton,<sup>1</sup> that

(2-93)he never sees me badiner a little with a subject, but he

(2-93)suspects mischief-to wit, an edition. In the mean time,

(2-93)suffice it to say, that I have done with poetry for some

(2-93)time-it is a scourging crop, and ought not to be hastily

(2-93)repeated. Editing, therefore, may be considered as a

(2-93)green crop ;of turnips or peas, extremely useful for those

(2-93)whose circumstances do not admit of giving their farm

(2-93)a summer fallow. Swift is my grande opus at present,

(2-93)though I am under engagements, of old standing, to

(2-93)write a Life of Thomson from some original materials.

(2-93)I have completed an edition of some State Papers of Sir

(2-93)Ralph Sadler, which I believe you will find curious. I

(2-93)have, moreover, arranged for republication the more

(2-93)early volumes of Somers's Tracts ; but these are neither

(2-93)toilsome nor exhausting labours. Swift, in fact, is my

(2-93)only task of great importance. My present official

(2-93)employment leaves my time very much my own, even

(2-93)while the courts are sitting-and entirely so in the vacation.

(2-93)My health is strong, and my mind active ; I will

(2-93)therefore do as much as I can with justice to the tasks I

(2-94)have undertaken, and rest when advanced age and more  
(2-94)independent circumstances entitle me to repose.

[Lockhart]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-94)ASHESTIEL, 14th October 1808

(2-94)I WOULD not have been so long silent my dear Lady  
(2-94)Abercorn if I had either had anything interesting to  
(2-94)communicate or could have assured myself that in telling  
(2-94)my no-story I was not intruding upon time which your  
(2-94)Ladyship knows so well how to employ much better. The  
(2-94)summer has slid away without anything remarkable  
(2-94)except that I have been arranging for republication the  
(2-94)large collection of Tracts published from Lord Somers'  
(2-94)library. This occupation is little more than amusement,  
(2-94)yet will be worth 400 a year to me for three or four  
(2-94)years. I know your Ladyship will scold me for fagging  
(2-94)in this way but it is a sort of relaxation after Marmion and  
(2-94)Dryden-requires little exertion and is precisely the sort  
(2-94)of thing I would wish to do for my own amusement, while  
(2-94)it materially assists my family arrangements. As to the  
(2-94)rest I have been shooting a little and coursing a great  
(2-94)deal and have had the pleasure of some very agreeable  
(2-94)visitors from England ; particularly a Mr. Morritt and  
(2-94)his lady-he is a great friend of Mr. Payne Knight deep  
(2-94)in Grecian lore of course which led him some years ago  
(2-94)to visit the very ground where Troy-town stood. They  
(2-94)had been on a visit to Ld. and Lady Aberdeen 1 and were  
(2-94)delighted with their kindness-they staid about a week  
(2-94)with us and I shewed them all the remarkables in our

(2-94)neighbourhood and told them a story for every cairn.

(2-94)I am still making collections towards an edition of

(2-94)Swift and promise myself great advantage in this task

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-95)from a visit to Ireland under your Ladyship's auspices.

(2-95)But we will talk of all this when I have the pleasure of

(2-95)being at the Priory, which I am apt to think will be in the

(2-95)course of a few weeks probably in the beginning of next

(2-95)month. The Commission to which by your Ladyship's

(2-95)kind intercessions I am to act as Secretary is expected

(2-95)(according to Lord Advocate's information) to meet in

(2-95)the beginning of November when my presence will be

(2-95)necessary. As I shall only be wanted for a short time

(2-95)in town I have thoughts of bringing up Mrs. Scott with

(2-95)me who has not been in London for some years.

(2-95)I should be much honoured by permission to inscribe

(2-95)my magnificent Swift to Lord Abercorn ; but your Ladyship

(2-95)remembers what the Marquis said about Sotheby's

(2-95)Orestes. I should not like to lay his Lordship under the

(2-95)dilemma of accepting what he might perhaps justly

(2-95)regard as no great compliment. Any new original work

(2-95)of my own is a very distant consideration. Could I

(2-95)arrange my motions exactly according to my wishes I

(2-95)should like greatly to spend this winter in Spain. I am

(2-95)positive that in a nation so strangely agitated I might

(2-95)observe something both of the operation of human

(2-95)passions under the strongest possible impulse and of the

(2-95)external pomp and circumstance attending military

(2-95)events which could be turned to account in poetry. I do

(2-95)not mean that I would precisely write a poem on the

(2-95)Spanish events but that I would endeavour to collect

(2-95)from what I might witness there so just an idea of the

(2-95)feelings and sentiments of a people in a state of patriotic  
(2-95)enthusiasm, as might hereafter be useful in any poetical  
(2-95)work I might undertake. The poets of the present day  
(2-95)seem always to be copying from the ancients and from  
(2-95)each other, I would fain if possible have a peep at the  
(2-95)great Book of nature. All this is of course an airy vision  
(2-95)yet I cannot banish the wish from my mind though without  
(2-95)any hope of gratifying it.

(2-95)Should this letter be a little dull your Ladyship's

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(2-96)charity must impute it to this deplorable day which after  
(2-96)all borders however more on the terrific than the stupifying.  
(2-96)It has snowed rained hailed and blown without a  
(2-96)moment's cessation, for 36 hours. The river Tweed has  
(2-96)come down " three yards abreast " as my hind expresses  
(2-96)it-a grand spectacle ; the magnificence of which is all  
(2-96)I am likely to enjoy for a field of potatoes which it is in  
(2-96)the very act of destroying.

(2-96)I beg my respectful compliments to Lady Maria the  
(2-96)Marquis and Lord Hamilton and Mrs. Scott offers hers  
(2-96)to your Ladyship. Adieu my dear Lady Abercorn I am  
(2-96)ever your Ladyship's much obliged most devoted

(2-96)W. SCOTT  
[Pierpont Morgan]

(2-96)TO [J. B. S.] MORRITT, 1 ROKEBY PARK, GRETA BRIDGE.

(2-96)MY DEAR SIR,-I was quite happy to learn that Mrs.  
(2-96)Morritt had not received any great inconvenience from  
(2-96)my injudicious anxiety to shew her as much of the  
(2-96)wonders of Yarrow as our time would permit. I was

(2-96)really angry at myself for not recollecting how bad the  
(2-96)roads must have been after so much rain. I can only  
(2-96)hope I will have a more propitious season the next time  
(2-96)I have the pleasure of shewing Mrs. Morritt and you the  
(2-96)beauties of Ettricke.

(2-96)The ornaments on Bishop Bells tomb 2 which I have  
(2-96)this morning received your obliging Draught of are very  
(2-96)curious and certainly have some resemblance to those in  
(2-96)Strathmore. But there is this essential difference that in  
(2-96)the Bishops case they seem to have been merely an

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(2-97)arabesque border on which the Artist doubtless exercised  
(2-97)his own fancy. Whereas upon the stones they stand in  
(2-97)place of all sort of inscription or sepulchral notice whatever  
(2-97)and are therefore 1 in the latter case the principal  
(2-97)whereas to speak logical upon the tomb of the Bishop I  
(2-97)conceive them only to be accessories. The disposition  
(2-97)of the Gothic artists of every kind borderd on the  
(2-97)grotesque they carved every coin buttress and point  
(2-97)of vantage over and over with the wildest forms their  
(2-97)imagination could suggest. Still however these were  
(2-97)only subordinate ornaments which the spectator sometimes  
(2-97)hardly perceived without minute and curious  
(2-97)inspection. Whereas the standing stones bear little or  
(2-97)nothing else than these pieces of imagery which one  
(2-97)would therefore suppose intended in some way or other  
(2-97)to bear reference to the events of which these stones are  
(2-97)obviously monuments. Besides I think it very unlikely  
(2-97)that any person so remarkable as to have a labourd and  
(2-97)expensive monument erected over him should have been  
(2-97)interred at Glamis or Meigle so late as the fifteenth  
(2-97)Century without Record or Tradition telling us something  
(2-97)of the matter. We know the burial places of the Lindsays

(2-97)Ogilvies Ruthvens Grays Oliphants & other  
 (2-97)families of rank in Angusshire who lie decently interd  
 (2-97)under just such monuments as you usually see in a  
 (2-97)cathedral i.e. when they have had any monument at all  
 (2-97)erected to them-And I will venture to say that there are  
 (2-97)few such structures to which tradition does not hold up  
 (2-97)her lamp to aid us more or less clearly to read the decayd  
 (2-97)inscription. But the only tradition of these tombs carries  
 (2-97)us back to the days of romance plainly shewing therefore  
 (2-97)that no later or better grounded history could be attachd  
 (2-97)to them. It is very improbable that they could have  
 (2-97)acquired the name of Vanores 2 tomb etc unless when

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(2-98)the history of King Arthur was current in Scotland-  
 (2-98)supposing that to carry us back about 200 years and I  
 (2-98)can hardly allow less is it probable that in a land of  
 (2-98)tradition like Scotland the romantic name and history  
 (2-98)derived from these legends should have in 1600 attachd  
 (2-98)itself to the tomb of a Scottish chief who had then been  
 (2-98)only dead one or two hundred years. The fame of a  
 (2-98)Lindesay or a Lyon would not have been so easily  
 (2-98)dispossessd and his name would have clung to his  
 (2-98)monument spite of King Arthur and all his chivalry and of  
 (2-98)Queen Ganora and all her iniquities. Let me add also  
 (2-98)that these stones agree exactly in appearance with that at  
 (2-98)Forres and those at Aberlemno to which history enables  
 (2-98)us with some precision to ascribe a date namely during  
 (2-98)the Danish invasions. Yet one word on Bishop Bells  
 (2-98)monument though not quite to the present purpose. I  
 (2-98)have been much puzzled with certain antique brass plates  
 (2-98)used chiefly to collect the offerings at the door of Scottish  
 (2-98)Churches. Besides something like a scripture [piece in]  
 (2-98)the centre I have seen more than one of [them] have  
 (2-98)characters inscribed around the verg[e ea]ch word interchanged

(2-98)with such an emblematic or fanciful monster as  
(2-98)occurs in your inscription. This matter interested me so  
(2-98)much that I had one inscription carefully copied and  
(2-98)shewd it to Mr. Douce who informd me that in the 16th  
(2-98)and 17th centuries the principal manufacture of such  
(2-98)vessells was in the north of Germany and that they were  
(2-98)comparatively of modern date. I think it very likely  
(2-98)that the brass ring for Bells tomb may have been imported  
(2-98)in like manner & from the same country. This does not  
(2-98)bear indeed on the question of the stones which you see  
(2-98)I am determined shall be just the younger brothers of  
(2-98)those of Deucalion and Pyrrha.  
(2-98)I am impatient to see the history of the " felon Sow."1

1808        SIR WALTER SCOTT        99

(2-99)After much torture of my memory I have discoverd at  
(2-99)length that what I calld the "Raid of Rokeby" is in  
(2-99)truth the "Raid of Rookhope" a place in the Bishopric  
(2-99)at the head of Weardale. As however you are threatend  
(2-99)in the course of a few weeks with a raid from me in person  
(2-99)I will bring the ballad along with me. I have been  
(2-99)informd I may expect to be calld to London about the  
(2-99)beginning of next month and rather think Mrs. Scott seems  
(2-99)disposed to accompany me and we reflect with great  
(2-99)pleasure on the opportunity it will give us to visit Rokeby  
(2-99)park on our way southward and cultivate an acquaintance  
(2-99)which, does us so much pleasure and honour.

(2-99)Heber has made us one of his flying visits-although he  
(2-99)came all the way from Rippon on purpose we could not  
(2-99)get him to stay longer than three days with us-perhaps  
(2-99)you have seen him at Rokeby as he is rather an erratic  
(2-99)than a fixd star. Mrs. Scott joins in kindest respects to  
(2-99)Mrs. Morritt and I am always my dear Sir your most  
(2-99)obliged and faithful Servant        WALTER SCOTT

(2-99)ASHESTIEL, 15 October [1808]

[Law]

TO THE EARL OF DALKEITH

(2-99)MY DEAR LORD,-Had I seen you at length on Saturday  
(2-99)I intended to have shewn you the enclosed distressful  
(2-99)epistle from the Gentle Shepherd of Ettrick. He is  
(2-99)totally destitute & seems to point at the Excise which  
(2-99)seems to be the domus ultima of Scottish genius, the  
(2-99)" grave of all the Capulets " Burns Adam Smith Harry  
(2-99)Mackenzie all ended in sitting at the Receipt of Custom 1  
(2-99)so that it seems to be the most natural refuge for poor  
(2-99)Hogg who has certainly driven his pigs to a bad market.

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(2-100)I heard he neglected his sheep & forgot his sheephook a  
(2-100)little too literally in his last situation upon which subject  
(2-100)I deemed it meet to give him a word of advice to which  
(2-100)he alludes in the beginning of his letter. He has I  
(2-100)presume no very accurate information on the mode of  
(2-100)application necessary to get this appointment but I  
(2-100)suppose it ought to be made directly to the Board or  
(2-100)through some friendly commissioner. They are I believe  
(2-100)put upon trial for some time. If I can relieve  
(2-100)your Lordship of any of the trouble you will command  
(2-100)me.

(2-100)I have been plagued to death with theatrical applications  
(2-100)under the idea of the Sub-commission taking place  
(2-100)under the Duke of Buccleuch & Lord Mellville ; but I  
(2-100)hear Rock the present manager gives it out that the Duke  
(2-100)has promised him to be continued in his situation. If I  
(2-100)knew this to be true I would dismiss all my Sylvester

(2-100)Daggerwoods at once as there would be no occasion for  
(2-100)any sub commission. I own however I hope for the sake  
(2-100)of the public this is not true as entre nous Rock is privately  
(2-100)an infamous fellow-Mrs. Siddons is extremely anxious to  
(2-100)have the concern-

(2-100)I beg my most respectful Compliments to Lady  
(2-100)Dalkeith & am ever your Lordships faithful & obliged  
(2-100)humble Servant WALTER SCOTT

(2-100)EDINBURGH 25 October 1808  
[Buccleuch]

TO MR. GIFFORD 1

(2-100)[25th October 1808]

(2-100)SIR,-By a letter from the Lord Advocate of Scotland  
(2-100)in consequence of a communication between his Lordship

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(2-101)and Mr. Canning on the subject of a new Review to be  
(2-101)attempted in London I have the pleasure to understand  
(2-101)that you have consented to become the editor a point  
(2-101)which in my opinion goes no small way to insure success  
(2-101)to the undertaking. In offering a few observations on the  
(2-101)details of such a plan I only obey the commands of our  
(2-101)distinguished friends without having the vanity to hope  
(2-101)I can point out any thing of consequence which must not  
(2-101)have readily occurrd to a person of Mr. Giffords literary  
(2-101)experience & eminence. The task having been so

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(2-102)imposed on me I beg permission to offer my sentiments

(2-102)in the miscellaneous way in which they occur to me.

(2-102)The extensive reputation and circulation of the Edinburgh

(2-102)Review is chiefly owing to two circumstances.

(2-102)First that it is entirely uninfluenced by the Booksellers

(2-102)who have contrived to make most of the other reviews

(2-102)mere vehicles for advertising & puffing off their own

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(2-103)publications or running down those of their rivals.

(2-103)Secondly the very handsome recompence which the

(2-103)Editor not only holds forth to his regular assistants but

(2-103)actually forces upon those whose rank and fortune make

(2-103)it a matter of indifference to them. The Editor to my

(2-103)knowledge acts on the principle that even Czar Peter

(2-103)working in the trenches must accept the pay of a common

(2-103)soldier. This general rule removes all scruple of delicacy

(2-103)& fixes in his service a number of contributors who might

(2-103)otherwise have felt reluctance to accept of compensation

(2-103)for their labours even the more because that compensation

(2-103)was a matter of convenience to them. There are many

(2-103)young men of talent & enterprize who are extremely glad

(2-103)of a handsome apology to work for fifteen or twenty

(2-103)guineas, upon whose gratuitous contributions no reliance

(2-103)could be placed & who nevertheless would not degrade

(2-103)themselves by being paid labourers in a work where

(2-103)others wrote for honour alone. From this I deduce two

(2-103)points of doctrine first that the projected work must be

(2-103)considered as independant of all bookselling influence

(2-103)secondly that the contributors must be handsomely

(2-103)recompenced & that it be a rule that each shall accept

(2-103)of the price of his labour. Mr. John Murray of Fleetstreet

(2-103)a young bookseller of capital and enterprize & who has

(2-103)more good sense and propriety of sentiment than fall to

(2-103)the share of most of his brethren paid me a visit some time

(2-103)ago at Ashestiel and as I found he had held some communication  
(2-103)with Mr. Canning (altho indirectly) I did not  
(2-103)hesitate to give him my sentiments on these points of the  
(2-103)plan & I found his ideas most liberal & satisfactory.

(2-103)The office of Editor supposing all preliminaries arranged  
(2-103)is of such consequence that had you not been pleased to  
(2-103)undertake it I fear the project might have fallen wholly  
(2-103)to the ground. He must be invested with the unlimited  
(2-103)power of control for the purpose of selecting curtailing  
(2-103)and correcting the contributions ; and as the person  
(2-103)immediatly responsible to the Public & to the Bookseller

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(2-104)that each Number shall be published in its due time it  
(2-104)will be the Editors duty to consider & settle the articles  
(2-104)of which it shall consist & to take early measures for  
(2-104)procuring them from the persons best qualified to write  
(2-104)upon the several subjects of criticism. And this you will  
(2-104)find so difficult if entirely entrusted to auxiliaries that I  
(2-104)foresee with pleasure you will be soon compelled to  
(2-104)appear yourself (occasionally at least) in the field. At  
(2-104)the same time if you think my services worth acceptance  
(2-104)as a sort of Jackal or Lions provider I will do all in my  
(2-104)power to assist in this troublesome department of Editorial  
(2-104)duty. But there is another point of consequence besides  
(2-104)the task of providing & arranging materials for each  
(2-104)number. One very successful expedient of the Edinr.  
(2-104)Editor & on which his popularity has in some measure  
(2-104)risen is the art of giving life & interest even to the duller  
(2-104)articles of the Review. He receives for example a  
(2-104)criticism upon a work of deep research from a person  
(2-104)who has studied the book and understands the subject &  
(2-104)if it happens to be written which may often be the case  
(2-104)in a tone of stupifying mediocrity he renders it palatable

(2-104)by a few lively paragraphs or entertaining illustrations  
(2-104)of his own or perhaps by generalising & systematising  
(2-104)the knowledge which it contains. By this sort of finessing  
(2-104)he converts without loss of time or hindrance of business  
(2-104)an unmarketable commodity into one which from its  
(2-104)general effect & spirit is not likely to disgrace those  
(2-104)among which it is placed. Such exertions on the part of  
(2-104)an Editor are indispensable to a well conducted review  
(2-104)for those who possess the knowledge necessary to review  
(2-104)books of research or of abstract disquisition are sometimes  
(2-104)unable to put those criticisms however just into a readable  
(2-104)far less a pleasant or captivating shape & as their science  
(2-104)cannot be obtained " for the nonce " by one capable of  
(2-104)writing well the only remedy is that a man of talent for  
(2-104)composition should revise their lucubrations. And I  
(2-104)should hope many friends & wellwishers to the undertaking

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-105)would be disposed to assist in this part of the task  
(2-105)& altho they might not have leisure to write themselves  
(2-105)might yet revise & correct such articles.

(2-105)Permit me to add that you Sir possess in a peculiar  
(2-105)degree a facility of the greatest consequence to the  
(2-105)undertaking in having access to the best sources of  
(2-105)political information. It would not certainly be advisable  
(2-105)that the work should at its outset assume exclusively a  
(2-105)political character. On the contrary the articles upon  
(2-105)science & miscellaneous literature ought to be such as  
(2-105)may challenge comparison with the best of contemporary  
(2-105)reviews. But as the real reason of instituting the publication  
(2-105)is the disgusting & deleterious doctrine with which  
(2-105)the most popular of these periodical works disgraces its  
(2-105)pages it is essential to consider how opposite & sounder  
(2-105)principles can be most advantageously brought forward.

(2-105)On this ground I hope it is not too much to expect from  
(2-105)those who have the power of befriending us in this respect  
(2-105)that they should upon topics of national interest furnish  
(2-105)the Reviewer confidentially & through the medium of  
(2-105)the Editor with accurate views of points of fact so far as  
(2-105)they are fit to be made public. This is the most delicate  
(2-105)yet most essential part of our scheme. On the one hand  
(2-105)it is certainly not to be understood that we are to be tied  
(2-105)down to advocate upon all occasions & as a matter of  
(2-105)course the cause of administration. Such indiscriminate  
(2-105)support & dereliction of independance would prejudice  
(2-105)both ourselves & our cause in the eye of the public. On  
(2-105)the other hand the work will obtain a decided ascendence  
(2-105)over all competition so soon as the public shall learn (not  
(2-105)from any vaunt of the conductors but from their own  
(2-105)observation) that upon political subjects the new critics  
(2-105)are possessd of early & of accurate information. The  
(2-105)opposition have regularly furnishd the Edinburgh review  
(2-105)with this command of facts so far as they themselves  
(2-105)possessed them. And surely you my dear Sir enjoying  
(2-105)the confidence of Mr. Canning & other persons in power

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(2-106)and in defence of whose principles we are buckling our  
(2-106)armour may safely expect to be intrusted with the  
(2-106)political information necessary to give credit to the work  
(2-106)& with the task of communicating it to those whom you  
(2-106)may chuse to employ in laying it before the public.

(2-106)Concerning the mode & time of publishing the Review  
(2-106)perhaps you will judge a quarterly publication most  
(2-106)advisable. It is difficult to support one of more frequent  
(2-106)recurrence both on account of the want of important  
(2-106)books & the time necessary to collect valuable materials.  
(2-106)The name is of some consequence at least in Mr. Murrays

(2-106)estimation, for myself I think any one who has little  
(2-106)pretension might serve the turn. The English Review  
(2-106)for example once conducted by Gilbert Stewart might  
(2-106)be revived under your auspices. The search after regular  
(2-106)correspondents whose contributions can be relied upon  
(2-106)ought to be begun but should not stop the publication of  
(2-106)the first number. I am not afraid of finding many such  
(2-106)when the reputation of the work has been decidedly  
(2-106)established by three or four numbers of the very first  
(2-106)order. Besides hunting about for these persons would  
(2-106)make the design public which should if possible be confined  
(2-106)to persons worthy of trust for it will have a double effect  
(2-106)if the first No. comes on the public by surprize without  
(2-106)being prejudiced either by the unreasonable expectation  
(2-106)of friends or the artifices & misrepresentations of the  
(2-106)enemy. The first No. should be out in January if  
(2-106)possible & might contain the following political articles  
(2-106)Foxes History Grattans Speeches and any book or  
(2-106)pamphlet which could give occasion for a distinct and  
(2-106)enlightened view of Spanish affairs. This last alone  
(2-106)would establish the character of the work. The Lucubrations  
(2-106)of the Edinburgh Review on that topic have  
(2-106)done the work great injury with the public & I think the  
(2-106)sale of the publication might be reduced at least one half  
(2-106)by the appearance of a trial review which with pretensions  
(2-106)to the same height of literary talent & independance of

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(2-107)character should speak a political language more familiar  
(2-107)to the British ear than that of subjugation to France.  
(2-107)After all the matter is become very serious. From eight  
(2-107)to nine thousand copies of that review are quarterly  
(2-107)dispersed & with all deference to the information & high  
(2-107)talents of the Editor (which nobody can think of more  
(2-107)highly than I do) much of this popularity is owing to its

(2-107)being the only respectable and independant publication  
(2-107)of the kind. In Edinburgh or I may say in Scotland  
(2-107)there is not one out of twenty who reads the work that  
(2-107)agrees in political opinion with the Editor, but it is ably  
(2-107)conducted & how long the generality of readers will  
(2-107)continue to dislike the strain of politics so artfully mingled  
(2-107)with topics of information & amusement is worthy of  
(2-107)deep consideration. But I am convinced it is not too  
(2-107)late to stand in the breach. The first No. of our proposed  
(2-107)Review if it can be compiled without the plan taking  
(2-107)(2-107)wind & if executed with the talent which may reasonably  
(2-107)be expected will burst among the Whigs (as they call  
(2-107)themselves) like a bomb. From the little observation I  
(2-107)have made I think they suffer peculiarly under cool  
(2-107)sarcastic ridicule accompanied by dispassionate argument.  
(2-107)Having long had a sort of exclusive occupation of the  
(2-107)press owing to the negligence of all literary assistance on  
(2-107)the part of those who thought their good cause should  
(2-107)fight its own battle they seem to feel with great acuteness  
(2-107)any appeal to the reading public like champions who  
(2-107)having been long accustomed to push have lost the  
(2-107)art of parrying. Now suppose that upon a foe of this  
(2-107)humour our projected work steals out only drawing the  
(2-107)attention of the public by the accuracy of its facts & the  
(2-107)stile of its execution without giving them the satisfaction  
(2-107)of bidding a public defiance I conceive that their indignation  
(2-107)expressd probably through the Edinr. Review will  
(2-107)soon give us an opportunity of coming to close quarters  
(2-107)with that publication should it be thought advisable &  
(2-107)that with a much better grace than were we to announce

(2-108)a previous determination of hostility. In the mean while  
(2-108)I am for gliding into a state of hostility without a formal  
(2-108)declaration of war & if our forces for one or two numbers

(2-108)be composed of volunteers & amateurs we will find it  
 (2-108)easy when our arms have acquired reputation to hire  
 (2-108)troops of condottieri & to raise & discipline regular forces  
 (2-108)of the line. You are a much better judge than I can  
 (2-108)be who are fit to be put into the van of the battle-  
 (2-108)You have the Ellis's the Roses (cum plurimis aliis) we have  
 (2-108)lost a host in Mr. Frere & can only hope he is serving the  
 (2-108)common cause more effectually in another capacity. You  
 (2-108)can never want scholars while Oxford stands where it  
 (2-108)did. Richard Heber was with me during Murrays  
 (2-108)visit & knowing his zeal for the good cause I availd  
 (2-108)myself of his advice : his brother Reginald would be a  
 (2-108)most excellent coadjutor & I doubt not to get his assistance.  
 (2-108)I believe I can command some respectable  
 (2-108)assistance here but I rely much on that of Mr. William  
 (2-108)Erskine the Advocates brother in law & my most intimate  
 (2-108)friend. I think we can get you both some scientific  
 (2-108)articles & some Scotch metaphysics which you know are  
 (2-108)fashionable however deservedly or otherwise. My own  
 (2-108)studies have been rather limited but I understand in  
 (2-108)some sort literary antiquities & history & have been  
 (2-108)reckoned a respectable tirailleur in the quizzing department  
 (2-108)of the Edinr. Review in which I wrote occasionally  
 (2-108)untill these last two years when its tone of politics became  
 (2-108)so violent; I only mention this lest you should  
 (2-108)either estimate my talents by my zeal (which would  
 (2-108)occasion great disappointment) or think me like many  
 (2-108)good folks more ready to offer advice than assistance.  
 (2-108)Mr. Murray seems to count upon Malthus for the department  
 (2-108)of political oeconomy & if you approve I could  
 (2-108)when I come to town sound Malthus whose study of  
 (2-108)foreign classics has been proceeding extensively. It (is  
 (2-108)certain some) push must be made at first for if we fail  
 (2-108)we shall disgrace ourselves & do great injury to our cause.

(2-109)I would not willingly be like my namesake, Walter the  
(2-109)penniless, at the head of a crusade consisting of a  
(2-109)disorderly rabble & I judge of your feelings by my own.  
(2-109)But " screw your courage to the sticking place & we'll  
(2-109)not fail." Supposing the work conducted with spirit the  
(2-109)only ground from which it can be assailed with a prospect  
(2-109)of success would be a charge of its being conducted  
(2-109)entirely under ministerial influence. But this may be  
(2-109)parried first by labouring the literary articles with as  
(2-109)much pains as the political & so giving to the review a  
(2-109)decided character independent of the latter department  
(2-109)further the respect of the public may be maintained by  
(2-109)the impartiality of our criticism.

[The letter breaks off in this place.]

[John Murray]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(2-109)[Autumn 1808]

(2-109)I WISH you would see how far the copy of Queenhoo-  
(2-109)Hall, I sent last night, extends, that I may not write more  
(2-109)nonsense than enough.

[Lockhart]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-109)ASHESTIEL, 27th October 1808

(2-109)MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-When I last wrote to  
(2-109)you I little thought I should have had such truly melancholy  
(2-109)occasion to address your Ladyship again. I was  
(2-109)quite shocked though hardly surprised to see announced



(2-110)Marmion to be inscribed to him and was only deterred  
(2-110)by hearing him express his general dislike to dedications  
(2-110)which I thought might be a little hint for my conduct.  
(2-110)Truth is that unless the Marquis and the Buccleuch  
(2-110)family to whom I am naturally much attached there are  
(2-110)none among the great whom I am at all likely to intrude  
(2-110)upon in this way for as it is all I ever can do to shew my  
(2-110)respect and attachment I would not willingly render it  
(2-110)cheap by offering it to persons for whom I felt an inferior

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(2-111)regard. Had Lord Melville continued out of power I  
(2-111)should have liked to have inscribed my edition of Dryden  
(2-111)to him but there are many and insuperable objections  
(2-111)to dedicating to any person in office or next door to it.  
(2-111)The next talc of Chivalry shall certainly be Lord  
(2-111)Abercorn's, that is it shall be ours my dear friend and  
(2-111)you shall dispose of it as you please. But when it will be  
(2-111)written is a question of difficult decision. My Spanish  
(2-111)scheme is a mere romance yet had I time next summer  
(2-111)I would try to realize it as I learn languages easily and  
(2-111)can without inconvenience suffer a little hardship as to  
(2-111)food and lodging.

(2-111)My London journey is still uncertain. I shall perhaps  
(2-111)learn something of it to-day for Robert Dundas (Lord  
(2-111)Melville's son) and his lady are to spend two days with us  
(2-111)upon a pilgrimage to the ruins of Melrose. And Charlotte  
(2-111)is calling to me to get out to look after hares and  
(2-111)partridges for them, for in the desert we may sometimes  
(2-111)say with Robin Hood

(2-111)The meat we are to dine upon  
(2-111)It runneth yet on foot.

(2-111)Once more, your truly attached  
[Pierpont Morgan] W. S.

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-111)[Oct. 1808]

(2-111)MY DEAR SIR,-I did not receive your letter till I came  
(2-111)back to this place so that I had not an opportunity to  
(2-111)speak to any of the Minto family upon the subject it  
(2-111)contains. My connection with the Minto family is  
(2-111)scarcely of a nature which would entitle me to intrude  
(2-111)such a request upon them by letter but Thomson or  
(2-111)Murray can do it more easily than I can.

(2-111)I hope to see you in the course of a few days as I must  
(2-111)be in town before the 20th when the Judges are to  
(2-111)arrange every thing for our winter campaign. I have

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(2-112)had a visit this season from Lord Albemarle also from  
(2-112)J. Murray so that you are the only proprietor of Marmion 1  
(2-112)whom I have not seen at Ashestiel.

(2-112)I have learnd that Beaumont & Fletcher are still  
(2-112)without an Editor which makes me sincerely regret my  
(2-112)hands being so full as it is a task I should have liked  
(2-112)excessively. Believe me my dear Sir Yours very truly

(2-112)W. SCOTT  
(2-112)ASHESTIEL Tuesday

(2-112)Have you ever got me a copy of the Examiner.2 I am  
(2-112)in great want of it.

(2-112)Archd. Constable Esq., Care of Messrs. Ballantyne & Go.  
[Stevenson]

TO WILLIAM MILLER

(2-112)DEAR SIR,-On the opposite side you will find all that  
(2-112)I think it necessary to say by way of advertisement  
(2-112)concerning Somers' Tracts. I must beg the favour of the  
(2-112)parties concerned to exert themselves to procure me the  
(2-112)use of rare pamphlets &c not contained in the original  
(2-112)edition or in the Harleian Miscellany. They shall be  
(2-112)faithfully restored & if of great rarity may be set from  
(2-112)under a transparent horn case so that not even a compositor's  
(2-112)thumb shall sully them. I wish also to pillage  
(2-112)the Phoenix Britannicus & the Antiquarian Repertory 3

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(2-113)with as many original curious tracts as I can get hold  
(2-113)of. I think I will be able to enlarge those of the civil  
(2-113)wars very greatly but I do not care to make specific  
(2-113)promises to the public till I see what progress I can  
(2-113)make in fulfilling them. The advertisement of the  
(2-113)second and third volume can be altered & enlarged as also  
(2-113)that of the first when the work is out. But I think it best  
(2-113)to keep in generals at present. I have been in Edinburgh  
(2-113)since I saw you & I believe I must soon be in London  
(2-113)for a week or two upon some business respecting the  
(2-113)Scotch Judicature bill.

(2-113)Thomson will be a load off my mind & my hands -1  
(2-113)I understand the Edinr. Review treats of Dryden next No:  
(2-113)but in what stile I know not.

(2-113)Ballantyne tells [me] you are to stop the ancient plays 2  
(2-113)at two volumes in which case I think you should announce

(2-113)your intention to publish a third for which there are  
(2-113)more than ample materials, nay even for a fourth or  
(2-113)fifth-But a 3d. volume will be necessary to complete  
(2-113)the work. You can feel the public pulse with the two  
(2-113)now ready. I thought of taking in the rarer plays of  
(2-113>Otway & others of Charles iind's age as Don Carlos &c-

(2-113)I beg my Compliments to Mrs. Millar & am Dear Sir  
(2-113)Yours very truly

(2-113)W. SCOTT

(2-113)ASHESTIEL 30th October 1808

(2-113)Mr. Robert Dundas & his Lady have been with me for  
(2-113)these few days past which prevented my writing sooner.

[British Museum]

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TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-114)DEAR SIR,-Since I had the pleasure of seeing you I have  
(2-114)the satisfaction to find that Mr. Gifford has accepted the  
(2-114)task of editing the intended Review. This was communicated  
(2-114)to me by the Lord Advocate who at the same time  
(2-114)requested me to write Mr. Gifford on the subject. I have  
(2-114)done so at great length pointing out whatever occurd to me  
(2-114)on the facilities or difficulties of the work in general as well  
(2-114)as in the editorial department offering at the same time all  
(2-114)the assistance in my power to set matters upon a good  
(2-114)footing & to keep them so. I presume he will have my  
(2-114)letter by the time this reaches you & that he will communicate  
(2-114)with you fully upon the details. I am as certain as of  
(2-114)my existence that the plan will answer provided sufficient

(2-114)attention is used in procuring & selecting articles of merit.

(2-114)I have been also turning over in my mind the plan of  
(2-114)the Novels & Romances. In my opinion they should be  
(2-114)set about without loss of time beginning with the Novels  
(2-114)of Richardson. Fielding & Smollet will lead the van with  
(2-114)a very short memoir of each of their lives & a prefatory  
(2-114)Essay on the peculiarities of their stile. These will be  
(2-114)followd by a good selection of novels of less name. Those  
(2-114)of late date may however be property but I presume that  
(2-114)the proprietors for example of Miss Burneys or Mrs.  
(2-114)Ratcliffes may be easily induced to consent to their  
(2-114)insertion. I want very much an old catalogue of a large  
(2-114)circulating Library (suppose Hookhams or Lanes) to  
(2-114)assist my memory in pointing out the works which should  
(2-114)be inserted. I have the utmost confidence in this plan  
(2-114)succeeding to an extent almost immense & will gladly  
(2-114)make you a present of my own time & labour should the  
(2-114)work not prove profitable. Dispatch is however the surest  
(2-114)fore runner of success. I am endeavouring to get Richardsons  
(2-114)Novels-pray send me his Letters lately publishd.<sup>1</sup>

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(2-115)As the criticism will be of a different text and paging, the  
(2-115)Novels which in double columns may I think be comprized  
(2-115)in two or at most three volumes being either 10 or  
(2-115)seven 8vo volumes to one of the new Edition.

(2-115)Pray dont omit to pick up old romances & novels & tales  
(2-115)&' above all keep your plan secret. If you send me any  
(2-115)packages before the i2th of next month direct them to  
(2-115)Ballantynes care. On that day I must be in Edinburgh  
(2-115)as our courts sit down-The time of my London journey  
(2-115)is still uncertain but must take place before Xmas.

(2-115)I showd Mr. Robert Dundas (presidt of the Board of  
(2-115)Controul) our plan of a review & told him I should call  
(2-115)on him for a good account of Indian affairs as opportunity  
(2-115)shall offer. He approves highly as does Mr. Canning  
(2-115)I am Dear Sir your faithful humble servant

(2-115)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-115)ASHESTIEL BY SELKIRK 30th October [1808]

(2-115)Mr. John Murray Bookseller Fleet Street London  
[John Murray]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-115)ASHESTIEL 31st October [1808]

(2-115)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE-" From the chase on the  
(2-115)mountain as I was returning " our little estaffette brought  
(2-115)me your very very kind letter. Believe me I am fully sensible  
(2-115)of the value of your friendly solicitude and I wish I were  
(2-115)as able as desirous to merit its continuance. I may say  
(2-115)this with confidence because it is the simple truth that  
(2-115)there breathes not the person whose opinion I hold in  
(2-115)equal reverence and therefore I leave you to judge how  
(2-115)proud I am of the rank you have given me in it. I  
(2-115)hasten to tell you that I never entertained for a second a  
(2-115)notion so very strange as to dedicate any poem to my  
(2-115)friend Jeffrey nor can I conceive how so absurd and  
(2-115)causeless a rumour should have arisen. There is a

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(2-116)foundation for the other part of the story though no  
(2-116)larger than a midges wing. I had been making a little  
(2-116)excursion to Stirling with Mrs. Scott chiefly to show her  
(2-116)that interesting part of Scotland and on viewing the field

(2-116)of Bannocburn I certainly said that one day or other  
(2-116)before I died I hoped to make the earth yawn and devour  
(2-116)the english archery and knighthood as it did on that  
(2-116)celebrated day of Scottish glory. This occasioned a little  
(2-116)laughing at the time and afterwards and was sufficient  
(2-116)according to the regular progression of rumour to grow  
(2-116)into a written or perhaps a printed form before it reachd  
(2-116)the city of London. But independent of indolence I am  
(2-116)greatly too cautious to venture upon any new poetical  
(2-116)essay for this long time to come : and as you are kind  
(2-116)enough to permit me such ready access to you I shall  
(2-116)hope for your opinion on any future attempt long before  
(2-116)I have thought of a dedication. As to Mr. Jeffrey I have  
(2-116)great personal regard for him and high estimation of his  
(2-116)talents I have seldom known a man with equal readiness  
(2-116)of ideas or power of expressing them. But I had no  
(2-116)reason to be so very much gratified by his review of  
(2-116)Marmion as to propitiate him by a dedication of any work  
(2-116)of mine. I have no fault to find with his expressing his  
(2-116)sentiments frankly and freely upon the poem yet I think  
(2-116)he might without derogation to his impartiality have  
(2-116)couched them in language rather more civil to a personal  
(2-116)friend and I believe he would have thought twice before  
(2-116)he had given himself that air of superiority in a case where  
(2-116)I had any chance of defending myself. Besides I really  
(2-116)have often told him that I think he wants the taste for  
(2-116)poetry which is essentially necessary to enjoy and of  
(2-116)course to criticize it with justice. He is learnd with the  
(2-116)most learnd in its canons and laws skilled in its modulation  
(2-116)and an excellent judge of the justice of the sentiments  
(2-116)which it conveys but he wants that enthusiastic feeling  
(2-116)which like sun-shine upon a landscape lights up every  
(2-116)beauty and palliates if it cannot hide every defect.

(2-117)To offer a poem of imagination to a man whose whole  
(2-117)life and study has been to acquire a stoical indifference  
(2-117)towards enthusiasm of every kind would be the last as  
(2-117)it would surely be the silliest action of my life. This is  
(2-117)really my opinion of Jeffrey not formed yesterday nor  
(2-117)upon any coldness between us for there has been none.  
(2-117)He has been possessed of it these several years and it  
(2-117)certainly never made the least difference between us ; but  
(2-117)I neither owe him nor have the least inclination to offer  
(2-117)him such a mark of regard as the dedication of any work  
(2-117)past present or to come.

(2-117)I have no thoughts of dipping my desperate quill into  
(2-117)Castalian streams for this long and many a day. If I  
(2-117)were not actually tethered here by necessity I would take  
(2-117)this opportunity of enlarging my stock of poetical ideas  
(2-117)by a visit to Spain where there must be noble scope for  
(2-117)observation but this is unfortunately out of the question,  
(2-117)though I should like it of all things in the world.

(2-117)If I had the influence you flatter me with, nothing  
(2-117)would give me more pleasure as I am sure nothing  
(2-117)would do me so much credit as to employ it on behalf  
(2-117)of our worthy and modest friend James Grahame. But  
(2-117)although the Society of the higher ranks is open to me as  
(2-117)to any literary persons whose habits and manners do not  
(2-117)disgrace their parties, or in other words who being lions  
(2-117)are contented to roar you as an it were any nightingale,  
(2-117)I know too well how far that sort of selfish attention goes  
(2-117)to expect to do any good by it. But I will aggravate  
(2-117)my voice if there should occur any opportunity in which  
(2-117)I can serve him. The deuce is that his politics will be  
(2-117)against him with those whom I [am] most likely to have  
(2-117)any weight with. [By] the way Mr. Struther expressed  
(2-117)himself with much more sense of obligation than any  
(2-117)service I could render him merited. I had a very civil

(2-117)letter from Lord Leven about his poems and he promised  
(2-117)to hand the copy to Wilberforce.

(2-117)I am very busy just now in endeavouring to get the

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(2-118)Edinburgh Theatre put on a good footing. The patent  
(2-118)is expired and it is proposed to renew it in a set of  
(2-118)Commissioners to be trustees for the public and to lease it  
(2-118)from time to time to a fitting Manager. I was to be one  
(2-118)of these trustees, got fond of the plan and really hoped  
(2-118)that the play-house might be put upon a most classical  
(2-118)footing. But our bark has been almost aground and I am  
(2-118)like Robinson Crusoe on his raft straining every nerve to  
(2-118)prevent the whole cargoe slipping into that ancient  
(2-118)and Serbonian whirlpool called Job-If I succeed my  
(2-118)great ambition will be to get up some of your dramas and  
(2-118)shew the people what plays ought to be. But all this  
(2-118)depends entirely on our getting a sensible and gentleman-  
(2-118)like Manager-

(2-118)I cannot believe people would be brutes enough to  
(2-118)prefer the garbage of melo-drama and pantomime to  
(2-118)the high tragic feast which upon a stage of a moderate  
(2-118)size and with actors of but tolerable capacity the Plays  
(2-118)on the Passions would afford them. I have set my heart  
(2-118)on the trial being fairly made and you shall see what you  
(2-118)shall see.

(2-118)I am still quite uncertain about my London journey  
(2-118)but have been desired to hold myself in readiness to come  
(2-118)up on short notice. Mrs. Scott proposes to be with me  
(2-118)and you need not doubt that Hampstead will be among  
(2-118)our very earliest visits. I will talk over my whole  
(2-118)theatrical plan with you for I have the vanity to think of

(2-118)some considerable improvements upon the common mode  
(2-118)of representation. Above all I will have the satisfaction  
(2-118)of hearing the numbers that are to produce fear and  
(2-118)sorrow long long after we are both no more. Charlotte  
(2-118)joins in every sort of kind wish to Miss Agnes Baillie and  
(2-118)to you. Believe me ever your most faithful and sincerely  
(2-118)respectful friend W. SCOTT

(2-118)P.S. I am glad Marmion gains ground-every parent  
(2-118)likes the youngest child best. The Cid is delightful. I

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(2-119)hope you like Freres translations from the poetical  
(2-119)romance[s]. They are in the Appendix.

[Familiar Letters and Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-119)ASHESTIEL, NOV. 2nd, 1808

(2-119)MY DEAR SIR,-I wrote you a few days ago, since which  
(2-119)I was favoured with your letter of the 26th, containing the  
(2-119)lists of the Novels, &c., which were very acceptable. I  
(2-119)agree with you that the shape of the Drama is inconvenient,  
(2-119)but I really fear there is no other in which our  
(2-119)matter will endure the necessary compression. This size  
(2-119)is also most convenient for a shooting-seat or other place  
(2-119)of temporary residence, as it contains a great deal in little  
(2-119)space, and is very easily transported. It has also the  
(2-119)convenience of not being " borrowed " with facility, and  
(2-119)although the book be heavy, the subject is light-were it  
(2-119)a volume of Sermons, indeed, a fair lady might endanger  
(2-119)her toes by falling asleep with it in her hand. To give  
(2-119)the selection some appearance of arrangement, it will be

(2-119)necessary to separate the Translations from the original  
(2-119)Novels, to place those of each author together-which  
(2-119)I observe is neglected in Harrison's series-and to keep  
(2-119)the Novels, properly so-called, separate from Romances  
(2-119)and Tales. I have little doubt that 20 volumes 1 of  
(2-119)700 pages will hold all the Novels, &c., that are worth  
(2-119)reprinting, but I will be a much better judge when I see  
(2-119)the catalogues. Should we find on strict selection that a  
(2-119)volume or two more will be necessary, we can throw the  
(2-119)Tales into a separate division. As I am quite uncertain  
(2-119)about my journey to town, I think you had better send  
(2-119)me the catalogues by the mail coach. The name of work

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(2-120)should be fixed. I have thought of two, which I submit  
(2-120)to you : " The Cabinet of Novels, being a collection,  
(2-120)&c.," or " The English Novelist." I like the first best  
(2-120)because it might be varied into " The Cabinet of Tales  
(2-120)and Romances ;" but perhaps you can hit upon some  
(2-120)one better than either. We must have as many of  
(2-120)Charlotte Smith's novels as we can compass-the " Old  
(2-120)Manor House " in particular. Pray look out for " Chaou  
(2-120)Kiou Ghoau ; or, The Pleasing Chinese History " ; it is  
(2-120)a work of equal rarity and curiosity. I agree entirely  
(2-120)with you about Baron Trenck; but as to Marmontel,  
(2-120)don't you think a good selection of memoirs might one  
(2-120)day be a more fit receptacle for him than our Cabinet ?  
(2-120)Your faithful servant,                      WALTER SCOTT

[Smiles]

TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-120)November 2nd, 1808

(2-120)DEAR ELLIS,-We had, equally to our joy and surprise,  
 (2-120)a flying visit from Heber about three weeks ago. He staid  
 (2-120)but three days, but, between old stories and new, we  
 (2-120)made them very merry in their passage. During his  
 (2-120)stay, John Murray, the bookseller in Fleet Street, who  
 (2-120)has more real knowledge of what concerns his business  
 (2-120)than any of his brethren-at least, than any of them that  
 (2-120)I know-came to canvass a most important plan, of which  
 (2-120)I am now, in " dern privacie," to give you the outline.  
 (2-120)I had most strongly recommended to our Lord Advocate  
 (2-120)(the Right Hon. J. G. Colquhoun) to think of some  
 (2-120)counter measures against the Edinburgh Review, which,  
 (2-120)politically speaking, is doing incalculable damage. I do  
 (2-120)not mean this in a party way ; the present ministry are  
 (2-120)not all I could wish them, for (Canning excepted) I doubt  
 (2-120)there is among them too much self-seeking. . . . But their  
 (2-120)political principles are sound English principles, and,  
 (2-120)compared to the greedy and inefficient horde which

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(2-121)preceded them, they are angels of light and purity. It is  
 (2-121)obvious, however, that they want defenders, both in and  
 (2-121)out of doors. Pitt's

(2-121)" Love and fear glued many friends to him;  
 (2-121)And now he's fallen, those tough co-mixtures melt."1

(2-121)Were this only to effect a change of hands I should expect  
 (2-121)it with more indifference ; but I fear a change of principles  
 (2-121)is designed. The Edinburgh Review tells you coolly, " We  
 (2-121)foresee a speedy revolution in this country as well as Mr.  
 (2-121)Cobbett;" and, to say the truth, by degrading the  
 (2-121)person of the Sovereign, exalting the power of the French  
 (2-121)armies and the wisdom of their counsels, holding forth  
 (2-121)that peace (which they allow can only be purchased by

(2-121)the humiliating prostration of our honour) is indispensable  
(2-121)to the very existence of our country, I think that for these  
(2-121)two years past they have done their utmost to hasten the  
(2-121)accomplishment of their own prophecy. Of this work  
(2-121)9000 copies are printed quarterly, and no genteel family  
(2-121)can pretend to be without it, because, independent of its  
(2-121)politics, it gives the only valuable literary criticism which  
(2-121)can be met with. Consider, of the numbers who read  
(2-121)this work, how many are there likely to separate the  
(2-121)literature from the politics ?-how many youths are there  
(2-121)upon whose minds the flashy and bold character of the  
(2-121)work is likely to make an indelible impression ?-and  
(2-121)think what the consequence is likely to be.

(2-121)Now, I think there is balm in Gilead for all this, and  
(2-121)that the cure lies in instituting such a Review in London  
(2-121)as should be conducted totally independent of bookselling  
(2-121)influence, on a plan as liberal as that of the Edinburgh, its  
(2-121)literature as well supported, and its principles English  
(2-121)and constitutional. Accordingly, I have been given to  
(2-121)understand that Mr. William Gifford is willing to become  
(2-121)the conductor of such a work, and I have written to him,

(2-122)at the Lord Advocate's desire, a very voluminous letter  
(2-122)on the subject. Now, should this plan succeed, you must  
(2-122)hang your birding-piece on its hook, take down your old  
(2-122)Anti-Jacobin armour, and " remember your swashing  
(2-122)blow." It is not that I think this projected Review ought  
(2-122)to be exclusively or principally political; this would, in  
(2-122)my opinion, absolutely counteract its purpose, which I  
(2-122)think should be to offer to those who love their country,  
(2-122)and to those whom we would wish to love it, a periodical  
(2-122)work of criticism conducted with equal talent, but upon  
(2-122)sounder principles. Is not this possible ? In point of

(2-122)learning, you Englishmen have ten times our scholarship ;  
(2-122)and, as for talent and genius, " Are not Abana and  
(2-122)Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than any of the rivers  
(2-122)in Israel ? " Have we not yourself and your cousin, the  
(2-122)Barons, Malthus, Matthias, Gifford, Heber, and his  
(2-122)brother ? Can I not procure you a score of blue-caps who  
(2-122)would rather write for us than for the Edinburgh Review  
(2-122)if they got as much as pay by it ? "A good plot, good  
(2-122)friends, and full of expectation-an excellent plot, very  
(2-122)good friends ! "1

(2-122)Heber's fear was lest we should fail in procuring regular  
(2-122)steady contributors ; but I know so much of the interior  
(2-122)discipline of reviewing as to have no apprehension of that.  
(2-122)Provided we are once set a-going by a few dashing  
(2-122)numbers, there would be no fear of enlisting regular  
(2-122)contributors ; but the amateurs must bestir themselves  
(2-122)in the first instance. From the Government we should  
(2-122)be entitled to expect confidential communications as to  
(2-122)points of fact (so far as fit to be made public) in our  
(2-122)political disquisitions. With this advantage, our good  
(2-122)cause and St. George to boot, we may at least divide the  
(2-122)field with our formidable competitors, who, after all, are

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(2-123)much better at cutting than parrying, and whose uninterrupted  
(2-123)triumph has as much unfitted them for resisting  
(2-123)a serious attack as it has done Buonaparte for the Spanish  
(2-123)war. Jeffrey is, to be sure, a man of the most uncommon  
(2-123)versatility of talent, but what then ?

(2-123)" General Howe is a gallant commander,  
(2-123)There are others as gallant as he."

(2-123)Think of all this, and let me hear from you very soon on

(2-123)the subject. Canning is, I have good reason to know,  
(2-123)very anxious about the plan. I mentioned it to Robert  
(2-123)Dundas, who was here with his lady for a few days on a  
(2-123)pilgrimage to Melrose, and he highly approved of it.  
(2-123)Though no literary man, he is judicious, clairvoyant, and  
(2-123)uncommonly sound-headed, like his father. Lord Melville.  
(2-123)With the exceptions I have mentioned, the thing continues  
(2-123)a secret. . . . Ever yours                      WALTER SCOTT

[Smiles]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-123)November 2nd, 1808

(2-123)I TRANSMITTED my letter to Mr. Gifford through the  
(2-123)Lord Advocate, and left it open that Mr. Canning might  
(2-123)read it if he thought it worth while. I have a letter from  
(2-123)the Advocate highly approving my views, so I suppose you  
(2-123)will very soon hear from Mr. Gifford specifically on the  
(2-123)subject. It is a matter of immense consequence that  
(2-123)something shall be set about, and that without delay.  
(2-123)I am truly surprised at the inexhaustible activity of Mr.  
(2-123)Cumberland's spirit. His proposed Review cannot be  
(2-123)very long-lived-I hope ours 1 stands a better chance of

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(2-124)longevity. I am truly vexed at being kept in my present  
(2-124)state of uncertainty concerning my motions southwards.

(2-124)The points on which I chiefly insisted with Mr. Gifford  
(2-124)were that the Review should be independent both as to  
(2-124)bookselling and ministerial influences-meaning that  
(2-124)we were not to be advocates of party through thick and  
(2-124)thin, but to maintain constitutional principles. Moreover,

(2-124)I stated as essential that the literary part of the work  
(2-124)should be as sedulously attended to as the political,  
(2-124)because it is by means of that alone that the work can  
(2-124)acquire any firm and extended reputation.

(2-124)Moreover yet, I submitted that each contributor should  
(2-124)draw money for his article, be his rank what it may. This  
(2-124)general rule has been of great use to the Edinburgh Review.  
(2-124)Of terms I said nothing, except that your views on the  
(2-124)subject seemed to me highly liberal. I do not add further  
(2-124)particulars because I dare say Mr. Gifford will show you  
(2-124)the letter, which is a very long one.-Believe me, my dear  
(2-124)Sir, with sincere regard. Your faithful, humble Servant,

[Smiles]

WALTER SCOTT

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-124)DEAR SIR,-I received two days ago a letter from  
(2-124)Mr. Gifford highly approving of the particulars of the  
(2-124)plan which I had sketched for the Review. But there  
(2-124)are two points to be considered. In the first place I  
(2-124)cannot be in town as I proposed for the Commissioners  
(2-124)under the Judicature Bill to whom I am to act as Clerk  
(2-124)have resolved that their first sittings shall be held here

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(2-125)so that I have now no chance of being in London before  
(2-125)spring. This is very unlucky as Mr. Gifford proposes to  
(2-125)wait for my arrival in town to set the great machine  
(2-125)agoing. I wish he would with your assistance & that of  
(2-125)his other friends make up a list of the works which the  
(2-125)first No: is to contain & consider what is the extent of the  
(2-125)aid he will require from the North. The other circumstance  
(2-125)is that Mr. Gifford pleads the state of his health and

(2-125)his retired habits as. sequestrating him from the world &  
(2-125)rendering him less capable of active exertion & in the  
(2-125)kindest & most polite manner he expresses his hope that  
(2-125)he should receive very extensive assistance & support  
(2-125)from me without which he is pleased to say he would  
(2-125)utterly despair of success. Now between ourselves (for  
(2-125)this is strictly confidential) I am rather alarmd at this  
(2-125)prospect. I am willing & anxiously so to do all in my  
(2-125)power to serve the work but my dear Sir you know how  
(2-125)many of our very ablest hands are engaged in the Edinr  
(2-125)Review and what a dismal work it will be to wring  
(2-125)assistance from the few whose indolence has left them  
(2-125)neutral. I can to be sure work like a horse myself but  
(2-125)then I have two heavy works on my hands already namely  
(2-125)Somers & Swift.<sup>1</sup> Constable had lately very nearly  
(2-125)relinquished the latter work & I now heartily wish it had  
(2-125)never commenced. But two volumes are nearly printed  
(2-125)so I conclude it will now go on. If this work had not  
(2-125)stood in the way I should have liked Beaumont &  
(2-125)Fletcher much better. It would not have required half  
(2-125)the research & would have occupied much less time. I  
(2-125)plainly see that according to Mr. Giffords view I should  
(2-125)almost have all the trouble of a co-editor both in collecting

(2-126)& revising the articles which are to come from Scotland  
(2-126)as well as in supplying all deficiencies from my own  
(2-126)stores. These considerations cannot however operate  
(2-126)upon the first No; so pray send me a list of books &  
(2-126)perhaps you may send a few on a venture. You know  
(2-126)the department I had in the Edinburgh Review. I will  
(2-126)sound Southey agreeable to Mr. Giffords wishes on the  
(2-126)Spanish affairs. The last No: of the Edinr. Review has  
(2-126)given disgust beyond measure owing to the tone of the  
(2-126)article on Gevallos' Report subscribers are falling off

(2-126)like withered leaves. I retired my name among others  
(2-126)after explaining the reasons both to Mr. Jeffrey & to Mr.  
(2-126)Constable. So that there never was such an opening for  
(2-126)a new Review. I shall be glad to hear what you think  
(2-126)on the subject of terms for my Northern troops will not  
(2-126)move without pay-but there is no hurry about fixing  
(2-126)this point as most of the writers in the first No: will be  
(2-126)more or less indifferent on the subject. For my own share  
(2-126)I care not what the conditions are unless the labour  
(2-126)expected from me is to occupy a considerable portion of  
(2-126)time in which case they might become an object. While  
(2-126)we are on this subject I may as well mention that as you  
(2-126)incur so large an outlay in the case of the Novels I would  
(2-126)not only be happy that my remuneration should depend  
(2-126)on the profits of the work but I also think I could command  
(2-126)a few hundreds to assist in carrying it on-By the  
(2-126)way I see notes on Don Quixote advertised-This was a  
(2-126)plan I had for enriching our collection having many  
(2-126)references by me for the purpose. I shall be sorry if I am  
(2-126)powerfully anticipated. Perhaps the book would make  
(2-126)a good article in the Review-Can you get me Gaytouns 1  
(2-126)festivous Notes on Don Quixote.

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(2-127)I think our friend Ballantyne is grown an inch taller on  
(2-127)the subject of the Romances. Believe me Dear Sir yours  
(2-127)very truly WALTER SCOTT  
(2-127)EDINBURGH 15 November 1808

(2-127)Gifford is much pleased with you personally.  
(Private)

(2-127)Mr. John Murray Bookseller Fleet Street London  
[John Murray]

## TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-127)18th November 1808

(2-127)SUPPOSING you to have read said scroll, you must know  
(2-127)further, that it has been received in a most favourable  
(2-127)manner by Mr. Gifford,<sup>1</sup> who approves of its contents in  
(2-127)all respects, and that Mr. Canning has looked it over, and  
(2-127)promised such aid as is therein required. I therefore  
(2-127)wish you to be apprised fully of what could hardly be  
(2-127)made the subject of writing, unless in all the confidence of  
(2-127)friendship. Let me touch a string of much delicacy-  
(2-127)the political character of the Review. It appears to me  
(2-127)that this should be of a liberal and enlarged nature, resting  
(2-127)upon principles-indulgent and conciliatory as far as  
(2-127)possible upon mere party questions-but stern in detecting  
(2-127)and exposing all attempts to sap our constitutional fabric.  
(2-127)Religion is another slippery station ; here also I would  
(2-127)endeavour to be as impartial as the subject will admit of.  
(2-127)This-character of impartiality, as well as the maintenance  
(2-127)of a high reputation in literature, is of as great consequence  
(2-127)to such of our friends as are in the Ministry, as our more  
(2-127)direct efforts in their favour ; for these will only be  
(2-127)successful in proportion to the influence we shall acquire  
(2-127)by an extensive circulation ; to procure which, the former  
(2-127)qualities will be essentially necessary. Now, entre nous,  
(2-127)will not our editor be occasionally a little warm and

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(2-128)pepperish ?-essential qualities in themselves, but which  
(2-128)should not quite constitute the leading character of such  
(2-128)a publication. This is worthy of a memento.

(2-128)As our start is of such immense consequence, don't you  
(2-128)think Mr. Canning, though unquestionably our Atlas,  
(2-128)might for a day find a Hercules on whom to devolve the

(2-128)burthen of the globe, while he writes us a review ? I know  
(2-128)what an audacious request this is ; but suppose he should,  
(2-128)as great statesmen sometimes do, take a political fit of the  
(2-128)gout, and absent himself from a large ministerial dinner,  
(2-128)which might give it him in good earnest,-dine at three  
(2-128)on a chicken and pint of wine,-and lay the foundation  
(2-128)at least of one good article ? Let us but once get afloat,  
(2-128)and our labour is not worth talking of; but, till then, all  
(2-128)hands must work hard.

(2-128)Is it necessary to say that I agree entirely with you in  
(2-128)the mode of treating even delinquents ? The truth is,  
(2-128)there is policy, as well as morality, in keeping our swords  
(2-128)clear as well as sharp, and not forgetting the gentlemen  
(2-128)in the critics. The public appetite is soon gorged with  
(2-128)any particular style. The common Reviews, before the  
(2-128)appearance of the Edinburgh, had become extremely  
(2-128)maawkish ; and, unless when prompted by the malice of  
(2-128)the bookseller or reviewer, gave a dawdling, maudlin sort  
(2-128)of applause to everything that reached even mediocrity.  
(2-128)The Edinburgh folks squeezed into their sauce plenty of  
(2-128)acid, and were popular from novelty as well as from merit.  
(2-128)The minor Reviews and other periodical publications,  
(2-128)have wired the matter still farther, and given us all abuse,  
(2-128)and no talent. But by the time the language of vituperative  
(2-128)criticism becomes general-(which is now pretty  
(2-128)nearly the case)-it affects the tympanum of the public  
(2-128)ear no more than rogue or rascal from the cage of a parrot,  
(2-128)or blood-and-wounds from a horse-barrack. This, therefore,  
(2-128)we have to trust to, that decent, lively, and reflecting  
(2-128)criticism, teaching men not to abuse books only, but to  
(2-128)read and to judge them, will have the effect of novelty

(2-129)upon a public wearied with universal efforts at blackguard

(2-129)and indiscriminating satire. I have a long and very  
(2-129)sensible letter from John Murray the bookseller, in which  
(2-129)he touches upon this point very neatly. By the by, little  
(2-129>Weber may be very useful upon antiquarian subjects, in  
(2-129)the way of collecting information and making remarks;  
(2-129)only, you or I must re-write his lucubrations. I use him  
(2-129)often as a pair of eyes in consulting books and collating,  
(2-129)and as a pair of hands in making extracts. Constable,  
(2-129)the great Edinburgh editor, has offended me excessively  
(2-129)by tyrannizing over this poor Teutcher, and being rather  
(2-129)rude when I interfered. It is a chance but I may teach  
(2-129)him that he should not kick down the scaffolding before  
(2-129)his house is quite built. Another bomb is about to break  
(2-129)on him besides the Review. This is an Edinburgh  
(2-129)Annual Register, to be conducted under the auspices of  
(2-129)James Ballantyne, who is himself no despicable composer,  
(2-129)and has secured excellent assistance. I cannot help him,  
(2-129)of course, very far, but I will certainly lend him a lift as  
(2-129)an adviser. I want all my friends to befriend this work,  
(2-129)and will send you a prospectus when it is published. It will  
(2-129)be valde anti-Foxite. This is a secret for the present.

(2-129)For heaven's sake, do not fail to hold a meeting as soon  
(2-129)as you can. Gifford will be admirable at service, but will  
(2-129)require, or I mistake him much, both a spur and a bridle,  
(2-129)-a spur on account of habits of literary indolence induced  
(2-129)by weak health-and a bridle, because, having renounced  
(2-129)in some degree general society, he cannot be supposed  
(2-129)to have the habitual and instinctive feeling enabling him  
(2-129)to judge at once and decidedly on the mode of letting his  
(2-129)shafts fly down the breeze of popular opinion. But he  
(2-129)has worth, wit, learning, and extensive information ; is  
(2-129)the friend of our friends in power, and can easily correspond  
(2-129)with them ; is in no danger of having private  
(2-129)quarrels fixed on him for public criticism ; nor very  
(2-129)likely to be embarrassed by being thrown into action in

(2-129)public life alongside of the very people he has reviewed,

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(2-130)and probably offended. All this is of the last importance  
(2-130)to the discharge of his arduous duty. It would be cruel  
(2-130)to add a word to this merciless epistle, excepting love to  
(2-130)Mrs. Ellis and all friends.-Leyden, by the by, is triumphant  
(2-130)at Calcutta-a Judge, of all things !-and making  
(2-130)money ! He has flourished like a green bay tree under  
(2-130)the auspices of Lord Minto, his countryman. Ever yours,

(2-130)WALTER SCOTT  
[Lockhart]

TO THOMAS SCOTT, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN

(2-130)[19th Nov. 1808]

(2-130)DEAR TOM,-Owing to certain pressing business, I have  
(2-130)not yet had time to complete my collection of Shadwell 1  
(2-130)for you, though it is now nearly ready. I wish you to  
(2-130)have all the originals to collate with the edition in 8vo.  
(2-130)But I have a more pressing employment for your pen, and  
(2-130)to which I think it particularly suited. You are to be  
(2-130)informed, but under the seal of the strictest secrecy, that  
(2-130)a plot has been long hatching by the gentlemen who  
(2-130)were active in the Anti-Jacobin paper, to countermine the  
(2-130)Edinburgh Review, by establishing one which should  
(2-130)display similar talent and independence, with a better  
(2-130)strain of politics. The management of this work was  
(2-130)much pressed upon me 2 ; but though great prospects of  
(2-130)emolument were held out, I declined so arduous a task,  
(2-130)and it has devolved upon Mr. Gifford, author of the  
(2-130)Baviad, with whose wit and learning you are well  
(2-130)acquainted. He made it a stipulation, however, that I

(2-130)should give all the assistance- in my power, especially at

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(2-131)the commencement; to which I am, for many reasons,  
(2-131)nothing loth. Now, as I know no one who possesses more  
(2-131)power of humour or perception of the ridiculous than  
(2-131)yourself, I think your leisure hours might be most  
(2-131)pleasantly passed in this way. Novels, light poetry, and  
(2-131)quizzical books of all kinds, might be sent you by the  
(2-131)packet; you glide back your Reviews in the same way,  
(2-131)and touch, upon the publication of the number (quarterly)  
(2-131)ten guineas per printed sheet of sixteen pages. If you  
(2-131)are shy of communicating directly with Gifford, you  
(2-131)may, for some time at least, send your communications  
(2-131)through me, and I will revise them. We want the matter  
(2-131)to be a profound secret till the first number is out. If you  
(2-131)agree to try your skill I will send you a novel or two.  
(2-131)You must understand, as Gadshill tells the Chamberlain,  
(2-131)That you are to be leagued with "Trojans that thou  
(2-131)dreamest not of, the which for sport sake are content  
(2-131)to do the profession some grace "1; and thus far I assure  
(2-131)you, that if by paying attention to your style and subject  
(2-131)you can distinguish yourself creditably, it may prove a  
(2-131)means of finding you powerful friends were anything  
(2-131)opening in your island.-Constable, or rather that Bear  
(2-131)his partner, has behaved to me of late not very civilly, and  
(2-131)I owe Jeffrey a flap with a fox-tail on account of his review  
(2-131)of Marmion, and thus doth " the whirligig of time bring  
(2-131)about my revenges." The late articles on Spain have  
(2-131)given general disgust, and many have given up the  
(2-131)Edinburgh Review on account of them.

(2-131)My mother holds out very well, and talks of writing by  
(2-131)this packet. Her cask of herrings, as well as ours, red and  
(2-131)white, have arrived safe, and prove most excellent. We

(2-131)have been both dining and supping upon them with great  
(2-131)gusto, and are much obliged by your kindness in remembering  
(2-131)us. Yours affectionately,  
(2-131)W. S.  
[Lockhart]

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TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-132)I OUGHT long ago to have told you my dear friend that  
(2-132)my appointment has taken place but I expected to have  
(2-132)communicated the news at the Priory in person. After  
(2-132)some consideration however among the Commissioners  
(2-132)who are partly English & partly Scotch they have at  
(2-132)length altered their original plan of meeting immediately  
(2-132)in London & resolved to hold their first meetings here &  
(2-132)to meet in London early in Spring : of course all chance  
(2-132)of my visiting town till March at soonest is now over, a  
(2-132)little to my own disappointment and not a little to that  
(2-132)of Mrs. Scott. Our little family has now assembled in  
(2-132)Edinburgh for the winter & resumed of course our town  
(2-132)habits. We have the Duchess of Gordon to enliven us  
(2-132)but I shall go very little to her parties for which I have  
(2-132)but little time or inclination. She has a good looking  
(2-132)Granddaughter (Lady Jane Montagu [?] as I think) just  
(2-132)coming out. I suppose she intends to go a fishing for a  
(2-132)husband for her having provided for all her daughters.  
(2-132)Pray take care of Lord Hamilton though I would give  
(2-132)something to see him pleasantly settled yet I would not  
(2-132)have her Graces activity exerted in his behalf. We have  
(2-132)Sir Samuel Hood<sup>1</sup> here with all his Baltic laurels.  
(2-132)His lady is a great friend of ours a daughter of Seaforth's  
(2-132)and an enthusiastic Highlander of course. Your Ladyship  
(2-132)asks me who spoke highly of our poor last Lord Claud  
(2-132)& I can only answer all who knew or had heard of him

(2-132)at Oxford. We had some very pleasant young men  
(2-132)from that university at Edinburgh last winter particularly  
(2-132)Lord Desart [?] (of your own kingdom) Mr Fazackerly

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(2-133)Sir Thomas Dykes Ackland (who has returned here  
(2-133)with a pretty Lady) Mr. Price & several other young men  
(2-133)of good family & great expectation. I saw most of them  
(2-133)frequently & used to receive them pretty often when  
(2-133)the discourse often turned upon their college acquaintances  
(2-133)and your Ladyship may believe my enquiries often  
(2-133)turned upon young men in whom I took so great an  
(2-133)interest as our departed friend & his brother. And they  
(2-133)were the oftener questioned on that subject as there was  
(2-133)only one voice & one mind among them to say & to  
(2-133)dictate all that an enquiring friend could wish to hear of  
(2-133)both brothers.

(2-133)I entered upon my office yesterday as Clerk to those  
(2-133)same Commissioners who held their first meeting upon  
(2-133)St. Andrews day as an omen of their good intentions  
(2-133)towards poor old Scotland. I hope their deliberations  
(2-133)may seriously be of some advantage to our law-yet  
(2-133)clergymen are not more jealous of new heresies than  
(2-133)lawyers of legal innovations. Our principle object is to  
(2-133)introduce trial by Jury in civil cases (in criminal we have  
(2-133)always enjoyed its benefits) but I have grave doubts how  
(2-133)far it will be found to answer. As far as I have observed  
(2-133)no two nations in Europe resemble each other less than  
(2-133)the English & Scotch I mean the middle classes for  
(2-133)those of the highest ranks by travel & company soon rub  
(2-133)off all marks of Nationality. The Englishman is very  
(2-133)apt to partake of the feelings of those around him & nowhere  
(2-133)is a popular impulse so universally acknowledged.  
(2-133)Now my Countrymen are shy restive & contradictory in

(2-133)their dispositions & I sincerely believe that utter starvation  
(2-133)will hardly bring twelve of them to unite in one verdict  
(2-133)unless their national pride is concerned in the question in  
(2-133)which cause an hundred will have but one voice-This is  
(2-133)sorry stuff to send to a Marchioness but I think my next  
(2-133)will convey something more diverting. The whole  
(2-133)world are [sic] in arms here about the Edinburgh Review  
(2-133)for the opinions they have uttered about the Spanish

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(2-134)affairs. There is they say some prospect of an opposing  
(2-134)work when we shall have "fight dog, fight bear."  
(2-134)Should I hear anything about this likely to amuse your  
(2-134)Ladyship Believe me Dear Lady Abercorn Your truly  
(2-134)faithful & much obliged                                W. SCOTT

(2-134)EDINR. 31 [sic] November 1808  
[Pierpont Morgan]

TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-134)[13th Dec. 1808]

(2-134)Now let me call your earnest attention to another  
(2-134)literary undertaking, which is, in fact, a subsidiary  
(2-134)branch of the same grand plan. I transmit the prospectus  
(2-134)of an Edinburgh Annual Register.<sup>1</sup> I have many reasons  
(2-134)for favouring this work as much as I possibly can. In the  
(2-134)first place, there is nothing even barely tolerable of this  
(2-134)nature, though so obviously necessary to future history.  
(2-134)Secondly, Constable was on the point of arranging one  
(2-134)on the footing of the Edinburgh Review, and subsidiary  
(2-134)thereunto,-a plan which has been totally disconcerted  
(2-134)by our occupying the vantage-ground. Thirdly, this  
(2-134)work will be very well managed. The two Mackenzies,

(2-134)William Erskine, cum plurimis aliis, are engaged in the  
(2-134)literary department, and that of science is conducted by  
(2-134)Professor Leslie, a great philosopher, and as abominable  
(2-134)an animal as I ever saw. He writes, however, with great  
(2-134)eloquence, and is an enthusiast in mathematical, chemical,

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(2-135)and mineralogical pursuits. I hope to draw upon you  
(2-135)in this matter, particularly in the historical department,  
(2-135)to which your critical labours will naturally turn your  
(2-135)attention. You will ask what I propose to do myself.  
(2-135)In fact, though something will be expected, I cannot  
(2-135)propose to be very active unless the Swift is abandoned,  
(2-135)of which I think there is some prospect, as I have reason  
(2-135)to complain of very indifferent usage,-not indeed from  
(2-135)Constable, who is reduced to utter despair by the  
(2-135)circumstance, but from the stupid impertinence of his  
(2-135)partner, a sort of Whig run mad. I have some reason to  
(2-135)believe that Ballantyne, whose stock is now immensely  
(2-135)increased, and who is likely to enlarge it by marriage,  
(2-135)will commence publisher. Constable threatened him  
(2-135)with withdrawing his business from him as a printer on  
(2-135)account of his being a Constitutionalist. He will  
(2-135)probably by this false step establish a formidable rival in  
(2-135)his own line of publishing, which will be most just retribution.  
(2-135)I intend to fortify Ballantyne by promising him  
(2-135)my continued friendship, which I hope may be of  
(2-135)material service to him. He is much liked by the  
(2-135)literary people here ; has a liberal spirit, and  
(2-135)understanding business very completely, with a good general  
(2-135)idea of literature, I think he stands fair for success.

(2-135)But, Oh ! Ellis, these cursed, double cursed news, I  
(2-135)have sunk my spirits so much, that I am almost at  
(2-135)disbelieving a Providence. God forgive me ! But I think

(2-135)some evil demon has been permitted, in the shape of this  
(2-135)tyrannical monster whom God has sent on the nations  
(2-135)visited in his anger. I am confident he is proof against  
(2-135)lead and steel, and have only hopes that he may be shot  
(2-135)with a silver bullet, or drowned in the torrents of blood  
(2-135)which he delights to shed. Oh for True Thomas and

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(2-136)Lord Soulis's cauldron ! Adieu, my dear Ellis. God  
(2-136)bless you !-I have been these three days writing this by  
(2-136)snatches. W. S.

[Lockhart]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-136)DEAR SIR,-I am glad to see you are all activity. I  
(2-136)will soon forward you reviews of Burns fifth volume & of  
(2-136)the Cid & hope they will not disgrace my coadjutors.  
(2-136)Brucers Life is undertaken by Josiah Walker who I think  
(2-136)may do it well as he knew the Abyssinian personally.  
(2-136)I have a young friend who I think will do Holmes  
(2-136)America well but I cannot find the book in Edinburgh &  
(2-136)must trouble you to get a copy forwarded. My friend  
(2-136)W. Erskine talks of reviewing Currans Speeches &  
(2-136)McNeills new poem which hath just come forth from the  
(2-136)shop of Mr. Constable. I have sent to my brother Lewis's  
(2-136)romances & the American tale by Mrs. Grant. Any of  
(2-136)these contributions which may be unnecessary for the  
(2-136)first number may be laid aside till wanted-Our friend  
(2-136)Ballantyne has been requested by a number of literary  
(2-136)gentlemen here to edite an annual register. The  
(2-136)Mackenzies father & son Lord Meadowbank William  
(2-136)Erskine I myself (quoth the wren) and several other  
(2-136)persons of good literary reputation are concernd. We

(2-136)mean for certain reasons to keep a considerable number  
(2-136)of shares ourselves but Ballantyne has been empowered  
(2-136)to offer some to the London Trade. As the thing promises  
(2-136)extremely well I shall be glad to find that you  
(2-136)engage in it for I assure you every nerve will be strained  
(2-136)to render it worthy of public acceptation. Ballantynes  
(2-136)Own share in this concern is not very great but I think it  
(2-136)will lead to his acting as Scottish publisher in other  
(2-136)instances. Indeed Mr. Constables favour being a good  
(2-136)deal withdrawn from him and a very large proportion  
(2-136)both of the literary & political world being desirous to

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(2-137)have an Edinr: publisher of activity & judgement as well  
(2-137)as constitutional principles. I have no doubt of his  
(2-137)succeeding in an eminent degree & being of the greatest  
(2-137)service to his friends in London as they may be to him  
(2-137)reciprocally. This however is as yet barely in prospect &  
(2-137)therefore I beg you will take no notice to Ballantyne that  
(2-137)I hinted at such a matter as I know whenever his resolution  
(2-137)is fixd you will be the first to whom he will communicate  
(2-137)it. From what I have learnd he will neither  
(2-137)want funds nor friends & Constables migration of a part  
(2-137)of his stock to London seems favorable to the success of  
(2-137)such an undertaking. I will certainly give it all the aid  
(2-137)in my power having the greatest reason to complain of  
(2-137)Mr. Hunters behaviour towards me although I retain  
(2-137)great good will to Constable as an individual-

(2-137)I beg my compliments to Mr. Gifford & believe me My  
(2-137)dear Sir your faithful humble servant

(2-137)WALTER SCOTT

(2-137)EDINR. 14 Decr 1808

(2-137)Mr. John Murray Bookseller Fleet Street London

(2-137)John Murray]

TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-137)[15th December 1808]

(2-137)I CANNOT help writing a few lines to congratulate you  
(2-137)on the royal declaration. I suspect by this time the  
(2-137)author is at Claremont, for, if I mistake not egregiously,  
(2-137)this spirited composition, as we say in Scotland, fathers  
(2-137)itself in the manliness of its style. It has appeared, too,  
(2-137)at a most fortunate time, when neither friend nor foe can  
(2-137)impute it to temporary motives. Tell Mr. Canning that  
(2-137)the old women of Scotland will defend the country with  
(2-137)their distaffs,<sup>1</sup> rather than that troops enough be not sent

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(2-138)to make good so noble a pledge. Were the thousands  
(2-138)that have mouldered away in petty conquests or Lilliputian  
(2-138)expeditions united to those we now have in that country,  
(2-138)what a band would Moore have under him ! . . . Jeffrey I  
(2-138)has offered terms of pacification, engaging that no  
(2-138)party politics should again appear in his Review. I told  
(2-138)him I thought it was now too late, and reminded him  
(2-138)that I had often pointed out to him the consequences of  
(2-138)letting his work become a party tool. He said " he did  
(2-138)not care for the consequences-there were but four men  
(2-138)he feared as opponents."-" Who were these ? "-" Your-  
(2-138)self for one."-" Certainly you pay me a great compliment ;  
(2-138)depend upon it I will endeavour to deserve it."-  
(2-138)" Why, you would not join against me ? "-" Yes I  
(2-138)would, if I saw a proper opportunity : not against you  
(2-138)personally, but against your politics."-" You are privileged

(2-138)to be violent."-" I don't ask any privilege for  
(2-138)undue violence. But who are your other foemen ? "-  
(2-138)" George Ellis and Southey." The fourth he did not  
(2-138)name. All this was in great good-humour; and next  
(2-138)day I had a very affecting note from him, in answer to an  
(2-138)invitation to dinner. He has no suspicion of the Review 2  
(2-138)whatever ; but I thought I could not handsomely suffer  
(2-138)him to infer that I would be influenced by those private  
(2-138)feelings respecting him, which, on more than one occasion,  
(2-138)he has laid aside when I was personally concerned.  
[Lockhart]

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TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-139)DEAR ELLIS,-Having nothing better to do but to vent  
(2-139)my groans I cannot help thanking you for your last with  
(2-139)as rueful gratitude as a sickman pays to his physician.  
(2-139)In truth notwithstanding your cordial I cannot but feel  
(2-139)exceedingly low. I distrust what we call thorough bred  
(2-139)soldiers terribly when any thing like an exertion of talent,  
(2-139)the formation of extensive plans of the daring and  
(2-139)critical nature which seem necessary for the emancipation  
(2-139)of Spain are required from them. Our army is a poor  
(2-139)school for genius, for the qualities which naturally and  
(2-139)deservedly attract the applause of our Generals are  
(2-139)necessarily exercised upon a limited scale. I would to  
(2-139)God Wellesley were now at the head of the English in  
(2-139)Spain. The last examination shows his acute and  
(2-139)decisive talents for command ; and although I believe  
(2-139)in my conscience, that when he found himself superseded,  
(2-139)he suffered the pigs to run through the business, when he  
(2-139)might in some measure have prevented them-  
  
(2-139)Yet give the haughty devil his due,

(2-139)Though bold his quarterings, they were true.

(2-139)Such a man, with an army of 40,000 or 50,000 British,  
(2-139)With the remains of the Gallician army, and the additional  
(2-139)forces whom every village would furnish in case of success,  
(2-139)might possess himself of Burgos, open a communication  
(2-139)with Arragon, and even Navarre, and place Buonaparte  
(2-139)in the precarious situation of a general with 1,000,000  
(2-139)enemies between him and his supplies ; -for I presume  
(2-139)neither Castanos nor Palafox are so broken as to be  
(2-139)altogether disembodied. But a general who is always  
(2-139)looking over his shoulder, and more intent on saving his  
(2-139)own army than on doing the service on which he is sent,  
(2-139)will, I fear, hardly be found capable of forming or  
(2-139)executing a plan which its very daring character might  
(2-139)render successful. What would we think of an admiral

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(2-140)who should bring back his fleet and tell us old Keppel's  
(2-140)story of a lee-shore, and the risk of his Majesty's vessels ?  
(2-140)Our sailors have learned that his Majesty's ships were  
(2-140)built to be stranded, or burnt, or sunk, or at least to  
(2-140)encounter the risk of these contingencies, when his  
(2-140)service requires it. And I heartily wish our generals  
(2-140)would learn to play for the gammon, and not to sit down  
(2-140)contented with a mere saving game. What, however,  
(2-140)can we say of Moore, or how judge of his actions, since  
(2-140)the Supreme Junta have shown themselves so miserably  
(2-140)incapable of the arduous exertions expected from them ?  
(2-140)Yet, like Pistol, they spoke bold words at the bridge too,  
(2-140)and I admired their firmness in declaring O'Farrel and  
(2-140)the rest of the Frenchified Spaniards traitors even when  
(2-140)approaching Madrid with a victorious army. But they  
(2-140)may have Roman pride, and want Roman talent to  
(2-140)support it; and in short, unless God Almighty should

(2-140)raise among them one of those extraordinary geniuses  
(2-140)who seem to be created for the emergencies of an oppressed  
(2-140)people, I confess I still incline to despondence. If  
(2-140)Canning could send a portion of his own spirit with the  
(2-140)generals he sends forth, my hope would be high indeed.  
(2-140)The proclamation was truly gallant.

(2-140)As to the Annual Register, I do agree that the Prospectus  
(2-140)is in too stately a tone-yet I question if a purer piece  
(2-140)of composition would have attracted the necessary  
(2-140)attention. We must sound a trumpet before we open a  
(2-140)show. You will say we have added a tambourin ; but  
(2-140)the mob will the more readily stop and gaze ; nor would  
(2-140)their ears be so much struck by a sonata from Viotti. I  
(2-140)hope the inside of our booth will be furnished in a more  
(2-140)chaste stile. Our measures were much hurried by the  
(2-140)necessity of anticipating a work upon contrary principles.  
(2-140)We were forced to keep the field open for observe we do  
(2-140)not absolutely promise to fill up the whole place chalked  
(2-140)out but only in as far as our communications and exertions  
(2-140)may enable us to do so respectably. Thus I would hold

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(2-141)it no departure from our plan if any particular branch  
(2-141)should be omitted one year and filled up the next as we  
(2-141)may think meet. Besides to say truth if you depend on  
(2-141)my corps de reserve I must have some interim employment  
(2-141)to keep them together which this Register seems to  
(2-141)promise. As to the Review I will very soon remit two  
(2-141)articles of my own and endeavour to bring forward  
(2-141)others. I am cruelly sorry to say as you will be to hear  
(2-141)that my brother's exertions on which I had counted a  
(2-141)little have been prevented by family distress. The whole  
(2-141)family have had a dangerous fever with a sore throat  
(2-141)from the effects of which they are but scarcely recovering.

(2-141)A female servant whom they carried from this country  
(2-141)has died of this contagious disorder.

(2-141)The thing in which I fear your Southern friend will  
(2-141)fail in your reviewing campaign will be in writing too  
(2-141)well for the public whose present state of taste is God  
(2-141)knows coarse enough. And perhaps your efforts may  
(2-141)reform it.

(2-141)Do you know the Review begins to get wind here?  
(2-141)An Edinr. Bookseller asked me to recommend him for the  
(2-141)sale here and said he heard it confidentially from London  
(2-141)-Mrs. Scott joins in love to Mrs. Ellis and I am ever  
(2-141)yours most truly

(2-141)W. SCOTT

(2-141)EDINR. 23 December 1808.  
[Owen D. Young]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(2-141)EDINBURGH, 30th December 1808

(2-141)MY DEAR SHARPE,-The inimitable virago<sup>1</sup> came safe,  
(2-141)and was welcomed by the inextinguishable laughter of  
(2-141)all who looked upon her caprioles. I was unfortunately  
(2-141)out of town for a few days, which prevented me from

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(2-142)acknowledging instantly what gave me so much pleasure,  
(2-142)both on account of its intrinsic value, and as a mark of  
(2-142)your kind remembrance. You have, I assure you, been  
(2-142)upmost in my thoughts for some time past, as I have a  
(2-142)serious design on your literary talents, which I am very

(2-142)anxious to engage in one or both of the two following  
 (2-142)schemes. Imprimis, it has been long the decided resolution  
 (2-142)of Mr. Canning and some of his literary friends, particularly  
 (2-142)Geo. Ellis, Malthus, Frere, W. Rose, &c., that  
 (2-142)something of an independent Review ought to be started  
 (2-142)in London. This plan is now on the point of being  
 (2-142)executed, after much consultation. I have strongly  
 (2-142)advised that politics be avoided, unless in cases of great  
 (2-142)national import, and that their tone be then moderate  
 (2-142)and manly ; but the general tone of the publication is to  
 (2-142)be literary. William Gifford is editor, and I have  
 (2-142)promised to endeavour to recruit for him a few spirited  
 (2-142)young men able and willing to assist in such an undertaking.  
 (2-142)I confess you were chiefly in my thoughts when  
 (2-142)I made this promise; but it is a subject which for a  
 (2-142)thousand reasons I would rather have talked over than  
 (2-142)written about-among others more prominent, I may  
 (2-142)reckon my great abhorrence of pen and ink, for writing  
 (2-142)has been so long a matter of duty with me, that it is  
 (2-142)become as utterly abominable to me as matters of duty  
 (2-142)usually are. Let me entreat you, therefore, to lay hold of  
 (2-142)Macneill,<sup>1</sup> or any other new book you like, and give us a  
 (2-142)good hacking review of it. I retain so much the old habit  
 (2-142)of a barrister, that I cannot help adding, the fee is ten  
 (2-142)guineas a-sheet, which may serve to buy an odd book  
 (2-142)now and then-as good play for nothing, you know, as  
 (2-142)work for nothing ; but besides this, your exertions in this  
 (2-142)cause, if you shall choose to make any, will make you  
 (2-142)more intimately acquainted with a very pleasant literary  
 (2-142)coterie than introductions of a more formal kind ; and if  
 (2-142)you happen to know George Ellis already, you must, 1

(2-143)am sure, be pleased to take any trouble likely to produce  
 (2-143)an intimacy between you. The Hebers are also engaged,

(2-143) item Rogers, Southey, Moore (Anacreon), and others  
(2-143) whose reputations Jeffrey has murdered, and who are  
(2-143) rising to cry woe upon him, like the ghosts in King  
(2-143) Richard ; for your acute and perspicacious judgment  
(2-143) must ere this have led you to suspect that this same new  
(2-143) review, which by the way is to be called " The Quarterly,"  
(2-143) is Intended as a rival to the Edinburgh ; and if it contains  
(2-143) criticism not very inferior in point of talent, with the same  
(2-143) Independence on booksellers' influence (which has ruined  
(2-143) all the English Reviews), I do not see why it should not  
(2-143) divide with it the public favour. Observe carefully, this  
(2-143) plan is altogether distinct from one which has been  
(2-143) proposed by the veteran Cumberland, to which is annexed  
(2-143) the extraordinary proposal that each contributor shall  
(2-143) place his name before his article, a stipulation which must  
(2-143) prove fatal to the undertaking. If I did not think this  
(2-143) likely to be a very well managed business, I would not  
(2-143) recommend it to your consideration ; but you see I am  
(2-143) engaged with " no foot land-rakers, no long-staff sixpenny  
(2-143) strikers, but with nobility and tranquillity, burgomasters,  
(2-143) and great oneyers "1 and so forth.

(2-143) The other plan refers to the enclosed prospectus, and has  
(2-143) long been a favourite scheme of mine, of William Erskine's,  
(2-143) and some of my other cronies here. Mr. Ballantyne, the  
(2-143) editor, only undertakes for the inferior departments of the  
(2-143) work, and for keeping the whole matter in train. We are  
(2-143) most anxious to have respectable contributors, and the  
(2-143) smallest donation in any department, poetry, antiquities,  
(2-143) &c., &c., will be most thankfully accepted and registered.  
(2-143) But the historical department is that in which I would  
(2-143) chiefly wish to see you engaged. A lively luminous  
(2-143) picture of the events of the last momentous year, is a task  
(2-143) for the pen of a man of genius ; as for materials, I could  
(2-143) procure you access to many of a valuable kind. The

(2-144)appointments of our historian are 300 a-year-no deaf  
(2-144)nuts. Another person has been proposed, and written  
(2-144)to, but I cannot any longer delay submitting the thing to  
(2-144)your consideration. Of course, you are to rely on every  
(2-144)assistance that can be afforded by your humble comdumble,  
(2-144)as Swift says. I hope the great man will give us  
(2-144)his answer shortly-and if his be negative, pray let yours  
(2-144)be positive. Our politics we would wish to be constitutional,  
(2-144)but not party. You see, my good friend, what  
(2-144)it is to show your good parts before unquestionable  
(2-144)judges.

(2-144)I am forced to conclude abruptly. Thine entirely,

(2-144)W. SCOTT

[Sharpe's Letters]

To [CONSTABLE & CO.]

(2-145)GENTLEMEN,-When I saw Mr. Constable last I  
(2-145)mentiond to him that it would be difficult to draw out a  
(2-145)complete advertisement of Swift untill we should see what  
(2-145)was containd in Nicols edition now coming out. So  
(2-145)soon as that can be procured I will furnish you with a  
(2-145)full advertisement. I have already procured Mr. Barnets  
(2-145)part of that Editn. which is not very important. Something  
(2-145)may perhaps be gained by compressing our Edition  
(2-145)within a smaller number of volumes than we at first  
(2-145)intended & so making it cheaper than the other.

(2-145)If you continue anxious to advertize in the mean time  
(2-145)I should think it enough to say

(2-145)In the press & Speedily will be publishd  
(2-145)Swifts works  
(2-145)A complete collection with notes historical critical &  
(2-145)illustrative & a Life of the Author by  
(2-145)Walter Scott Esq.  
(2-145)This edition is in the form & upon the plan of  
(2-145)Mr. Scotts Dryden.

(2-145)As this work, from the very unpleasant circumstances  
(2-145)accompanying its commencement & progress, is likely  
(2-145)to terminate my long & friendly intercourse with your  
(2-145)house, I have only to add that if it is likely to prove so  
(2-145)dubious a speculation as it seems Mr. Hunter apprehends  
(2-145)I am very willing so far as I am concernd to renounce  
(2-145)the bargain. But if it is to go on I hope I shall hear of  
(2-145)no more complaints untill I have the misfortune to do  
(2-145)something to deserve them. I am Gentlemen Your obedt.  
(2-145)Servant  
WALTER SCOTT

(2-145)CASTLE STREET 2 January [1809]  
[Stevenson]

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TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-146)4th January 1809

(2-146)MY DEAR SIR,-I trouble you with a few lines to say  
(2-146)that I will have my articles ready to send off to Mr.  
(2-146)Gifford early next week. They have been strangely  
(2-146)interrupted first by my duty as Clerk to a Commission  
(2-146)now sitting for reform of our courts & since by a very bad  
(2-146)cold. Mrs. Scott sends you her kindest thanks for the  
(2-146)Marmion pocket Book.

(2-146)Ballantyne who takes charge of this note sets off today  
(2-146)to meet you. We talkd over a great number of plans or  
(2-146)hints of plans together & I am positively certain enough  
(2-146)may be done in various ways to make him hold up his  
(2-146)character with any Edinr. Publisher. Constable & I are  
(2-146)quite broken owing to Mr. Hunters extreme incivility to  
(2-146)which I will certainly never subject myself more. It  
(2-146)seems uncertain whether even the Swift proceeds but this  
(2-146)I will soon bring to a point.

(2-146)I shall be most anxious to see the Review. It is now  
(2-146)publicly talkd of here though by some confounded with  
(2-146)Cumberlands attempt. Constable mentiond the report  
(2-146)to me & asked me if it was to be an Edinburgh publication.  
(2-146)I told him report said no.

(2-146)I have orderd two or three books out of Brosters of  
(2-146)Chesters catalogue & desired him to send the bill to you  
(2-146)and I must beg you to receive my review cash when due  
(2-146)in order to settle with them.

(2-146)I fear this snow will render your journey rather  
(2-146)unpleasant but I hope Ballantyne will get through  
(2-146)notwithstanding. Believe me dear Sir yours truly

(2-146)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-146)CASTLE STREET Wednesday

(2-146)I will review the Addenda to Swift as all the materials  
(2-146)are fresh in my head.

[John Murray]

TO DR. CLARICE WHITFELD 1

(2-147)EDINBURGH, January 10, 1809

(2-147)MY DEAR SIR,-Permit me to offer my best thanks for  
(2-147)the honour you have done my verses, in setting them to  
(2-147)music, and me in sending the beautiful productions  
(2-147)which I yesterday received. Although I am no musician  
(2-147)myself, I begin to have some opportunity of hearing it in  
(2-147)my domestic hours, as my oldest girl, though very young,  
(2-147)begins to practise a little. I have as yet only heard  
(2-147)" Lochinvar " which I think very fine,<sup>2</sup> and have no doubt  
(2-147)that the rest will support (they can hardly increase) the  
(2-147)high reputation of the composer.

(2-147)I should have liked wonderfully to have been at  
(2-147)Cambridge when your music was performed in full glory.  
(2-147)I have a wretched ear myself yet have great pleasure  
(2-147)in some passages. This circumstance is the more provoking,  
(2-147)as I believe no man in Britain had more songs  
(2-147)of all kinds by heart than I could have mustered. It is a  
(2-147)great comfort however, that though I am not capable of  
(2-147)whistling a tune myself, I have been in so many instances  
(2-147)the, means of calling forth your delightful strains. I  
(2-147)request you will believe me very proud of this circumstance.  
(2-147)I am, dear sir, yours truly,

(2-147)WALTER SCOTT  
[The Annual Biography]

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TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(2-148)DEAR SHARPE,-Your letter was everything that I  
(2-148)could wish, and I have little doubt that we will make

(2-148)out the history<sup>1</sup> very well between us. For if you are  
 (2-148)willing to undertake the toilsome duty of arranging and  
 (2-148)methodizing and collecting the materials, I thank God  
 (2-148)I can write ill enough for the present taste, and will undertake  
 (2-148)to throw as much pepper into the pottage as will  
 (2-148)make them of the right leaven for the taste of this generation.  
 (2-148)Observe, I altogether disclaim, deny, upgive,  
 (2-148)overgive, and deliver any claim, right, or title to share  
 (2-148)in the 300. As I have a small interest in the work, I  
 (2-148)shall be well paid by its success, in which I think it cannot  
 (2-148)fail. The letters you mention will be most acceptable.  
 (2-148)As our book will require some dispatch, it would be  
 (2-148)highly desirable, so soon as weather and your health  
 (2-148)permit, that we were to have some chat together over this  
 (2-148)and other projects. If you will favour us so far when  
 (2-148)you come to town, I have a chamber in the wall in which  
 (2-148)I could lodge you tolerably well. It is very small,  
 (2-148)indeed, but the Cabbin is convenient, and may suit you,  
 (2-148)in case the Miss Campbells are not in town, better than  
 (2-148)an empty house. As for the Review,<sup>2</sup> perge, perge !-fear  
 (2-148)nothing ; you have yet to learn the magic virtue of calling  
 (2-148)yourself we. I never knew the emphatic force of that  
 (2-148)pronoun till I became a reviewer, and then I no longer  
 (2-148)wondered at its being a royal attribute. Seriously, I will  
 (2-148)be most happy to transmit an article written with your  
 (2-148)usual fun to Anti-Jacobin Gifford, and will be bail for  
 (2-148)its being kindly received. I think also if you were here,  
 (2-148)my friend Thomson, <sup>3</sup> the Lord Register's Deputy, might  
 (2-148)be able to give you material lights for your family history,

SIR WALTER SCOTT

1809

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(2-149)as his acquaintance with our records is very complete.  
 (2-149)Your choice of a mottoe is daring for a border family :  
 (2-149)for my part, I never look into the Justiciary records for the  
 (2-149)sixteenth and preceding centuries without finding some

(2-149)unlucky " Gual. Scott intrat. pro furt. equi pertinen.

(2-149)ad-et pro crudeli interfectione dict-damnat. et susp.

(2-149)per coll."

(2-149)I wish you would review Crabbe. He has, I think, great

(2-149)vigour and force of painting ; but his choice of subjects

(2-149)is so low, so coarse, and so disgusting, that he reminds me

(2-149)of the dexterity of Pallet,1 who painted that which is as

(2-149)good for a sow as a pancake, in such a lively manner as

(2-149)to set a whole pigstye in an uproar.

(2-149)Your opinion quite coincides with mine about Mr

(2-149)Moore. He is not at all deeply concerned in the Review ;

(2-149)the bookseller only mentioned his name to me en passant.

(2-149)Do think of this historical affair. Be you the brisk

(2-149)lightning, the bold thunder I-I'll give them flash for

(2-149)flash. Your access to military men of skill employed in

(2-149)Spain will enable us to form some judgment of that (I fear)

(2-149)ill-fated business. I will have an excellent opportunity

(2-149)of getting at the diplomatic secrets. Let me hear from

(2-149)you soon, and believe me ever, my dear Sharpe, yours

(2-149)faithfully,

WALTER SCOTT

(2-149)EDINBURGH, 13th January 1809

[Sharpe's Letters]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-149)EDINBURGH, 14th January 1809

(2-149)DEAR SOUTHEY,-I have been some time from home

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(2-150)in the course of the holidays, but immediately on my

(2-150)return set about procuring the books you wished to see.

(2-150)There are only three of them in our library, namely-

(2-150)Dobrizzhoffer de Abiponibus, 3 vols.1

(2-150)A French translation of Gomella's History of

(2-150)Oronoquo.

(2-150)Ramuzio Navigazioni, &c. &c.

(2-150)Of these I can only lay my hands immediately on

(2-150)Dobrizzhoffer, which I have sent off by the Carlisle

(2-150)coach, addressed to the care of Jollie the bookseller, for

(2-150)you. I do this at my own risk, because we never grant

(2-150)licence to send the books out of Scotland, and should I be

(2-150)found to have done so I may be censured, and perhaps my

(2-150)use of the library suspended. At the same time, I think

(2-150)it hard you should take a journey in this deadly cold

(2-150)weather, and trust you will make early inquiry after the

(2-150)book. Keep it out of sight while you use it, and return

(2-150)it as soon as you have finished. I suppose these same

(2-150)Abipones were a nation to my own heart's content, being,

(2-150)as the title-page informs me, bellicosi et equestres, like our

(2-150)old Border lads. Should you think of coming hither,

(2-150)which perhaps might be the means of procuring you more

(2-150)information than I can make you aware of, I bespeak you

1809

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-151)for my guest. I can give you a little chamber in the wall,

(2-151)and you shall go out and in as quietly and freely as your

(2-151)heart can desire, without a human creature saying " why

(2-151)doest thou so ? " Thalaba is in parturition too, and you

(2-151)should in decent curiosity give an eye after him. Yet I

(2-151)will endeavour to recover the other books (now lent out),

(2-151)and send them to you in the same way as Dob. travels,

(2-151)unless you recommend another conveyance. But I

(2-151)expect this generosity on my part will rather stir your

(2-151)gallantry to make us a visit when this abominable storm

(2-151)has passed away. My present occupation is highly  
(2-151)unpoetical-clouting, in short, and cobbling our old  
(2-151)Scottish system of jurisprudence, with a view to reform.  
(2-151)I am clerk to a commission under the authority of  
(2-151)Parliament for this purpose, which keeps me more than  
(2-151)busy enough.

(2-151)I have had a high quarrel with Constable and Co. The  
(2-151)Edinburgh Review has driven them quite crazy, and its  
(2-151)success led them to undervalue those who have been of  
(2-151)most use to them-but they shall dearly abye it. The  
(2-151)worst is, that being out of a publishing house, I have not  
(2-151)interest to be of any service to Coleridge's intended paper.  
(2-151)Ballantyne, the printer, intends to open shop here on the  
(2-151)part of his brother, and I am sure will do all he can to  
(2-151)favour the work. Does it positively go on ?

(2-151)I have read Wordsworth's lucubrations in the Courier,<sup>1</sup>  
(2-151)and much agree with him. Alas! we want everything  
(2-151)but courage and virtue in this desperate contest. Skill,  
(2-151)knowledge of mankind, ineffable unhesitating villany,  
(2-151)combination of movement and combination of means, are  
(2-151)with our adversary. We can only fight like mastiffs,  
(2-151)boldly, blindly, and faithfully. I am almost driven to the  
(2-151)pass of the Covenanters, when they told the Almighty in  
(2-151)their prayers, he should no longer be their God; and I  
(2-151)really believe a few Gazettes more will make me turn

(2-152)Turk or Infidel. Believe me, in great grief of spirit,  
(2-152)Dear Southey, ever yours,

(2-152)WALTER SCOTT

(2-152)Mrs. Scott begs kind remembrance to Mrs. Southey.

(2-152)The bed in the said chamber in the wall is a double one.

[Lockhart]

TO J. B. S. MORRITT

(2-152)MY DEAR SIR,-I am truly grieved and ashamed of the  
(2-152)ungrateful appearance my long silence must have made  
(2-152)in your eyes. For a long while I thought my summons  
(2-152)to London would have been immediate and that I should  
(2-152)have had the pleasure to wait upon [you] at Rokeby  
(2-152)park in my way to town. But after due consideration  
(2-152)the Commissioners on our Scottish Reform of Judicial  
(2-152)proceedings resolved to begin their sittings at Edinburgh  
(2-152)and have been in full activity ever since last St. Andrews  
(2-152)day. You are not ignorant that in business of this nature  
(2-152)very much of the detail and of preparing the materials  
(2-152)for the various meetings necessarily devolves upon the  
(2-152)Clerk and I cannot say but that my time has been fully  
(2-152)occupied.

(2-152)Meanwhile however I have been concocting at the  
(2-152)instigation of various loyal and well-disposed persons a  
(2-152)grand scheme of opposition to the too proud critics of  
(2-152)Edinburgh. It is now matured in all its branches and  
(2-152)consists of the following divisions. A new Review in  
(2-152)London to be calld the Quarterly, William Gifford to be  
(2-152)the Editor Geo: Ellis, Rose, Mr. Canning if possible,  
(2-152)Frere and all the ancient Anti Jacobins to be concernd.  
(2-152)The first No : is now in hand and the Allies I hope  
(2-152)and trust securely united to each other. I have promised  
(2-152)to get them such assistance as I can and most happy  
(2-152)should I be to prevail upon you to put your hand to the  
(2-152)Ark. You can so easily run off an article either of learning  
(2-152)or of fun that it would be inexcusable not to afford us

(2-153)your assistance. Then Sir to turn the flank of Messrs.  
(2-153)Constable and Co/ and to avenge myself of certain  
(2-153)impertinences which in the vehemence of their Whiggery  
(2-153)they have dared to indulge in towards me I have  
(2-153)prepared to start against them at Whitsunday 1st the  
(2-153)celebrated printer Ballantyne (who had the honour of  
(2-153)meeting you at Ashestiel) in the shape of an Edinburgh  
(2-153)publisher with a long purse and a sound political creed  
(2-153)not to mention an alliance offensive and defensive with  
(2-153)young John Murray of Fleet Street the most enlightend  
(2-153)and active of the London trade. By this means I hope  
(2-153)to counterbalance the predominating influence of Constable  
(2-153)and Co/ who at present have it in their power and  
(2-153)inclination to forward or suppress any book as they  
(2-153)approve or dislike its political tendency. Lastly I have  
(2-153)caused the said Ballantyne adventure upon an Edinburgh  
(2-153)Annual Register of which I send you a prospectus. I  
(2-153)intend to help him myself as far as time will admit and  
(2-153)hope, to procure him other respectable co-adjutors. I have  
(2-153)been obliged [to send] a long detail of these matters to  
(2-153)your freind Mr. Wharton at the instigation of our Lord  
(2-153)Advocate.

(2-153)My own motions Southwards remain undetermined but  
(2-153)I conceive I may get to town about the beginning of  
(2-153)March when I expect to find you enfamille in Portland  
(2-153)Place. Our Heber will then likely be in town and  
(2-153)altogether I am much better pleased that the journey is  
(2-153)put off till the lively season of gaiety.

(2-153)I believe I told you that I had been mistaken in my  
(2-153)recollection about the old ballad which I thought referd  
(2-153)to your domain of Rokeby proves to be the harrowing of  
(2-153)a place calld Rookhope in Weardale in the Bishopric.

(2-153)The thieves were encounterd and defeated by the  
(2-153)Weardale men whose prowess is the theme of the song but  
(2-153)as [it] possesses no local interest for you and has God wot  
(2-153)as little poetry as may be I do not think [it] worth while  
(2-153)to make a transcript.

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(2-154)I am busy with my edition of Swift and treasure your  
(2-154)kind hints for my directions as I advance. In summer I  
(2-154)think of going to Ireland to pick up any thing that may  
(2-154)be yet recoverable of the Dean of St Patricks.

(2-154)Mrs. Scott joins me in kindest and best respects to Mrs.  
(2-154)Morritt and Mr. Stanly when you write to him. I am  
(2-154)with great regard Dear Sir your faithful humble Servt  
(2-154)WALTER SCOTT

(2-154)EDINBURGH, 14 January [1809]

[Law]

TO CONSTABLE & CO.

(2-154)GENTLEMEN,-After inspection of the New Edition of  
(2-154)Swift by Nichols I conceive some advantage may be  
(2-154)gaind in the public opinion by holding out an intention  
(2-154)of consolidating the mass of information which they have  
(2-154)prefixd to their edition into a distinct narrative & also  
(2-154)explaining the further pains we propose to take to give  
(2-154)superior value to our Edition. I would be glad to know  
(2-154)if it meets your ideas. I inclose the scroll of an  
(2-154)advertisement.<sup>1</sup>

(2-154)To resume for the last time the disagreeable  
(2-154)subject of our difference, I must remind you of what I



TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(2-156)MY DEAR SHARPE,-You grieve my praecordia by  
(2-156)declining to lend me the heavy lift I had promised myself  
(2-156)but I still claim all the subordinate assistance you are so  
(2-156)good as to offer me & which I shall deem invaluable.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-156)I have received your letters of David Hume which are  
(2-156)quite delightful & will be a valuable addition to our first  
(2-156)Register. Pray hasten your Review-Do you remember  
(2-156)what Cadwallader says to a person whom he wishes to  
(2-156)entertain his wife " Say anything to Beck no matter  
(2-156)what nonsense. She is a damnd fool & will not know  
(2-156)the difference." The same say I unto thee with respect  
(2-156)to the public-it is inconceivable how coarse & voracious  
(2-156)their appetite is for anything that contains spunk & dash ;  
(2-156)still they never mind nor are they solicitous about justice  
(2-156)-make them laugh (& who can do that better than you)  
(2-156)make them but laugh and you have them sure. Dont  
(2-156)delay in this business. Bis dat qui cito dat. William  
(2-156>Gifford is " casting many a Northward look" and I  
(2-156)would bring as many blue bonnets to his assistance as  
(2-156)I can. I have already three or four very clever articles.  
(2-156)Mend your pen therefore, put gall in your ink, we want a  
(2-156)light lively satire on any subject you like. The legend  
(2-156)of Jok & the Bean stalk being very popular in my family  
(2-156)I appreciate the full force of the application but you need  
(2-156)have no fear that Gifford will cry Mother Mother lend me  
(2-156)the cutty axe. I write in great haste but just to thank you  
(2-156)as the Advertisements say for favours past & give a gentle  
(2-156)hint of my thirst for future Ever yours W. SCOTT

(2-156)26 January 1809.

[Hornel],

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-157)DEAR SIR,- I return the proof sheet which by the way  
(2-157)was horribly incorrect being I suppose a first proof. But  
(2-157)I have retaliated upon the printer by making large  
(2-157)additions to the article ; which was written under  
(2-157)considerable depression both of body & mind. I am now  
(2-157)however quite alive again. I hope Mr. Gifford will look  
(2-157)over the sheet very carefully as it will require accurate  
(2-157)revising the corrections being so numerous. Tomorrow  
(2-157)I send him a whisky-frisky article on Sir John & will  
(2-157)return the letters &c in a separate inclosure to you. I will  
(2-157)also send a bill for 7 which I owe to Browster of Chester  
(2-157)& which he says may be settled with Longman & Co.  
(2-157)I will give you the trouble to do this for me & account out  
(2-157)of the reviewing money. I am glad you have arranged  
(2-157)so well with Ballantyne who is going on swimmingly. I  
(2-157)will do everything that he can reasonably expect to  
(2-157)support his new undertaking which has not been started  
(2-157)here before it was most peremptorily necessary.  
(2-157)Tomorrow I hope to retain a very useful hand for the  
(2-157)Review. I expect McNeil &c without delay & will  
(2-157)finish the Cid & I think Swift also this week. It has  
(2-157)happend most unluckily that the business of the Commission  
(2-157)of parliamt. leaves me little time to write excepting  
(2-157)after supper. I hope to be in town early in March when  
(2-157)we will rally & review our forces. I have got a good  
(2-157)light horse reviewer whom you must know if he comes to  
(2-157)town a Mr. Kirkpatrick Sharpe. We shall want I fear  
(2-157)light articles. Yours in haste

(2-157)W. S.

(2-157)28 January [1809]

[John Murray]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-158)DEAR SIR,-Referring to a few lines which I wrote  
 (2-158)yesterday I take the advantage of forwarding Sir John's  
 (2-158)Review to send you back his letters under the same  
 (2-158)cover. He is an incomparable goose but as he is innocent  
 (2-158)& goodnatured I would not like it to be publickly known  
 (2-158)that the flagellation comes from my hand. Secrecy  
 (2-158)therefore will oblige me.

(2-158)Mr. Wharton Member for Durham has written to me  
 (2-158)about a pamphlet which he is anxious should be distributed  
 (2-158)here. I referd him to you as likely to find out a  
 (2-158)channel not to be obstructed by the influence of Constable  
 (2-158)which he dreaded. He desires me to apply to you for a  
 (2-158)copy.<sup>1</sup>

(2-158)I send Browsters bill which be so good as to settle &  
 (2-158)place to my debit. I reckon on being at least three  
 (2-158)sheets in this No: which considering my very peremptory  
 (2-158)avocations is a great exertion. Yours truly

(2-158)WALTER SCOTT

(2-158)EDINR. 30th Jan. (1809)

[John Murray]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-158)EDINBURGH, 31st January 1809

(2-158)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-Yesterday I received your letter,  
 (2-158)and to-day I despatched Gomella and the third volume of

(2-158)Ramuzio. The other two volumes can also be sent, if  
(2-158)you should find it necessary to consult them. The parcel  
(2-158)is addressed to the paternal charge of your Keswick  
(2-158)carrier. There is no hurry in returning these volumes,

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(2-159)so don't derange your operations by hurrying your  
(2-159)extracts, only keep them from any profane eye. I dipped  
(2-159)into Gomella while I was waiting for intelligence from  
(2-159)you, and was much edified by the bonhormmie with which  
(2-159)the miracles of the Jesuits are introduced.

(2-159)The news from Spain gave me such a mingled feeling,  
(2-159)that I never suffered so much in my whole life from the  
(2-159)disorder of spirits occasioned by affecting intelligence.  
(2-159)My mind has naturally a strong military bent, though my  
(2-159)path in life has been so very different. I love a drum  
(2-159)and a soldier as heartily as ever Uncle Toby did, and  
(2-159)between the pride arising from our gallant bearing, and  
(2-159)the deep regret that so much bravery should run to waste,  
(2-159)I spent a most disordered and agitated night, never  
(2-159)closing my eyes but what I was harassed with visions of  
(2-159)broken ranks, bleeding soldiers, dying horses-" and all  
(2-159)the currents of a heady fight."1 I agree with you that  
(2-159)we want energy in our cabinet-or rather their opinions  
(2-159)are so different, that they come to wretched compositions  
(2-159)between them, which are worse than the worst course  
(2-159)decidedly followed out. Canning is most anxious to  
(2-159)support the Spaniards, and would have had a second  
(2-159)army at Corunna, but for the positive demand of poor  
(2-159)General Moore that empty transports should be sent  
(2-159)thither. So the reinforcements were disembarked. I  
(2-159)fear it will be found that Moore was rather an excellent  
(2-159)officer than a general of those comprehensive and daring  
(2-159)views necessary in his dangerous situation. Had Wellesley

(2-159)been there, the battle of Corunna would have been  
(2-159)fought and won at Somosierra, and the ranks of the  
(2-159)victors? would have been reinforced by the population of

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(2-160)Madrid. Would to God we had yet 100,000 men in  
(2-160)Spain. I fear not Buonaparte's tactics. The art of fence  
(2-160)may do a great deal, but "a la stoccata," as Mercutio says,  
(2-160)cannot carry it away from national valour and personal  
(2-160)strength. The Opposition have sold or bartered every  
(2-160)feeling of patriotism for the most greedy and selfish egoisme.

(2-160)Ballantyne's brother is setting up here as a bookseller,  
(2-160)chiefly for publishing. I will recommend Coleridge's  
(2-160)paper to him as strongly as I can. I hope by the time  
(2-160)it is commenced he will be enabled to send him a handsome  
(2-160)order. From my great regard for his brother, I  
(2-160)shall give this young publisher what assistance I can.  
(2-160)He is understood to start against Constable and the  
(2-160)Reviewers, and publishes the Quarterly. Indeed he is  
(2-160)in strict alliance, offensive and defensive, with John  
(2-160)Murray of Fleet Street. I have also been labouring a  
(2-160)little for the said Quarterly, which I believe you will  
(2-160)detect. I hear very high things from Gifford of your  
(2-160)article. About your visit to Edinburgh, I hope it will be  
(2-160)a month later than you now propose, because my present  
(2-160)prospects lead me to think I must be in London the whole  
(2-160)month of April. Early in May I must return, and will  
(2-160)willingly take the lakes in my way in hopes you will  
(2-160)accompany me to Edinburgh, which you positively must  
(2-160)not think of visiting in my absence.

(2-160)Lord Advocate, who is sitting behind me, says the  
(2-160)Ministers have resolved not to abandon the Spaniards  
(2-160)coute qui coute. It is a spirited determination-but they

(2-160)must find a general who has, as the Turks say, le Diable au  
(2-160)corps, and who, instead of standing staring to see what  
(2-160)they mean to do, will teach them to dread those surprises  
(2-160)and desperate enterprises by which they have been so  
(2-160)often successful. Believe me, dear Southey, yours  
(2-160)affectionately, WALTER SCOTT

(2-160)Mrs. Scott joins me in best compliments to Mrs. Southey.  
(2-160)I hope she will have a happy hour. Pray, write me word

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(2-161)when the books come safe. What is Wordsworth doing,  
(2-161)and where the devil is his Doe ? I am not sure if he will  
(2-161)thank me for proving that all the Nortons escaped to  
(2-161)Flanders, one excepted. I never knew a popular tradition  
(2-161)so totally groundless as that respecting their execution  
(2-161)at York.

[Lockhart]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-161)2 Feb. 1809

(2-161)DEAR SIR,-I inclose the promised Swift 2 & am now I  
(2-161)think personally out of your debt though I will endeavour  
(2-161)to stop up gaps if I do not receive the contributions I  
(2-161)expect from others-were I in the neighbourhood of your  
(2-161)shop in London I could soon run up half a sheet of trifling  
(2-161)articles with a page or two to each but that is impossible  
(2-161)here for lack of materials.

(2-161)When the Ballantynes open shop 3 you must take care to

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(2-162)have them supplied with food for such a stop-gap sort  
(2-162)of criticism. I think we will never again feel the pressure  
(2-162)we have had for this No: the harvest has literally been  
(2-162)great & the labourers few Yours truly

(2-162)W.S.

[John Murray]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

(2-162)Feb. 5th 1809 EDINBURGH

(2-162)THE air, my dear Mrs. Clephane, which you did me  
(2-162)the honour to request, I have now the pleasure to send  
(2-162)you. It is not, I am told, quite perfect, but it is going  
(2-162)where any of its defects, (the nature of which I don't  
(2-162)understand) will be easily corrected, and its beauties,  
(2-162)if it has any, improved- It is really a Highland air,  
(2-162)and sung by the reapers, so I daresay it is no stranger to  
(2-162)you, to whom all lays are known that were ever sung or  
(2-162)harpd in Celtic bower or hall. I need not say how much  
(2-162)I was obliged by your kind remembrance of my request  
(2-162)about the Borderers lament.<sup>1</sup>

(2-162)Mrs. Scott is not so fortunate as to play much herself,  
(2-162)but our eldest girl begins to sing and to practise a little  
(2-162)on the piano-forte with some hopes of success. She is  
(2-162)indulged with a copy of the ballad, for the beautiful

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-163)original is reserved to be inserted in a precious volume of  
(2-163)mine in which I keep what I value most.

(2-163)I have not heard from Miss Seward this long time, and  
(2-163)grieve at your account of her health- She has a warm  
(2-163)enthusiastic feeling of poetry, and an excellent heart,  
(2-163)which is a better thing.

(2-163)I have some thoughts of being in London in a few  
(2-163)weeks, when I hope to see you as I have a world of  
(2-163)questions to ask about Highland song and poetry, which  
(2-163)no one but you can answer. One day or other, I hope to  
(2-163)attempt a Highland poem, as I am warmly attached both  
(2-163)to the country and the character of its inhabitants. My  
(2-163)father had many visitors from Argyleshire when I was a  
(2-163)boy, chiefly old men who had been out in 1745, and I used  
(2-163)to hang upon their tales with the utmost delight.

(2-163)Once more, dear Madam, receive my thanks and  
(2-163)believe me. Your truly obliged and humble servant,

(2-163)WALTER SCOTT

(2-163)You mention an air to Lochinvar, but I believe mean  
(2-163)the enclosed. The said Lochinvar has been lately well set  
(2-163)by Dr. Clark of Cambridge. I had no tune particularly  
(2-163)in my view when the ballad was written but for Eleu Loro  
(2-163)I thought of the enclosed.

[Northampton]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-163)MY DEAR SIR,-Be so kind as to forward the inclosed  
(2-163)for my brother Major Scott now not far distant from you :  
(2-163)as he has not many acquaintances in town I venture to  
(2-163)request you to shew him any little attention which lie in  
(2-163)your way. You will find him a gentlemanlike civil man.



(2-164)the " Quarterly Review." I have some reasons for not  
(2-164)being very sanguine in my hopes of success. The energy  
(2-164)of folks in a right cause is always greatly inferior to that  
(2-164)of their adversaries. They trust good souls to the  
(2-164)intrinsic merit of their cause & let it stick like Aesops  
(2-164)Waggon in the slough while they address prayers to  
(2-164)Hercules instead of flogging the horses, & putting shoulder  
(2-164)to the wheel. Yet the aggregate of talent from which  
(2-164)assistance is expected is very formidable, & if Gifford can  
(2-164)spur on his Go-adjutors I rather think we will make a  
(2-164)handsome skirmish.

1809

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-165)Now the corollary to this proposal is one which is in  
(2-165)some degree mine own device : namely an Annual  
(2-165)Register in Edinburgh, to prevent the opposite faction  
(2-165)from establishing such a work. For this purpose I have  
(2-165)encouraged the faithful Ballantyne in his resolution to  
(2-165)extend his business from the printing into the publishing  
(2-165)line, and he hath compounded the enclosed which tho'  
(2-165)rather in too ambitious a stile has drawn a great deal of  
(2-165)public attention. The younger brother John is to manage  
(2-165)the Bookselling & Co. If you order any of the above  
(2-165)works (which you will doubtless do) I wish you would  
(2-165)take it from this new shop. They have also a share of  
(2-165)the Quarterly Review and start in direct opposition to  
(2-165)those misproud stationers Constable & Hunter.1-

(2-165)Now my dear friend you must give us a little assistance  
(2-165)in this matter of the Register. You have I know many  
(2-165)curious letters from the learned of the last generation, &  
(2-165)I think you might find one or two among them which  
(2-165)could without impropriety, & to the great advantage of  
(2-165)the public be printed in such a deposit. I am very  
(2-165)anxious to get any scraps that can make the first volume

(2-165)as respectable as possible. I intend to revise & overlook  
(2-165)the historical part, & as I am going to London I have  
(2-165)little doubt I shall get access to materials of the most  
(2-165)important kind. Indeed Mr. Canning has promised  
(2-165)me all assistance upon this head.

(2-165)Mrs. Scott joins me in best compliments to Mrs. Murray  
(2-165)& I am with great regard Yours faithfully

(2-165)WALTER SCOTT

(2-165)EDINR. 15 Feby. [1809]

(2-165)Adam is gone to Tweeddale for a few days, but I expect  
(2-165)his return daily.

[Abbotsford Copies]

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TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(2-166)MY DEAR SHARPE,-Your critique came safe two days  
(2-166)ago, and I instantly forwarded it for London, after  
(2-166)glancing it over and laughing heartily. I cut off the  
(2-166)upper part of your letter, that Gifford (though unnecessary)  
(2-166)may see how very modest you are, and avail himself,  
(2-166)should he think that proper, of the privilege you allow  
(2-166)him. When you have been as often and as bitterly  
(2-166)reviewed as I have been, you will acquire all the indifference  
(2-166)of eels that are used to be flea'd, as the cook-wench  
(2-166)says. In the meantime, the injury you have yourself  
(2-166)experienced ought in all reason and morality to sharpen  
(2-166)your quill against others, according to the simile of the  
(2-166)valorous Tom Thumb-

(2-166)" So when two dogs are quarrelling on the street,  
(2-166)With one of them another dog doth meet,  
(2-166)With angry tooth he bites him. to the bone,  
(2-166)And this dog smarts for what that dog has done."1

(2-166)I would willingly embrace your offer of curry-combing  
(2-166)Miss Owenson,2 who, judging from her " Wild Irish Girl,"  
(2-166)seems to deserve such discipline very heartily. But I  
(2-166)believe Gifford has taken the handling of her new novel  
(2-166)into his own hand.

(2-166)The good folks in Dumfriesshire do me too much  
(2-166)honour to suppose that I am the manager of the

SIR WALTER SCOTT                      167                      1809

(2-167)" Quarterly Review." I am a sincere well-wisher and  
(2-167)humble contributor to the work ; but the whole controul  
(2-167)is in Mr. Gifford, and eke the responsibility. I heartily  
(2-167)wish I had some part of the influence ascribed to me, as I  
(2-167)would most certainly have pushed the work much faster  
(2-167)forward. But as to being the conductor of a Review-  
(2-167)upon many accounts it would be the last literary duty I  
(2-167)should chuse to undertake.

(2-167)I will write to you the instant I hear from Gifford 1-  
(2-167)which, however, may be long enough-but, meo arbitrio,  
(2-167)your article will be deemed a capital one even under the  
(2-167)caustic regard of the Satirist of the Baviad.-Ever, dear  
(2-167)Sharpe, I am, yours truly,

(2-167)WALTER SCOTT

(2-167)EDIN., 17th Feby. 1809.

[Sharpe's Letters]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-167)DEAR SIR,-I see with pleasure that you will be out  
(2-167)on the 1st Yet I wish I could have seen my articles in  
(2-167)proof for I seldom read over my things in manuscript &  
(2-167)always find infinite room for improvement at the printers  
(2-167)expence. I hope our hurry will not be such another time  
(2-167)as to deprive me of the chance of doing the best I can  
(2-167)which depends greatly on my seeing the proofs. Pray  
(2-167)have the goodness to attend to this.

(2-167)I have made for the Ballantynes a little selection of  
(2-167)poetry to be entitled English Minstrelsy. I also intend  
(2-167)to arrange for them a first volume of English Memoirs to  
(2-167)be intituled

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(2-168)Secret History of the Court of James I  
(2-168)To consist of

(2-168)Osbornes traditional Memoirs  
(2-168)Sir Anthony Weldon's Court & character of James I  
(2-168)Heylins Aulicus Coquinariae  
(2-168)Sir Edward Peyton's Rise & fall of the House of  
(2-168)Stewart.<sup>1</sup>

(2-168)I will add a few explanatory notes to these curious  
(2-168)memoirs & hope to continue the collection as (thanks to  
(2-168)my constant labour on Somers) it costs me no expence &  
(2-168)shall cost the proprietors none. You may advertise the  
(2-168)publications & Ballantyne equally agreeably to his own  
(2-168)wish & mine will let you chuse your own share in them-  
(2-168)I have a commission for you in the way of art. I have  
(2-168)publishd many unauthenticated books as you know &

(2-168)may probably bring forward many more. Now I wish  
(2-168)to have it in my power to place in a few copies of each a  
(2-168)decisive mark of appropriation. I have chosen for this  
(2-168)purpose a device borne by a Champion of my name in a  
(2-168)tournament at Stirling. It was a gate & portcullis with  
(2-168)the mottoe CLAUSUS TUTUS ERO. I have it engraved on a  
(2-168)seal as you may remark on the enclosure but it is done  
(2-168)in a most blackguard stile-Now what I want is to have  
(2-168)this same gate-way & this same portcullis & this same  
(2-168)mottoe of Clausus Tutus Era which is an anagram of

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(2-169)Walterus Scotus (taking two single U's for the W) cut upon  
(2-169)wood in the most elegant manner so as to make a small  
(2-169)vignette capable of being applied to a few copies of every  
(2-169)work which I either write or publish. This fancy of  
(2-169)making portcullis copies I have much at heart & trust  
(2-169)to you to get it accomplis'd for me in the most elegant  
(2-169)manner. Dont mind the expence & perhaps Mr. Westall  
(2-169)might be disposed to make a sketch for me.

(2-169)I am most anxious to see the Review God grant we may  
(2-169)lose no ground I tremble while I think of my own articles  
(2-169)of which too I have but an indefinite recollection.

(2-169)What would you think of an edition of the Old English  
(2-169)Froissart say 500 in the small antique quarto a beautiful  
(2-169)size of book ; the spelling must be brought to an  
(2-169)uniformity-the work copied (as I could not permit my  
(2-169)beautiful copy to go to press) notes added & illustrations  
(2-169)& inaccuracies corrected-I think Johnes would be  
(2-169)driven into most deserved disgrace & I can get the use  
(2-169)of a most curious MS of the French Froissart in the  
(2-169)Newbattle Library 1 probably the finest in existence after  
(2-169)that of Berlin-I am an enthusiast about Berners Froissart

(2-169)& though I could not undertake the drudgery of preparing  
(2-169)the whole for the press yet Weber would do it under my  
(2-169)eye upon the most reasonable terms & I would revise  
(2-169)every part relating to English history.

(2-169)Be pleased to forward the inclosed to Mr. Miller.

(2-169)I have several other literary schemes but defer mentioning  
(2-169)them till I come to London which I sincerely hope  
(2-169)will be in the course of a month or six weeks. I hear  
(2-169)Mr. Canning is anxious about our Review-Constable  
(2-169)says it is a Scotch job. I could not help quizzing Mr.

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(2-170)Robt. Miller who asked me in an odd sort of way as I  
(2-170)thought why it was not out ? I said very indifferently  
(2-170)I knew nothing about it but had heard a vague report  
(2-170)that the edition was to be much enlarged on account of  
(2-170)the expected demand which had necessarily occasioned  
(2-170)some delay. I also enclose a few lines to my brother  
(2-170)& am Dear Sir very truly yours                                      W. SCOTT

(2-170)EDINR. 25 Feby. 1809

(2-170)It is universally agreed here that Cumberland is five  
(2-170)hundred degrees beneath contempt.

(2-170)Mr. John Murray  
[John Murray]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-170)EDINR. 1st March 1809

(2-170)DEAR SOUTHEY,-By the Carlisle Stage you will

(2-170)receive the 1st volume of Somers Tracts a new edition  
(2-170)which I have superintended. I hope you will find something  
(2-170)in it entertaining altho' I own I don't consider the  
(2-170)selection as very much calculated for amusement especially  
(2-170)the first tome. I think you will approve of my including a  
(2-170)strange rhyming thing called the Image of Ireland.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-170)While I am on the subject of selection I must tell you  
(2-170)that to oblige the Ballantynes who are now engaging in  
(2-170)the publishing business I have promised them the  
(2-170)assistance of my exquisite judgement in making a little  
(2-170)pocket collection of fugitive poetry <sup>2</sup> which I shall reckon

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(2-171)very incomplete without a specimen or two from your  
(2-171)poems & those of Wordsworth-As a good and beautiful  
(2-171)example of Wordsworths peculiar vein of poetry I intend  
(2-171)with his approbation to lay my clutches upon the little  
(2-171)ballad called " We are seven " and another short copy  
(2-171)of-verses called Glen Almain. I would be glad to have  
(2-171)your judgement both on my choice & also what specimen  
(2-171)I should take from your poetry or whether you have any  
(2-171)fugitive little sonnet with which you would chuse to  
(2-171)redeem your contribution. The little collection will be  
(2-171)most elegantly printed and I hope you will find yourself  
(2-171)in tolerable company-both ancient & modern-<sup>1</sup>

(2-171)I agree entirely with [you] that Wordsworth lives too  
(2-171)much for the lyre ; the study of poetry however delightful  
(2-171)in itself is so warped & woven in with the desire of fame  
(2-171)that it engages the student too far in pursuit of that most  
(2-171)capricious of all fantasms.

(2-171)Public matters begin to clear up in the Spanish  
(2-171)Hemisphere and I suspect Bonaparte has more flax on his  
(2-171)spindle than he will be able to spin off in a hurry. I

(2-171)judge chiefly from his return to Paris which I think would  
(2-171)never have taken place if he had seen any rational or  
(2-171)speedy prospect of trampling out the patriotic flame.  
(2-171)He would never have halted until he reached Cadiz if the  
(2-171)road had been practicable. The placing himself at the  
(2-171)head of an undertaking almost uniformly infers his  
(2-171)having provided all the means to insure a tolerable  
(2-171)certainty of success and on the other hand he has never

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(2-172)hitherto relinquished an enterprize half finished excepting  
(2-172)when obstacles intervened which seemed to infer a  
(2-172)probability of miscarriage. If the Austrian throws his  
(2-172)whole weight into the scale at this moment & places his  
(2-172)armies under the uncontrouled command of the Arch  
(2-172)Duke the Spaniards will probably soon clear their own  
(2-172)peninsula. At least one may reasonably hope that  
(2-172)adversity has taught them union and that their next  
(2-172)successes will be followed up by more respect and uniform  
(2-172)exertion than those which preceded them-

(2-172)I am as sick as ever dog was of our late parliamentary  
(2-172)proceedings-What a melancholy picture of public  
(2-172)morals & of depravity not only of feeling but even of  
(2-172)taste- My kind Compliments attend Mrs. Southey  
(2-172)and I always am truly yours

(2-172)WALTER SCOTT  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(2-172)MY DEAR SHARPE,-I write in answer to yours in great  
(2-172)haste and some tribulation. The tribulation is occasioned  
(2-172)by the unexpected decease of my old four-footed friend

(2-172)Camp, 1 who, after near twelve years' faithful service,  
(2-172)" life to the last enjoy'd," stretched himself out in his  
(2-172)basket and died after a very short illness. The poor old  
(2-172)fellow began the world (as they say) along with my wife  
(2-172)and I at our marriage, and since that time has almost  
(2-172)never been from the side of one or other of us, so that his

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(2-173)death awakens a number of former recollections, and  
(2-173)gives us a pointed hint how fast we are jogging on in the  
(2-173)same tract. So much for effusions, as some coxcomb  
(2-173)calls them, of friendship and sensibility. I wish to  
(2-173)heaven I had had a sketch of poor Camp from your pencil.

(2-173)I have a letter from Gifford on the subject of your  
(2-173)review, in which, speaking of it very handsomely, he  
(2-173)regrets his number was printed off before he could avail  
(2-173)himself of it. He intended to shorten it and insert it by  
(2-173)cancelling the last page, but the hurry of the bookseller  
(2-173)prevented his having an opportunity to do so. Your  
(2-173)critique will therefore appear in the next number, to  
(2-173)which, I am sure, it will give additional value : for mine  
(2-173)own part I am particularly glad that it has escaped the  
(2-173)manager's scissors, for the only fault I had to it was its  
(2-173)being already too short.<sup>1</sup> The Review reached me  
(2-173)yesterday morning. I will send it by the Ecclefechan  
(2-173)carrier, unless you can point out a speedier method. I  
(2-173)am a little disconcerted with the appearance of one or  
(2-173)two of my own articles, which I have had no opportunity  
(2-173)to revise in proof. Of the sentences I can only say they  
(2-173)reminded me of the " Mantle made Amiss "-

(2-173)" One while it was too long,  
(2-173)Another while too short,  
(2-173)And wrinkled on her shoulders

(2-173)In most unseemly sort."

(2-173)I shall say nothing of the handsome compliment you

(2-173)make me at the expence of a very ingenious though

(2-173)somewhat caustic poet-because to disclaim it would be

(2-173)to invite you to shew cause why it should be so-so I shall

(2-173)pocket it quietly, and place to account of your friendship

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(2-174)any balance which it may cause to be deduced from

(2-174)your taste. As to the Review in general, I have hardly

(2-174)had time to glance it over. But the article on " Spain,"

(2-174)which heads the work, is capitally written, both in

(2-174)manner and spirit. The whole bears marks of precipitate

(2-174)and hurried composition, but I think enables us to say,

(2-174)like the old Duke of Argyle after the battle of Sheriffmoor-

(2-174)"If it be na weel bobbie

(2-174)We'll bob it again."

(2-174)Believe me, dear Sharpe, yours very faithfully,

(2-174)W. SCOTT

(2-174)Private

(2-174)EDINR. 3d March 1809.

[Sharpe's Letters]

TO ROBERT SURTEES.

(2-174)MY DEAR SIR,-Your very kind letter I reached me a few

(2-174)days ago, and in ample time to make use of the curious

SIR WALTER SCOTT           1809           175

(2-175)letter which it inclosed, and which now makes a part of  
(2-175)the Appendix to Sir Ralph Sadler. I hope the worthy  
(2-175)Knight's Correspondence will be soon before the public,  
(2-175)and I will take care that you have an early copy. In the  
(2-175)meanwhile, will you have the goodness to accept a copy  
(2-175)of the first volume of " Somers's Tracts," with which I  
(2-175)have been bothering the public. I have directed it to be  
(2-175)left at Rushyford, so your servant will probably find it  
(2-175)at the inn.

(2-175)Your curious investigations will throw material light  
(2-175)on the history of the English Borders. I envy your  
(2-175)patience & your leisure ; for my own time is occupied at  
(2-175)present by a thousand little teasing occupations, which  
(2-175)destroy both the habit and inclination to sober research.  
(2-175)Pray, may not the romance of Sir Tristram, so simply  
(2-175)coupled with the Gospels in the will of Maude Lady  
(2-175)Bowes, be the French Book ? The metrical legend by  
(2-175)itself would, I think have made rather a slender volume.

(2-175)It is very remarkable how frequently the Catholic  
(2-175)Clergy acquired ex mentis doubtless the appellation of  
(2-175)Stone Priests.<sup>1</sup> You cannot but remember Sir John of  
(2-175)Waltham the Stone priest of the Merry Devil of  
(2-175)Edmonton- The luminous notices of the foundation of the  
(2-175)church of Chillingham serve to correct many errors  
(2-175)vulgarly entertained concerning ancient history. I wish  
(2-175)it had been more particular in the murder of Mark  
(2-175)Anthony, which has been shockingly misrepresented by  
(2-175)contemporary historians.

(2-175)I have considerable hopes of a personal opportunity of  
(2-175)thanking you for all your kindness to me, and returning  
(2-175)the books and manuscripts of yours which I have in my  
(2-175)possession, in the course of next month. I am going to  
(2-175)London, and, if perfectly convenient for you and Mrs.



(2-177)very speedy retreat. I am anxiously expecting a summons  
(2-177)to London because I hope to be of some use there, and we  
(2-177)will talk over all our other plans. I am, dear Sir, Yours  
(2-177)truly, WALTER SCOTT  
[Smiles]

TO WILLIAM MILLER OT JOHN MURRAY 1

(2-177)DEAR SIR,-I find since receiving your last letter that  
(2-177)I am likely to remain here for a week or two longer than  
(2-177)[I e]xpected. Mrs. dark 2 furnishing so much [employment  
(2-177)to your great folks that they have no leisure to look  
(2-177)after the Judicature of Scotland. I should be therefore  
(2-177)sorry to leave your old plays imperfect & will cheerfully  
(2-177)chalk out the 3d. Vol: before my departure should you  
(2-177)on the whole think the addition adviseable. I inclose  
(2-177)another of Derricks plates that no time may be lost. All  
(2-177)of them have verses beneath them which should be  
(2-177)engraved on the plate or rather block. Those under the  
(2-177)print formerly sent may be supplied from the Somers-  
(2-177)Or I will cause Mr. Weber [to] transcribe them. I remain  
(2-177)your obedt. Servant w SCOTT

(2-177)EDINR. 9th March [1809 ?]

(2-177)You have never told me whether Somers is likely to do  
(2-177)well nor have I heard from Mr. Evans. I have bought

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(2-178)some very curious tracts from Blackwoods catalogue &  
(2-178)Patons sale to enrich the work. I particularly wish every  
(2-178)thing concerning the years 1715 & 1745 to be picked up.  
(2-178)The originals shall be taken care of.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-178)DEAR SIR,-An idea of great consequence has occurred  
(2-178)to me which if you can follow out with success it will be  
(2-178)of immense use to the Review. But it is of the most  
(2-178)delicate nature. You cannot but have heard of that  
(2-178)very unfortunate man Dr. Greenshields<sup>1</sup> [sic] who for a  
(2-178)dishonourable or rather infamous cause was obliged to  
(2-178)leave Edinburgh where he was long beloved and admired  
(2-178)by every human being. He is I believe in London  
(2-178)writing for bread and certainly would be [from a] literary  
(2-178)point of view a most important addition to our strength.  
(2-178)His principles as to politics are with us and he would  
(2-178)in fact be the best or only match whom we could bring  
(2-178)against Playfair on articles of general philosophy. But  
(2-178)could his assistance be obtained it would be of the last  
(2-178)importance to conceal it. Even Mr. Gifford I think

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(2-179)need know nothing about it nor in fact any one but  
(2-179)yourself. You might give his communications as those  
(2-179)of a correspondent who wished his name to be concealed.  
(2-179)I will endeavour to get some clue to him unless you know  
(2-179)where he is. I conceive he passes by the name of  
(2-179)Rutherford.<sup>1</sup> All this I recommend to your prudence.  
(2-179)The utility of the alliance may perhaps be overborne by  
(2-179)the Unpleasant and disgraceful circumstances attached  
(2-179)to the individual. Of course you will easily see the  
(2-179)difficulty and delicacy of such a negotiation.

(2-179)I trouble you with a line to Mr. Miller also to Mr.  
(2-179)Gifford and to Heber who lives hard by Elliot's Great  
(2-179)Brewery Westminster and not far from James Street of  
(2-179)course. Yours truly

(2-179)W. SCOTT

(2-179)10 March [1809]

[Sir Alfred J. Law]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-179)EDINR., 13 March [1809]

(2-179)DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I hope to have the honour  
(2-179)of seeing you so soon that a very few lines may serve to  
(2-179)express the pleasure I feel in your so kindly accepting  
(2-179)the verses I sent you. I bring you Mrs. Scott's transcript  
(2-179)of which she desires me to request your Ladyship's  
(2-179)acceptance saying at the same time all that is pretty &  
(2-179)becoming. It will give me very great pleasure to profit  
(2-179)by your Ladyship's introduction to Lord Malmesbury &  
(2-179)I promise my self infinite satisfaction in looking at the  
(2-179)Dorset papers. On Sunday I leave this place for  
(2-179)town and before the end of the week I hope to pay my  
(2-179)respects to the Marquis which I will take a very early  
(2-179)opportunity of doing after I come to town. We have  
(2-179)been; tearing each other's throats out like our own  
(2-179)highland terriers about the Scottish Judicature Bill as the

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(2-180)Ministers are pleased to call it. I was astonished to see  
(2-180)to-day in the Courier that some officious friend had given  
(2-180)a (clumsy enough) report of what I tried to say for my  
(2-180)poor old mother the Law of Scotland. The circumstance  
(2-180)will not tend to recommend me to those with whom  
(2-180)I have unfortunately some official matters to arrange and  
(2-180)it was hardly fair to put me into the front of the battle-

(2-180)however I care very little about it I never was gifted  
(2-180)with the prudence either of suppressing my feelings or  
(2-180)eating my words and I am only sorry they were not more  
(2-180)neatly taken down,-Believe me dear Lady Abercorn  
(2-180>Your honoured, humble servant,

(2-180)WALTER SCOTT  
[Pierpont Morgan]

TO ANNA SEWARD

(2-180)MY DEAR Miss SEWARD,-I have just received your  
(2-180)melancholy and alarming letter. I had heard you were  
(2-180)far from well, particularly by Mrs. Clephane who had  
(2-180)seen you, and in truth I ascribed the intermission of our  
(2-180)correspondence to the lassitude arising from indifferent  
(2-180)health, and purposed surprizing you by a visit in summer.  
(2-180)This I hope and trust is far from being yet impossible,  
(2-180)and I will believe that your disorder is of a nature too  
(2-180)acute not to have been fatal, if you had not by God's  
(2-180)blessing passed the crisis. The very exhaustion which  
(2-180)remains after the remedies necessary in such a disease  
(2-180)feels like the approach of fate. You must riot, my dear  
(2-180)friend, give way to these apprehensions, which are often  
(2-180)more mortal than the causes which occasion them. Think  
(2-180)how much pleasure you have given your friends, and  
(2-180)how much more your admirable talents and conversation  
(2-180)may afford them. Take heart, therefore, and do not let  
(2-180)us lose you, because the shattered state of your nerves  
(2-180)after so dreadful a disorder and such severe remedies

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(2-181)disposes you to despondency. I have lost so many  
(2-181)friends and have so few left, that I cannot and will not  
(2-181)spare one whom I value so highly. I am so little accustomed

(2-181)to make protestations of regard, and in fact so  
(2-181)seldom feel much occasion for the regard which should  
(2-181)call them forth, that I beg you will excuse every awkwardness  
(2-181)of expression, and believe that I shall be really  
(2-181)unhappy till I hear that you are better. Believe me,  
(2-181)were the poem of Needwood a pig of lead, as it is one of  
(2-181)the most beautiful things I ever read, and were the  
(2-181)carriage to cost its weight in gold, it would be welcome,  
(2-181)if it brought news of your welfare and returning health  
(2-181)and spirits.<sup>1</sup> But to ease your anxiety on this score,  
(2-181)pray cause it to be inclosed to me under cover to George  
(2-181)Hammond Esq. Under Secretary of State, and I will  
(2-181)receive it safely by post under the office frank which  
(2-181)carries any weight. I need not say how valuable any  
(2-181)token of your regard will be to me.

(2-181)Constable, like many other folks who learn to undervalue  
(2-181)the means by which they have risen, has behaved,  
(2-181)or rather has suffered his partner to behave, very uncivilly  
(2-181)towards me. But they may both live to know that they  
(2-181)should not have kicked down their ladder till they were  
(2-181)sure of their footing. The very last time I spoke to him  
(2-181)on business was about your poems, which he promised  
(2-181)faithfully to write about. I understood him to decline  
(2-181)your terms, in which I think he acted wrong ; but I

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(2-182)had neither influence to change his opinion, nor inclination  
(2-182)to interfere with his resolution. He is a very  
(2-182)enterprizing, and, I believe, a thoroughly honest  
(2-182)man, but his vanity in some cases overpowers his  
(2-182)discretion.

(2-182)Once more, dear Miss Seward, let me hope that you  
(2-182)will be, when this reaches you, easier in body as well as in

(2-182)better spirits, than when yours was despatched. Let  
(2-182)Mr. White or your female friend write me two lines to  
(2-182)say how you are, but do not I charge you put pen to  
(2-182)paper, and believe me yours truly,

(2-182)WALTER SCOTT

(2-182)EDIN. 19 March 1809.

(2-182)Miss Seward,  
(2-182)The Bishop's Palace, Lichfield.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-182)MY DEAR SIR,-I have your long & interesting letter-  
(2-182)To me who am well acquainted with bookselling phrase  
(2-182)it is needless to say that a steady & respectable sale is just  
(2-182)better than no sale at all. Here we have been more  
(2-182)fortunate.-Ballantyne has only about 30 left of the last 200  
(2-182)received by sea & thinks he could easily have sold double  
(2-182)the number forwarded-many announce themselves as  
(2-182)steady customers & I have no doubt you may sell 1000 in  
(2-182)Scotland quarterly-B. has never had his parcel two days  
(2-182)on his hands.

(2-182)I have written a long & most pressing letter to Mr.  
(2-182)Gifford which I hope may have some effect. I see the  
(2-182)faults you point out but hardly know how to prevent them  
(2-182)at this distance. I think you had better call on Lord  
(2-182)Advocate as from yourself & state the necessity of my  
(2-182)coming to town. I mention this because it is in his power

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(2-183)to hasten my journey thither on some public business  
(2-183)which may otherwise lie over for months-this however  
(2-183)you need not hint to him but barely state your request  
(2-183)that I have written to you dubiously on the subject of  
(2-183)coming up & the advantage my doing so would be to the  
(2-183)Review. To me it is quite the same thing whither I come  
(2-183)up now or later in the summer but to you it may be  
(2-183)very different for I see matters are between the winning  
(2-183)& losing. And to say truth it would be an inconvenient  
(2-183)crusade in me to come up this month on my own expence  
(2-183)when I am sure to be calld up the next on that of the  
(2-183)public.

(2-183)I have found means to get at Mr. G. & have procured  
(2-183)a letter to be written to him, which may possibly produce  
(2-183)one to you signed Rutherford or Richardson or some  
(2-183)such name & dated from the North of England : or if he  
(2-183)does not write to you enquiry is to be made whither he  
(2-183)would chuse you should address him. The secrecy to  
(2-183)be observed in this business must be most profound even  
(2-183)to Ballantyne & all the world-if you get articles from  
(2-183)him (which will & must draw attention) you must throw  
(2-183)out a false scent for enquirers-I believe this unfortunate  
(2-183)man will soon be in London.

(2-183)It is very ill proposed to give Sydney Smiths sermons 1 to  
(2-183)Ireland & the thing must not be. I intend to write to Mr.  
(2-183>Gifford by post-begging them for Mr. Erskine. He and  
(2-183>I know the man and surely will manage the affair  
(2-183)best.

(2-183)Ballantyne gets possession of his shop in a few days-  
(2-183)I mean he gets the workmen out of it & enters business  
(2-183)with the fairest auspices-prudence & firmness on his  
(2-183)part cannot fail to establish him in the first rate in this  
(2-183)place. His making a stand is most essential to the Review

(2-183)& all our other plans for every other bookseller here has  
(2-183)sunk under the predominating influence of Constables

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(2-184)house & they literally dare not call their souls their  
(2-184)own  
[The last three lines and the signature are cut away.]

(2-184)EDINR. 19 March 1809  
(2-184)Just setting out for orders of my sup . . . .l  
[John Murray]

(2-184)[Private]

TO MR. JOHN MURRAY, BOOKSELLER, FLEET STREET,  
LONDON

(2-184)Postmark : Mar 24 1809

(2-184)DEAR SIR,-From the Inclosed<sup>2</sup> you will see our treaty  
(2-184)is likely to succeed. I believe Mr. -- will soon be in  
(2-184)town. Remember his name is Richardson. Perhaps you  
(2-184)had better write a line to him. Privacy is most essentially  
(2-184)necessary to this matter and I think you can devise some  
(2-184>false scent which may disguise the contributions beyond  
(2-184)the possibility of discovery. Dont mention my name as  
(2-184)privy to the transaction, and I believe it will give him  
(2-184)particular pain. I am ever Yours truly

(2-184)W. SCOTT  
[Sir Alfred J. Law]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-184)[25th March 1809]

(2-184)DEAR SIR,-I inclose you another letter from Mr.  
(2-184)Richardson 3 -puisque Richardson il y a -which will quite  
(2-184)prepare you for a meeting with him. His help will be

1809                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      185

(2-185)invaluable but discovery the very devil. Mind this-they  
(2-185)have no hand in the Edinburgh superior to him in  
(2-185)philosophy and Belles lettres-no not a single one.

(2-185)I think a firm and stable sale will be settled here to  
(2-185)the extent of 1000 or 1500 even for the next No. Js:  
(2-185)Ballantyne has hardly a copy of his last remittance. Eke  
(2-185)I have a letter from Gifford in good spirits.

(2-185)When do the novels go on ?                                      W. S.

(2-185)Contrive to be seen as little with Richardson as possible.  
(2-185)He is terribly Kenspeckle. I observe he will talk bye and  
(2-185)bye about terms, and I take the opportunity of begging  
(2-185)that your kind intentions towards me (of which Ballantyne  
(2-185)informed me) may not interfere with this or any other  
(2-185)arrangement. I am quite pleased with my ten guineas  
(2-185)a sheet for my labour in writing and for additional  
(2-185)exertions I will consider them as overpaid by success in  
(2-185)the cause especially while that success is doubtful.

(2-185)I think Mr. Gifford must be put in the secret about  
(2-185)Richardson and shall write to him.

[Sir Alfred J. Law]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-185)DEAR SIR,-I have only time to give a very short



TO THE REV. HENRY WHITE 1

(2-186)MY DEAR FRIEND,-I sit down with the deepest sympathy  
(2-186)to condole with you on the inexpressible loss 2 which  
(2-186)we have both sustained in our late excellent and lamented  
(2-186)friend. I was in some degree prepared for the blow by  
(2-186)a very affecting letter which I had received from her,  
(2-186)in which even the handwriting as well as the stile and  
(2-186)expressions marked the approach of fate. Yet I struggled,  
(2-186)and as it were stilled myself against the idea that her  
(2-186)dissolution was so near. She had, I thought, such  
(2-186)indifferent health, and the remedies applied had been  
(2-186)necessarily attended with such a depressing effect upon  
(2-186)an exhausted frame, that I would fain have persuaded

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(2-187)myself of the possibility of her recovery. But how vain  
(2-187)are human hopes. I had promised myself so much  
(2-187)pleasure from visiting Lichfield this spring, had hoped  
(2-187)to find her well, had wished she should have learned to  
(2-187)know Mrs. Scott, in short had built a little scheme of two  
(2-187)days happiness, in which you, my dear Sir, came in for  
(2-187)no small share, so that her sudden death, for such I  
(2-187)regard it, comes over me like a dream. I cannot read  
(2-187)her last letter, and recollect that her elegant pen and  
(2-187)warm feelings were to the last employed in expressing her  
(2-187)regard for me, without being most deeply affected.

(2-187)By a posthumous letter received yesterday, I have a  
(2-187)further and most affecting proof of her confidence, as she  
(2-187)acquaints me that she has done me the honor to name me  
(2-187)her literary executor, and bequeaths me all her works  
(2-187)with directions for the mode of publication. I shall be  
(2-187)most anxious to have your advice and assistance in  
(2-187)managing a trust so sacred and so delicate, and if I

(2-187)possibly can take Lichfield in my way from London, I will  
(2-187)do so in order to have the advantage of personal  
(2-187)communication on the subject. The visit will be very  
(2-187)different from what I had promised. I leave this place  
(2-187)for London in the beginning of next week ; if you will  
(2-187)have the goodness to address to me under cover to George  
(2-187)Hammond Esq, Whitehall, London, I will get your letter  
(2-187)safe. Adieu, my dear Sir, you have sustained an  
(2-187)inexpressible loss in your accomplished and high-minded  
(2-187)friend, but you have that comfort which religion and  
(2-187)philosophy hold out to their votaries.

(2-187)Believe me in sorrow or joy yours ever truly

(2-187)WALTER SCOTT

(2-187)EDINBURGH 31st March, 1809.

(2-187)I have written to Mr. Simpson Miss Seward's Executor,  
(2-187)and requested that no one may see the Manuscripts  
(2-187)bequeathed to me unless you should wish to look over  
(2-187)them. As I intend to send Mr. Simpson a copy of Miss

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(2-188)Seward's posthumous letter, I cannot send off my letter  
(2-188)till I get a frank.-

(2-188)The Revd. Henry White,  
(2-188)Close, Lichfield.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO MISS MILLAR 1

(2-188)NO 6 HALF MOON STREET

(2-188)PICCADILLY Saturday [April 1809]

(2-188)DEAR Miss MILLAR,-Your kind favour and that of your  
(2-188)little friends came safe and gave us great pleasure. We  
(2-188)arrived here safe on Monday last after a rapid and  
(2-188)fatiguing journey but found so much to do before we could  
(2-188)settle ourselves in a comfortable way that neither Mrs. S.  
(2-188)nor I had time to write- I hope you all continue well  
(2-188)and that the little folks continue to give you satisfaction  
(2-188)which I consider as the best news I can receive and  
(2-188)therefore beg you will have the goodness to write without  
(2-188)minding the irregularity of my answers- Mrs. S. joins  
(2-188)in best love to you and your little charge-also to my  
(2-188)mother and the Miss Rutherfords. The Major sets out  
(2-188)for Edinr. on Monday first-Believe me very sincerely  
(2-188)Your obliged humble Servant                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-188)Any letters may be sent as formerly under cover to  
(2-188)Mr Hammond but if you have no inclosures to send single  
(2-188)letters may be addressed to my lodgings here.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-188)[April 1809]

(2-188)DEAR SIR,-You cannot I think possibly dispense with  
(2-188)seeing Mr. Richardson which as he is a perfect stranger

SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1809                      189

(2-189)to you may be done without the least awkwardness. You  
(2-189)will of course apprize him of your intention to meet him.  
(2-189)Frequent meetings might give rise to suspicion, therefore  
(2-189)be as explicit and full in communication as to make them

(2-189)unnecessary.

(2-189)Ld. Advocate has promised to speak to Mr. Croker  
(2-189)about the D. of G's article ; but if he is unsuccessful I  
(2-189)would sound Mr. R. who will do it as well as it can be  
(2-189)done ; you will of course explain to him, the tone to be  
(2-189)used, in case he is willing to attempt it.

(2-189)I will be very glad to see you tomorrow morning. Rose  
(2-189)and Heber are to be with me. Yours truly

(2-189)W. S.

(2-189)6 HALFMOON STREET Friday

(2-189)I cannot add to your list and it would be a pity to  
(2-189)retrench as the more Mr. R. has to chuse upon the better.  
(2-189)Be cautious of saying much about the Review to our  
(2-189)friends the Thomsons who are not quite with us.

(2-189)I remember my Monday's engagement of course.

[Sir Alfred J. Law]

TO MRS CLEPHANE

(2-189)HALF MOON STREET [April or May 1809]

(2-189)ON my return home before dinner, finding I had half  
(2-189)an hour good, I employed it in an attempt to versify  
(2-189)the Macleans' song. No English Rythm would suit the  
(2-189)structure of the original, so I fear singing the lines at last  
(2-189)to its own tune, is out of the question. However though  
(2-189)the verses have this fault, besides being but indifferent  
(2-189)otherwise, I hope, my dear Madam, the young ladies and  
(2-189)you, will accept my attempt, as a trifling expression of my  
(2-189)respect for the Clan, and my gratitude for the high

(2-189)pleasure I have received in your society particularly.

(2-189)W. S.

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(2-190)WAR-SONG OF THE MACLEANS 1

(2-190)IMITATED FROM THE GAELIC.

### I

(2-190)A weary month has wandered o'er

(2-190)Since last we parted on the shore ;

(2-190)Heaven ! that I saw thee, Love, once more,

(2-190)Safe on that shore again.

(2-190)"Twas bold Sir Lachlan gave the word,

(2-190)Lachlan of many a galley Lord

(2-190)He called his kindred bands on board

(2-190)And launch'd them on the main.

### II

(2-190)Clan Gillian is to battle gone,

(2-190)Clan Gillian fierce in foray known,

(2-190)Rejoicing in the glory won

(2-190)In many a former broil.

(2-190)Full far is heard the thundering fray

(2-190)The rout, the ruin, the dismay

(2-190)When from the twilight glens away

(2-190)Clan Gillian drives the spoil.

### III

(2-190)Woe to the hills that shall rebound,

(2-190)The bannered bag-pipes maddening sound,

(2-190)Clangillian's onset roaring round,

(2-190)Shall shake their inmost cell.

(2-190)And woe to him who stops to gaze

(2-190)Where Lachlan's silken streamer plays ;

(2-190)As wisely and as well.

191      1809      SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-191)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-Ten thousand thanks for  
(2-191)Mr. Atwood's Glee<sup>1</sup> and the kind expressions which make  
(2-191)your attention more valuable. I do now perfectly  
(2-191)remember that either one or two copies reached me  
(2-191)through Mr. Longman's house but as they reached us  
(2-191)at our farm we had no means of ascertaining their merit  
(2-191)which I understand stands high among all judges. They  
(2-191)were borrowed of me by a musical friend and never  
(2-191)returned. Will you be so good as to make my best  
(2-191)compliments to Mr. Atwood & at once thank him for  
(2-191)the personal attention of sending me the copies and for  
(2-191)thinking the poetry at all worthy of his beautiful music.

(2-191)Believe me my dear Madam that the first time I return  
(2-191)to London it will give me the greatest pleasure to avail  
(2-191)myself of your permission to visit Amen Corner and tire  
(2-191)your goodness with my demands on your musical powers.  
(2-191)I am with great respect and regard Your very faithful  
(2-191)humble servant

WALTER SCOTT

(2-191)BURY STREET 4th May [1809]

[Gabriel Wells]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

(2-191)6 HALF MOON STREET 1809

(2-191)MY DEAR MRS. CLEPHANE,-I have been longing for  
(2-191)your return to shew you a M.S. play of Miss Baillie on  
(2-191)the tale of Lady's Rock- Yet I should hardly venture,  
(2-191)did I not hope that English air might mitigate some of  
(2-191)your clannish feeling, for assuredly the Maclean's play  
(2-191)the second part in the Drama.

(2-191)I am so tired of being a tetotum, or turnstile, in fine  
(2-191)rooms, turned round by fine people, that upon much

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(2-192)slighter temptation I would like of all things to come to  
(2-192)my tea in Clarges Street, tomorrow (Friday) evening at  
(2-192)seven, and shew you this drama, which may (with music  
(2-192)between the acts) occupy us till past ten. I have promised  
(2-192)to do my possible to bring it out at Edinburgh, and have  
(2-192)no doubt of its success, but I wish to consult you about a  
(2-192)" commodity of good names " for the chieftain introduced,  
(2-192)for Miss Baillie has not been fortunate in that particular.  
(2-192)Charlotte will come with me, if possible, but she has some  
(2-192)duty to perform in the way of visiting, from which I shall  
(2-192)claim exemption.

(2-192)I don't wonder at your liking Lady Hood, any more  
(2-192)than at her being delighted with you, for when I say you  
(2-192)are formed to please each other, I make no slight  
(2-192)compliment, though a true one to both.

(2-192)With my best love, (surely I am old enough to send it)  
(2-192)to the young ladies.

(2-192)I am ever yours most truly and respectfully

(2-192)W. S.

[Northampton]

To MISS WHITE

(2-192)[1809]

(2-192)MY DEAR Miss WHITE,-I am half out of charity with  
(2-192)you for supposing I had an unpleasant evening at your  
(2-192)house-for first it -was your house and besides the company  
(2-192)was without a single exception that which I would have  
(2-192)selected at my own as highly agreeable. You surely do  
(2-192)not think me goose enough to be vexed at Jeffrey's review.  
(2-192)If I were conscious of having a single fibre that would  
(2-192)vibrate on such a subject I would never write a line in my  
(2-192)life for peace of mind is better than either poems or  
(2-192)reviews. But I can amuse myself with blowing my soap  
(2-192)bubble like a great boy as I am & be totally indifferent  
(2-192)whether it is puffed about or burst after I have launched  
(2-192)it. As I by no means delight either in talking of my  
(2-192)verses or even in hearing them praised censure especially

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(2-193)friendly censure gives me no uneasiness whatever nor  
(2-193)would I forfeit the regard of a learned and ingenious friend  
(2-193)for all the poems & criticisms in the world.

(2-193)Will you make my grateful respects acceptable to the  
(2-193)Bishop & thank him for his hospitable & cordial invitation  
(2-193)which I hope one day to profit by, but not this season.  
(2-193)Be so kind also as to assure the fair Advocate for Lord  
(2-193)Spencer's fame that he has not in England a more sincere  
(2-193)Admirer than I am on account of his character both as a  
(2-193)statesman & a politician nor do I doubt in the least his  
(2-193)great share in our splendid naval successes. I had also  
(2-193)particular marks of his Lordship's personal civility upon

(2-193)rather an important occasion so that I should be  
(2-193)inexcusable had I willingly omitted any marks of respect  
(2-193)due to him. But the Prime Minister like the Commander  
(2-193)in Chief is naturally entitled to the praise of what is  
(2-193)achieved by those with whom he acts-Besides Lord  
(2-193)Spencer is alive & Mr. Pitt is dead-very good reasons for  
(2-193)rendering tribute to the one & perhaps also for suspending  
(2-193)what is due to the other. I hope Earl Spencer will render  
(2-193)his country many an important service ere the strain of  
(2-193)praise shall be raised with equal propriety in his behalf.  
(2-193)I am dear Miss White with best thanks for all your  
(2-193)kindness Yours most respectfully

(2-193)W. S.  
[Mrs. Williams]

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

(2-193)[1809]

(2-193)MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,-I am truly sorry I have not  
(2-193)seen your Ladyship before my departure northward  
(2-193)which I expect and trust will take place on Tuesday or  
(2-193)Wednesday at farthest. I quite agree with your observation  
(2-193)on the play<sup>1</sup> which I intend to state to Miss Baillie

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(2-194)with all your Ladyships arguments and what force I can  
(2-194)add to it. The character of Maclean also is rather feebly  
(2-194)drawn. It occurs to me that a touch or two might be  
(2-194)thrown in to exasperate his jealousy of Argyle from  
(2-194)Lornes private visit to Mull-That suspicion of his wife's  
(2-194)affection to De Grey might be also insinuated. Lastly  
(2-194)that his tempters might work upon the pride peculiar to  
(2-194)weak minds, their jealousy of being supposed to be

(2-194)directed by the domestic influence of a more able partner  
(2-194)-Miss Baillie answered generally to these objections that  
(2-194)we did not see upon the stage the whole process of  
(2-194)Macleans perversion. But this is obviously no argument  
(2-194)because the audience will never suppose circumstances  
(2-194)and conversations which are not presented to them or even  
(2-194)rehearsed historically by any person in the Drama.

(2-194)I hope she will be prevailed upon to finish this brilliant  
(2-194)sketch which will probably be the most successful play  
(2-194)of modern times if she will but bestow a little pains on it-

(2-194)My kind respects attend Lord Montagu and his Lady-  
(2-194)I will be greatly obliged to his Lordship for the loan of the  
(2-194)Miscellanies of which I will take great care and return  
(2-194)them in safety-I hope dear Lady Louisa that when you  
(2-194)come to Scotland you will let us know your motions.  
(2-194)Nothing would give us more pride and pleasure than to  
(2-194)show you any thing that is to be seen in our land of  
(2-194)heath and mountain. I ever am your Ladyships Very  
(2-194)faithful  
WALTER SCOTT

(2-194)HALF MOON STREET Sunday

(2-194)I will not forget your remembrance at Rokeby.  
[Abbofsford Copies]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-194)LONDON, 4th May [1809]

(2-194)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-Though I have been silent since  
(2-194)I heard from you I have as the philosophical parrot said

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-195)" thought not the less." A pressure of business chiefly  
(2-195)professional has sent me up to this town where I found the  
(2-195)bearer of this letter the younger Ballantyne of Edinburgh.  
(2-195)I am not so well acquainted with him as with his brother  
(2-195)but enough to introduce him to you as an active and  
(2-195)intelligent young man very likely to make as great figure  
(2-195)in the publishing trade as his brother does in the printing.  
(2-195)He has been highly countenanced by all the booksellers  
(2-195)of credit here especially by your friends in the Row.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-195)His chief purpose of calling upon you is to talk over the  
(2-195)plan at which you hinted of a " British Librarian " to be  
(2-195)published periodically. The Censura is immediately to  
(2-195)be given up and Longman & Co. are to have some  
(2-195)concern in this new work which is however to be managed  
(2-195)in Edinburgh. I think with you there is ample room for  
(2-195)such a work and that if conducted by you it would have  
(2-195)great interest and suit both readers, booksellers and  
(2-195)editors. Indeed I think smaller tracts which have an  
(2-195)interest independent of their scarcity or antiquity ought  
(2-195)to be reprinted at length so that the miscellany might in  
(2-195)some respects be a continuation of the Harleian, on a  
(2-195)better plan. Should this plan be adopted a quarto size  
(2-195)will be preferable to 8vo because it holds more. One vol.  
(2-195)or even two might be published yearly. I will in this  
(2-195)or any undertaking in which I am at all qualified to  
(2-195)assist hold your back-hand with great pleasure, and I  
(2-195)am sure that in points of the lucre of Mammon the  
(2-195)Ballantynes are disposed to be highly liberal. The title  
(2-195)of such a work would be matter of serious consideration  
(2-195)but as I trust we shall speedily meet we might beat our  
(2-195)brains about that at leisure.

(2-195)I hope to leave this place in about ten days so pray let  
(2-195)me know whether I shall find you disposed to come on  
(2-195)with us to Edinh. There is nobody with me but Mrs.

(2-196)Scott. If you are unshaken in your resolution I will take  
(2-196)my homeward route by Keswick and we will take our  
(2-196)northward flight together; as my stay here has been  
(2-196)long I fear even the lake must not tempt me to stay  
(2-196)above one night in its vicinity-So that I doubt I shall  
(2-196)not even see Wordsworth whom I would go some few  
(2-196)miles to see at any time.

(2-196)Everybody is delighted with your Missionary review.<sup>1</sup>

(2-196)The Quarterly has taken root and will thrive.

(2-196)Ever dear Southey yours most truly

(2-196)WALTER SCOTT

(2-196)4th May [1809]

(2-196)NO. 6. HALF MOON STREET, PICCADILLY, LONDON.

(2-196)Pray write by return of post and dont disappoint me  
(2-196)in my hopes of carrying you to Edinburgh.  
[Brotherton]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-196)[P.M. 13 June 1809]

(2-196)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE,-I cannot resist transmitting  
(2-196)you the enclosed both because I think the general applause  
(2-196)of my friend Lady Louisa Stuart is very valuable and  
(2-196)because I think the criticism it contains is at least  
(2-196)plausible. 2    We think of setting off on Wednesday and so  
(2-196)soon as I shall reach Edinburgh I will have a confab:

(2-196)with H. Siddons. I have got from Mrs. Maclean a

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1809            197

(2-197)drawing of the ancient dress of an Highland Lady-also  
(2-197)the colours of the tartans worn by the Macleans and  
(2-197)Campbells which contrast strongly and mark the different  
(2-197)parties on the stage. Mrs. S. sends her best love and I  
(2-197)am with unfeigned respect truly yours

(2-197)W. S.  
[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY 1

(2-197)LONDON, 14th June 1809

(2-197)MY unaccountable silence must have surprised you  
(2-197)but my motions depending on other people I have been  
(2-197)kept till this day under a state of total uncertainty when  
(2-197)I should be permitted to leave London. To-day I have  
(2-197)at length received permission to shake the dust from my  
(2-197)feet against this precious city and to-morrow I hope to  
(2-197)set forward. Sunday and Monday I intend to spend at  
(2-197)Rokeby park near Greta Bridge with my friend Morritt  
(2-197)and on Tuesday I resume my journey.

(2-197)Now if I thought there was hope of carrying you on  
(2-197)with us to Edinburgh I would be at Keswick on Tuesday  
(2-197)night for certain, and as there is no one but Mrs. Scott  
(2-197)and I we could have the pleasure of your company in  
(2-197)the snuggest way possible. But if this confounded  
(2-197)visitor of yours (I beg his pardon) has really arrived so  
(2-197)mal a propos as to interrupt all prospect of what I have

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(2-198)so much at heart I fear I must proceed by Penrith to  
(2-198)Carlisle without leaving the great road ; for as I could  
(2-198)only stay a night at Keswick, my presence in Edinr. being  
(2-198)more than needful, it would hardly be worth while to make  
(2-198)a detour for so very short a visit. Pray write to me by  
(2-198)return of post, addressd care of John Bacon Morritt Esqre.  
(2-198)Rokehy park Greta Bridge which will decide my motions.  
(2-198)If, as I would fain flatter myself we are destined to meet  
(2-198)I have much to say to you about the Quarterly Review,  
(2-198)Rhadamanthus, etc. etc. I do not apprehend there is any  
(2-198)great risque of our politics differing where there are so  
(2-198)many strings in unison, but it may doubtless happen.  
(2-198)Meanwhile every one is grateful for your curious and  
(2-198)invaluable articles. And this leads to a subject which  
(2-198)I would rather have spoken than written upon, but the  
(2-198)doubt of seeing you obliges me to touch on it. George  
(2-198)Ellis and I have both seen a strong desire in Mr. Canning  
(2-198)to be of service to you in any way within his power that  
(2-198)could be pointed out, and this without any reference  
(2-198)to political opinions. An official situation in his own  
(2-198)department was vacant, and I believe is still so. This  
(2-198)he meant to offer you, but it occurred to Geo. Ellis and  
(2-198)me that the salary, 300, was inadequate for an office  
(2-198)occupying much time and inferring constant attendance.  
(2-198)But there are professors chairs both in England and  
(2-198)Scotland frequently vacant, and there is hardly one,  
(2-198)unless such as are absolutely professional, for which you  
(2-198)are not either fitted already, or capable of making  
(2-198)yourself so, on short notice. There are, besides, diplomatic  
(2-198)and other situations, should you prefer them to  
(2-198)the groves of Academe. In short, I think you will be  
(2-198)unjust to yourself and your family if you neglect to avail  
(2-198)yourself of an opportunity of becoming a little more  
(2-198)independent of the Row, which has been rarely so handsomely  
(2-198)presented to any literary character. Mr.

(2-198)Canning's opportunities to serve you will soon be  
(2-198)numerous or they will be gone altogether for he is of a

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(2-199)different mould from some of his colleagues and a  
(2-199)decided foe to these half measures which I know you  
(2-199)detest as much as I do. It is not his- fault that the cause  
(2-199)of Spain is not at this moment triumphant; this I know,-  
(2-199)and there will come a time when the world will know  
(2-199)it too. Meanwhile all this is strictly confidential.-  
(2-199)Think over the thing in your own mind, and let [it] if  
(2-199)possible determine you on your northern journey. What  
(2-199)would I not give to secure you a chair in our Northern  
(2-199)Metropolis. We will talk the matter over together and  
(2-199)I will regulate anything I should write to Geo. Ellis  
(2-199)upon your wishes as he enjoys Mr. Canning's entire  
(2-199)confidence. I ought in conscience to have made ten  
(2-199)thousand pretty detours about all this and paid some  
(2-199)glowing compliments both to the Minister and the Bard.  
(2-199)But they may be all summed up by saying in one  
(2-199)sober word that Mr. G. could not have entertained a  
(2-199)thought more honourable to himself and knowing him  
(2-199)as I do I must add more honourable and flattering to  
(2-199)your genius and learning.

(2-199)Mrs. Scott joins in kindest compliments to Mrs.  
(2-199)Southey.-Remember me kindly to Wordsworth if within  
(2-199)reach and believe me ever yours truly

(2-199)WALTER SCOTT  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO, THE REV. E. BERWICK, ESCHOR, LEIXLIP, IRELAND 1

(2-199)SIR,-I should hardly know how to apologize for the

(2-199)extraordinary liberty I am about to make use of did I not

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(2-200)hope that the cause in which I am engaged as well as  
(2-200)the land intercession of my friend Miss White has prepared  
(2-200)you for so great an intrusion- She assures me however  
(2-200)that you will be best pleased to pardon an unceremonious  
(2-200)display of my wants and of my ignorance, so like a true  
(2-200)beggar I will bluntly prefer them as the best apology for  
(2-200)interrupting your Leisure.

(2-200)I need hardly say that my request refers to my proposed  
(2-200)edition of Swift on which I have bestowed a good deal of  
(2-200)time and pains yet find myself very, very far from attaining  
(2-200)the perfect and intimate acquaintance with the history  
(2-200)of that eminent and delightful classic which is necessary  
(2-200)to the elucidation of his Works particularly those which  
(2-200)are satirical. In those pieces which are connected with  
(2-200)Oxfords administration I am tolerably perfect, as I have  
(2-200)taken pains to make myself intimate both with the  
(2-200)general and minute history of that interesting period.  
(2-200)I have dipd deep even into the dirty stream of scurrility  
(2-200)by which Swift and his friend Pope were assailed during  
(2-200)their lives and recovered at the expense of some research  
(2-200)and trouble a good many of the precious tomes of the  
(2-200)egregious Mr. Curl and his associates. Yet the knowledge  
(2-200)I have procured only shews me how far I am from the  
(2-200)goal of my enterprize. Now I am informed that Mr.  
(2-200)Berwick has bestowed that attention upon Swifts works  
(2-200)with which a man of genius delights to illustrate the  
(2-200)labours of a favourite author and that he is not unwilling  
(2-200)to extend his hand to guide me through the labyrinth  
(2-200)in which I am involved.

(2-200)The life of Swift although the facts have never I think

(2-200)been placed in a regular point of view does not afford  
(2-200)much matter for controversy yet the following queries  
(2-200)have amongst others occurred to me. Are there any  
(2-200)better reasons than Dr. Burrell has alleged for fixing on  
(2-200)Swift the oration of the Terrae filius 1 for which the orator

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(2-201)was expelled ? If not I think the internal evidence very  
(2-201)feeble and the external by no means preponderating.  
(2-201)Tisdal the continuator of Rapin says that on the death  
(2-201)of Queen Anne and the succession of George 1st a letter  
(2-201)was intercepted directed to Swift containing treasonable  
(2-201)correspondence with Ormond in consequence of which  
(2-201)Swift for a time absconded. Now we know that Swift  
(2-201)retired to the Country six weeks before the Queen's  
(2-201)death to avoid witnessing the discord of Oxford &  
(2-201)Bolingbroke and went to take possession of his Deanery.  
(2-201)Has Tisdals story any better foundation than this  
(2-201)temporary retirement. I have two little pieces called  
(2-201)Dr. Swifts diary not without humour & obviously written  
(2-201)by one minutely acquainted with his private habits  
(2-201)that were hawked about the street at this time. They  
(2-201)are written with all the malignity of party zeal. The  
(2-201)causes of Swifts ambiguous conduct towards Stella is a  
(2-201)terrible stumbling block. Dr. Delany as I learn from  
(2-201)his daughter was persuaded that it arose from a suspicion  
(2-201)if not a discovery of their consanguinity. Yet his  
(2-201)authority though so highly respectable is not conclusive.  
(2-201)What is Mr. Berwicks opinion? many other queries crowd  
(2-201)to my pen but I would gladly be assured of your counsel  
(2-201)and support before further engrossing your time.

(2-201)The writings of Swift as well as his life afford passages  
(2-201)to embroil a commentator. The arrangement for  
(2-201)example of the different parts of Cadenus & Vanessa has

(2-201)been often altered and I think always for the worse.  
(2-201)The Legion Club and those smaller pieces which are  
(2-201)devoted to Irish politics would require many elucidations  
(2-201)which I can only hope to procure by mendicating  
(2-201)assistance among those of the Irish literati who may  
(2-201)think my attempt deserving of it. I do not intend to  
(2-201)confine myself to epistolary solicitation but if it please  
(2-201)God to give me life and health next year I hope to profit  
(2-201)by personal solicitation. But I have already encroached  
(2-201)too far for an utter stranger. My bluntness will at least

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(2-202)have this advantage that you will be fully entitled to  
(2-202)refuse me my boon as flatly as I have asked it. I trust  
(2-202)however that your answer may be more propitious in  
(2-202)which hope I have the honour to subscribe myself Sir-  
(2-202)your most obedient-very humble servant-

(2-202)WALTER SCOTT

(2-202)ASHESTIEL, SELKIRK-NORTH BRITAIN-

(2-202)It may be necessary to assure you that my task is  
(2-202)undertaken in the spirit of zealous admiration of Swift  
(2-202)both as a writer and as a man. I know there is a modern  
(2-202)fashion in virtue of which an Editor and Biographer  
(2-202)endeavours to raise himself by depreciating the subject  
(2-202)of his labours. But far from desiring to climb upon the  
(2-202)shoulders of the Dean I am reverentially ambitious of  
(2-202)supporting his train.

(2-202)Post Mark July 1809  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-202)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-I have your two letters 1 and feel  
(2-202)the value of the confidence you repose in me. I have  
(2-202)written fully and anxiously to Ellis upon the subjects  
(2-202)contain'd but I own I have no hopes as to the Historiographers  
(2-202)situation. The charge of the creation of new  
(2-202)offices has been so often bandied from one party to the  
(2-202)other that the present Ministers and Mr. Percival in  
(2-202)particular would hardly upon any account however  
(2-202)justifiable (and yours is highly so) expose themselves  
(2-202)to reflections of this nature. But I think it highly  
(2-202)probable that something may be done in the Derwentwater  
(2-202)business. If the appointment is thought to be

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(2-203)" too good" as you call it I dare say some mode of  
(2-203)cutting a good slice out of it can easily be devised. Ellis  
(2-203)will I know do all that man can do and I am confident  
(2-203)that Canning will not be wanting. I wish to God they  
(2-203)would make you Lord of the Lake and the Cairn. You  
(2-203)could not do a kinder or more acceptable service to all  
(2-203)Freres friends than by undertaking the article you allude  
(2-203)to. The Methodists will also I think do excellently.  
(2-203)Public affairs do indeed begin to look up. The sulky  
(2-203)retinue of the Bulletins particularly of late gives me very  
(2-203)considerable hopes. But before a decisive blow can be  
(2-203)struck there must be a strong force in the rear of Bonaparte  
(2-203)to cut off his communication between France and  
(2-203)Holland. Such a force being cover'd on the right by  
(2-203)the Tyrolese insurrection would seal hermetically the  
(2-203)passage against his reinforcements. I would to God our  
(2-203)expedition was off and begin to fear that English men as  
(2-203)well as Scotch are wise behind the hand. I think it is clear  
(2-203)the Arch Duke John has drubbed Eugene and crossed  
(2-203)the Danube triumphantly at Comon so that all the

(2-203)Austrian force may concentrate itself upon the North  
(2-203)Bank of the Danube. I have requested Ballantyne to  
(2-203)send to Carlisle the 2d. vol of Somers-what a curious  
(2-203)work might have been made of the Harleian and Somers  
(2-203)collections blended with you and I as editors. The 2d.  
(2-203)vol of Somers has suffered somewhat by my absence in  
(2-203)London. Ballantyne will be duly gratified for the Eclogue  
(2-203)and so shall I as his protector. Are you not delighted  
(2-203)with the spirit displayed by the Spaniards in their  
(2-203)petite guerre which becomes every day more wasting and  
(2-203)more fatal to the invaders. I am informed that the  
(2-203)French Generals in that country have quarrel'd among  
(2-203)themselves. From a letter from a young officer of  
(2-203)cavalry who was for[e]most in the pursuit of Soult I learn  
(2-203)that the disasters of his retreat have in part attoned for  
(2-203)that upon Corunna. At one defile where they had to  
(2-203)pass in the night a bridge without ledge or parapet the

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(2-204)chasm beneath was filled with the bodies of men and  
(2-204)horses jostled over in the hurry of passing.

(2-204)Is there no hope of our meeting soon ? and before I  
(2-204)conclude have you any interest or access to interest with  
(2-204)the present Lord Lonsdale. I should think he is likely  
(2-204)to be listened to in the appointment upon the Derwentwater  
(2-204)estate at any rate his countenance would be of  
(2-204)great consequence. I hope to see Lord Melville and might  
(2-204)contrive to assail Lord Lonsdale from that quarter or by  
(2-204)means of Lady Louisa Stuart. But I will wait to hear  
(2-204)whether Canning approves. Ever yours most truly

(2-204)WALTER SCOTT

(2-204)EDINR. 8th July 1809

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-204)EDINBURGH, July 8, 1809

(2-204)MY DEAR ELLIS,-We reached home about a fortnight  
(2-204)ago, having lingered a little while at Rokeby Park, the  
(2-204)seat of our friend Morritt, and one of the most enviable  
(2-204)places I have ever seen, as it unites the richness and  
(2-204)luxuriance of English vegetation with the romantic  
(2-204)variety of glen, torrent, and copse, which dignifies our  
(2-204)northern scenery. The Greta and Tees, two most  
(2-204)beautiful and rapid rivers, join their currents in the  
(2-204)demesne. The banks of the Tees resemble, from the  
(2-204)height of the rocks, the glen of Roslin, so much and justly  
(2-204)admired. The Greta is the scene of a comic romance, I  
(2-204)of which I think I remember giving you the outline.  
(2-204)It concerns the history of a "Felon Sowe,"-

(2-204)"Which won'd in Rokeby wood,  
(2-204)Ran endlong Greta side,"

(2-204)bestowed by Ralph of Rokeby on the freres of Richmond  
(2-204)-and the misadventures of the holy fathers in their

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(2-205)awkward attempts to catch this intractable animal. We  
(2-205)had the pleasure to find all our little folks well, and are  
(2-205)now on the point of shifting quarters to Ashestiel. I have  
(2-205)supplied the vacancy occasioned by the death of poor old  
(2-205)Camp with a terrier puppy of the old shaggy Celtic  
(2-205)breed. He is of high pedigree, and was procured with  
(2-205)great difficulty by the kindness of Miss Dunlop of Dunlop ;  
(2-205)so I have christened him Wallace, as the donor is a  
(2-205)descendant of the Guardian of Scotland. Having given

(2-205)you all this curious and valuable information about my  
(2-205)own affairs, let me call your attention to the enclosed,  
(2-205)which was in fact the principal cause of my immediately  
(2-205)troubling you. . . .1

[Lockhart]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-205)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-I am just favoured with yours.  
(2-205)I have not and indeed cannot have heard from London  
(2-205)on the most important part of your letter. But I hope  
(2-205)to hear daily. I am anxious your application to Lord  
(2-205)Lonsdale should not be forstall'd by some more active  
(2-205)solicitor and submit to you how far you ought not to  
(2-205)occupy that quarter as soon as possible. A late application  
(2-205)might appear disrespectful and your grounds of  
(2-205)preferring a request are so open and so honourable to  
(2-205)yourself you should have no hesitation to state them.  
(2-205)Lord Melville has been very unwell otherwise I should  
(2-205)ere this have been with him in the Highlands upon some  
(2-205)other business and would have felt my way upon yours.  
(2-205)Sir George Beaumont would be an excellent channel.  
(2-205)The M. of Bute differs from Lord Lonsdale in politics  
(2-205)in other respects they are I believe friends. I am  
(2-205)delighted to hear you are making any progress to complete  
(2-205)Kehama. It may be of some consequence to you to

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LETTERS OF

1809

(2-206)know that if you finally determine to print on your own  
(2-206)account the Ballantynes in gratitude for your numerous  
(2-206)favours will esteem themselves happy to take payment  
(2-206)for the printing in copies of the work. They may perhaps  
(2-206)be induced to do so for the paper also in which case  
(2-206)you will have no expence but that of advertizing and will

(2-206) get your addition quite clear of any advance or risque.  
(2-206) This is out of the way of ordinary trade and as they are  
(2-206) particularly desirous to avoid even the appearance of  
(2-206) interfering with Longman & Co I don't suppose you  
(2-206) will correspond with them on the subject till your views  
(2-206) are quite decided and your plan fixed.

(2-206) I saw a letter from a friend with Sir Arthur Wellesley  
(2-206) yesterday. They expect to be at Madrid in a month.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-206) I long for Giffords answer to your proposal, he is the  
(2-206) laziest of editors. Your Alderman is delightful. I am  
(2-206) surprized with your turn for dialogue that you never tried  
(2-206) the Drama. We have or are about to have a very nice  
(2-206) Theatre at Edinr. about which as a trustee for the public  
(2-206) (a thankless task) I have been lately busying myself.<sup>2</sup>  
(2-206) Should you ever produce a Drama I think we will by and  
(2-206) bye be able to do more than those immense London  
(2-206) stages fit only for pantomime and raree show. As for  
(2-206) Q., Oraca I grieve for her being printed for half my fame

1809

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-207) as a minstrel reciter depends upon her and the other half  
(2-207) on a very clever ballad of Lady Louisa Stuart.

(2-207) But I cannot set my private renown in competition with  
(2-207) the public advantage. I think it will be an invaluable  
(2-207) acquisition for the Minstrelsy. Believe me dear Southey  
(2-207) Yours in truth & sincerity

(2-207) WALTER SCOTT

(2-207) EDINR. 16th July 1809

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO MESSRS. JAMES AND JOHN BALLANTYNE

(2-207)GENTLEMEN,-I hereby acknowlege the receipt of two  
(2-207)Deeds of Copartnery dated the 19th July current the one  
(2-207)respecting the Printing Business & the other the Book-  
(2-207)selling concern carried on by you. And as it is agreed  
(2-207)that for certain reasons these deeds shall remain in my  
(2-207)possession I hereby bind myself to make them forthcoming  
(2-207)to you whenever you require them. I am very truly  
(2-207)Gentlemen Your most Obedient Servant

(2-207)WALTER SCOTT

(2-207)CASTLE STREET 20 July 1809

(2-207)Messrs. James Ballantyne Printer

(2-207)John Ballantyne Bookseller Edinr.

[Glen]

TO ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD 1

(2-207)MADAM,-I have too long delay'd sending your ladyship  
(2-207)Mr. Webers most respectful acknowledgements for the

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(2-208)token of liberality with which I presented him upon  
(2-208)your part. It was equally unexpected and acceptable,  
(2-208)and I have no doubt will stimulate him to every possible  
(2-208)exertion in behalf of the work. I have at length got safe  
(2-208)in to this little corner, and begin to look back upon all  
(2-208)the gaiety of the spring as a sort of dazzling and confused  
(2-208)dream. But what I shall always remember as a pleasing  
(2-208)reality is your ladyship's kind and flattering attention to

(2-208)Charlotte and myself, for which all we can offer is our  
(2-208)grateful thanks and constant recollection. I have been  
(2-208)daily with Colin Mackenzie since my return, and am  
(2-208)happy to say I never saw him looking so well, not, at  
(2-208)least, for many years. I have just written a long letter  
(2-208)to Lady Hood, whom I suppose Sir Samuel's departure  
(2-208)will determine northwards, in which case I hope we may  
(2-208)have the honour to see her at these goat-whey quarters  
(2-208)as she passes.<sup>1</sup>

(2-208)Mrs. Scott joins in offering her most respectful compliments  
(2-208)to your ladyship and the marquis, and I am ever,  
(2-208)dear lady marchioness, your much obliged and truly  
(2-208)respectful humble servant,                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-208)ASHESTIEL, SELKIRK, 21 July 1809.

(2-208)The most noble Lady Stafford.  
[The Sutherland Book]

1809                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      209

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

(2-209)As I find you are now at Rokeby<sup>1</sup> on your way to  
(2-209)Bothwell will your Ladyship permit me to remind you  
(2-209)that whether you seek Clydesdale by Peebles or by  
(2-209)Edinburgh you must necessarily pass within a mile of  
(2-209)this small farm which will without pretending to any  
(2-209)great matters rather furnish a better gite than any of the  
(2-209)Inns on the road ; and the reckoning shall be that your  
(2-209)Ladyship puts up with your hard quarters for a day or  
(2-209)two; and honour some of our wonders with a visit. I feel  
(2-209)myself so assured that you will honour us so far that I will  
(2-209)give you the carte du pais.

(2-209)If your Ladyship leaves Rokeby without making any  
(2-209)visit in Cumberland two days' easy travelling will bring  
(2-209)your post-chaise to Ashestiel on the second evening. It  
(2-209)is seven miles from Selkirk and just so far on the road  
(2-209)either to Edinburgh or to Bothwell. Elibank Castle  
(2-209)has a claim on your Ladyship for the honour you have  
(2-209)already done to the tale of Walter of Harden's wedding.  
(2-209)Newark and the braes of Yarrow are also worth seeing  
(2-209)even if the last were not classical ground in Scottish song.  
(2-209)There is very little or rather no chance of our being  
(2-209)from home but to make assurance double sure a note  
(2-209)addressed Ashestiel by Selkirk will apprise us when your  
(2-209)Ladyship can grant our request. I need not, I am sure,  
(2-209)say that Charlotte joins her respectful solicitations to  
(2-209)mine as well as in best love to Mr. and Mrs. Morritt.  
(2-209)Believe me with the greatest respect dear Lady Louisa  
(2-209)Your Ladyship's much obliged most faithful humble  
(2-209)servant  
WALTER SCOTT

(2-209)ASHESTIEL, BY SELKIRK 22d July 1809.

[Abbotsford Copies]

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TO JOHN B. MORRTTT

(2-210)YOUR letter my dear Morritt reached me just as I  
(2-210)was relieved of the load of business which had been  
(2-210)accumulating during my absence in London, & which  
(2-210)though as Johnson said when I set myself doggedly to  
(2-210)it I can work as hard as any man well nigh stund  
(2-210)and overwhelmd me. I have however wrought my  
(2-210)way hitherward and honest Christian in the pilgrims  
(2-210)progress never felt more relieved when his burthen  
(2-210)dropd from him and rolld into the sepulchre than

(2-210)I do at this moment. I need not say how warmly  
(2-210)Charlotte and I recollect all the hospitality of Portland  
(2-210)place and Rokeby. It is a cruel thing that there is more  
(2-210)than a days journey between us for that would be easily  
(2-210)dashd through. Yet the distance cannot be immense  
(2-210)for we dind here at three o'clock the day after we left  
(2-210)Rokeby so that assuredly it ought to be no unsurmountable  
(2-210)bar to our meeting again.

(2-210)I am much surprized at the rejection of your excellent  
(2-210)article on Warburton but a good deal happend when I was  
(2-210)in London to shew me that Gifford wants much of that  
(2-210)tact which is necessary to conduct with spirit the work he  
(2-210)has undertaken. It was with some difficulty that Ellis  
(2-210)and I prevaild for the admission of the Austrian article 1  
(2-210)that saved the last number. There is a lame [tame ?] and  
(2-210)cowardly caution which prepares all the world for the  
(2-210)defeat of the combatant who exhibits such a suspicious  
(2-210)symptom. When the sword was once drawn I would  
(2-210)have hurld the scabbard into Thames. But I was not  
(2-210)held worthy to advise at least not listend to upon that

(2-211)topic. I will I think write once more and very fully to  
(2-211)Gifford but it shall be for the last time. Not that I will  
(2-211)withdraw my own feeble assistance while a limb of the  
(2-211)thing sticks together but I will not subject myself to give  
(2-211)my friends the trouble of labouring in vain. All Gifford's  
(2-211)excellent talent and no less excellent principle will do  
(2-211)little to save the Review unless he will adopt a more  
(2-211)decisive tone [turn ?] of warfare and greater energy in  
(2-211)his mode of conducting it.<sup>1</sup> It is a thousand pities and  
(2-211)I could gnaw my nails off to see so excellent a design  
(2-211)miscarry but what can be done. I have not had a line  
(2-211)either from Gifford or the Bookseller since I came down

(2-211)and as it is vulgarly said that profferd service is of an  
(2-211)evil savour sure am I that profferd advice is still less to  
(2-211)be endured by human nostrils. After all I believe the  
(2-211)best way will be to advise with George Ellis whose  
(2-211)judgement and knowlege of mankind may find a remedy  
(2-211)where perhaps I should only aggravate the evil.

(2-211)Would to heaven that you were here or I were at Rokeby  
(2-211)on this numerical summers day. Ashestiel never lookd  
(2-211)so enchanting-the ground is quite enameld with wild  
(2-211)flowers and all living things in such high spirits as to  
(2-211)withdraw one involuntarily from thinking of all warfare  
(2-211)and foemen even from Bonaparte down to the Edinburgh  
(2-211)Reviewers. I suppose it is now pretty distinctly understood  
(2-211)that our expedition at least the greater part of it is  
(2-211)intended for Flushing. The secret has however been  
(2-211)pretty well kept no usual thing in our expeditions.

(2-211)And now dear Morritt let me claim from you your  
(2-211)promise that I should have the Highland tale 2 for my  
(2-211)next edition of the Minstrelsy. It is going to press in a

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(2-212)few days but as of course you will be placed among the  
(2-212)imitations you may take your own time for transcription  
(2-212)and correction. I wish you would also give me a sonnet  
(2-212)for a certain pocket selection or Minstrelsy which I pickd  
(2-212)out for my friend Ballantyne. I think you will like the  
(2-212)choice of the ancient things and I wanted to add a few  
(2-212)modern pieces hactenus inedita. I intend to give him two  
(2-212)or three trifles of my own and to exercise all the interest  
(2-212)I possess among my poetical friends. The work will  
(2-212)make two beautifully printed pocket volumes.

(2-212)I have written a few lines to Lady Louisa to beg she will

(2-212)look in upon Ashestiel in her journey to Bothwell. Do pray  
(2-212)say the best you can for us-we lie alike in the way.

(2-212)Charlotte joins in kindest & best love to Mrs. and Miss  
(2-212)Morritt. I have not forgotten my promise about the  
(2-212)pirates ditty though I have not yet had time enough  
(2-212)to write it out. I hope Lady Hood if she goes north will  
(2-212)come by Ashestiel. Believe me dear Morritt ever yours  
(2-212)in faith and sincerity while                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-212)ASHESTIEL SELKIRK 22 July [1809]

[Law]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-212)Sunday 7th Augt. [1809]

(2-212)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-The contents of your letter<sup>1</sup> gave  
(2-212)me great pleasure. No person can or ought to have  
(2-212)greater influence with the present government than  
(2-212)Lord Lonsdale both from his high character extensive  
(2-212)influence & uniform attachment. I have therefore great

1809                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      213

(2-213)hope that an application from him or favoured by him  
(2-213)concerning a thing lying at his door cannot possibly be  
(2-213)overlooked. I have written to Ellis by this post to  
(2-213)acquaint him with this reinforcement & to beg him to  
(2-213)put out every oar he can think of. I think also of writing  
(2-213)to William Rose a brother of the black letter & who I  
(2-213)know would be extremely happy to lend his aid. The  
(2-213)father is at present Treasurer of the Navy & may have  
(2-213)something to say in the appointment, but I delay  
(2-213)applying till I hear from Ellis whether it will be of service

(2-213)for a multiplication of unnecessary applications very  
(2-213)often prejudices the cause they are intended to serve.  
(2-213)Should you be destined Knight of the Quest you will  
(2-213)owe your success entirely to your own high character &  
(2-213)if I have acted as a flapper to induce you successfully to  
(2-213)avail yourself of it I shall think the better of my own  
(2-213)meddling disposition as long as I live. I must in the  
(2-213)multiplicity of Canning's engagements trust to Ellis to  
(2-213)choose the tempora fundi but I have written besides to  
(2-213)which however I have not desired & don't expect an  
(2-213)immediate reply.

(2-213)I believe the Ballantynes have written to you about  
(2-213)undertaking a portion of the historical part of their  
(2-213)Register, embracing the war in Spain and I most sincerely  
(2-213)hope you will find it convenient to comply with their  
(2-213)request. You are ready primed and loaded & it would  
(2-213)give me particular delight were you to turn your ordinance  
(2-213)into this direction about which I am for various reasons  
(2-213)very solicitous. I think I heard that Ellis was doing  
(2-213)something about Spanish affairs for the Review.

(2-213)By the way is your ancient Seneschal whose decease is  
(2-213)to open our Quest thinking of a better world. I only ask  
(2-213)because about three years ago I accepted the office I  
(2-213)hold in the court of Session the revenue being to accrue  
(2-213)to me only upon decease of the old Incumbent. . . .  
But my friend has since taken out a new lease of life,  
(2-213)and unless I get some Border lad to cut his throat, may,

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(2-214)for aught I know, live as long as I shall;-such odious  
(2-214)deceivers are these invalids. Mine reminds me of  
(2-214)Sinbad's Old Man of the Sea, and will certainly throttle  
(2-214)me if I can't somehow dismount him. If I were once in

(2-214)possession of my reversionary income, I would, like you,  
(2-214)bid farewell to the drudgery of literature, and do nothing  
(2-214)but what I pleased, which might be another phrase for doing  
(2-214)very little. I was always an admirer of the modest wish of  
(2-214)a retainer I in one of Beaumont and Fletcher's plays-

(2-214)" I would not be a serving man  
(2-214)To carry the cloak-bag still,  
(2-214)Nor would I be a falconer,  
(2-214)The greedy hawks to fill;  
(2-214)But I would be in a good house,  
(2-214)And have a good master too,  
(2-214)But I would eat and drink of the best,  
(2-214)And no work would I do."

(2-214)In the meantime, it is funny enough to see a whelp of a  
(2-214)young Lord Byron abusing me,<sup>2</sup> of whose circumstances  
(2-214)he knows nothing, for endeavouring to scratch out a  
(2-214)living with my pen. God help the bear, if, having little  
(2-214)else to eat, he must not even suck his own paws. I can  
(2-214)assure the noble imp of fame it is not my fault that I was  
(2-214)not born to a park and 5000 a-year, as it is not his  
(2-214)lordship's merit, although it may be his great good fortune,  
(2-214)that he was not born to live by his literary talents or  
(2-214)success. Adieu, my dear friend. I shall be impatient  
(2-214)to hear how your matters fadge, and will let you know  
(2-214)the instant that I get any information which can be of  
(2-214)the least importance. Ever yours truly

(2-214)WALTER SCOTT

1809

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-215)I am impatient to see Kehama-Soon may you be at  
(2-215)liberty Vacare musis.

(2-215)Pray don't delay your visit to Lowther-personal  
(2-215)acquaintance generally sharpens the zeal of a recommendation  
(2-215)-in your case the consequence is certain.<sup>1</sup>

[Abbotsford Copies and Lockhart]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-215)ASHESTIEL, SELKIRK, 8th August 1809

(2-215)I DO not know my dear Lady Abercorn how you are  
(2-215)justified in your cruel treatment of me. It is now a very  
(2-215)long time since I have heard from you and I have written  
(2-215)you two long epistles filled with all the news good bad  
(2-215)and indifferent which I thought likely to interest you. I  
(2-215)directed as usual under cover to the Marquis so I think  
(2-215)my letters cannot have miscarried unless his Lordship has  
(2-215)intercepted them for literary curiosities to be bound with  
(2-215)his history of Reynard the Fox. Seriously I hope my  
(2-215)letter from town has reached you for it was written by  
(2-215)special command of Lady Maria whom I had the pleasure  
(2-215)to see several times during three months abode in London.  
(2-215)I was quite mortified that the Priory was untenanted for I  
(2-215)had a thousand things to tell your Ladyship besides the  
(2-215)delight of exchanging a lodging in Half Moon Street  
(2-215)Piccadilly for the groves and glades of the Priory. We  
(2-215)(for I was in the plural number my wife and myself) saw  
(2-215)enough of London gaiety to make us very glad to regain  
(2-215)our own fireside regretting nothing so much as not having  
(2-215)had it in our power to make our devoirs to Lord and  
(2-215)Lady Abercorn.

(2-215)I was several times at Kingston where her R. H. made  
(2-215)several inquiries concerning your Ladyship and was  
(2-215)surprized that I could not satisfy them so this plucked

(2-216)another plume from my vanity. I also saw Lady  
(2-216)Charlotte Lindsay repeatedly.

(2-216)We spent some days at Tunbridge with Sir Samuel and  
(2-216)Lady Hood. Her Ladyship is my countrywoman an  
(2-216)enthusiastic Highlander and deep in all manner of  
(2-216)northern tradition. On my return I visited Knowles 1 [sic]  
(2-216)and saw a gallery which I admired more than all the fine  
(2-216)collections I have seen in London. Your Ladyship is  
(2-216)probably no stranger to it-It contains an amazing  
(2-216)collection of original portraits of eminent historical  
(2-216)characters from the reign of Henry VII. downwards.

(2-216)Since your Ladyship has made so long stay in Ireland  
(2-216)I hope you don't propose to return before next summer  
(2-216)because I have very serious thoughts of visiting green  
(2-216)Erin next year with a view to make my edition of Swift as  
(2-216)perfect and as much worthy of the permission of inscribing  
(2-216)it to Lord A. as I possibly can. I have been tolerably  
(2-216)successful in some of my researches and still hope I may  
(2-216)add something to illustrate the works of so celebrated a  
(2-216)classic.<sup>2</sup>

(2-216)I hope this will find Lord Hamilton's health quite  
(2-216)established. I was very uneasy when in town at hearing  
(2-216)he was complaining & pleased in proportion when I

(2-217)learned he had got better. I beg my most respectful  
(2-217)compliments to the Marquis & Lord Hamilton. I hope  
(2-217)Mr. Wright continues to give his Lordship satisfaction  
(2-217)in the management of his affairs in Scotland. The  
(2-217)Marquis once thought to taking Edinburgh in his way  
(2-217)returning to England. I hope your Ladyship won't be

(2-217)so false hearted as to make such a detour without letting  
(2-217)me know as I shall break my heart if I have not the  
(2-217)pleasure of showing you [the lions?] of our Northern  
(2-217)Metropolis.

(2-217)Adieu, my dear Lady Abercorn, and pray write to me  
(2-217)soon, were it only to say you have not quite forgot your  
(2-217)very faithful and most respectful           WALTER SCOTT

(2-217)Lord Melville has been very unwell with his former  
(2-217)bilious complaint. I fear he is imprudent at table. He  
(2-217)was recovering when I last heard & I hope is now quite  
(2-217)well.  
[Pierpont Morgan]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE 1

(2-217)[ASHESTIEL, August 15, 1809]

(2-217)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE,-I have delayd writing to you  
(2-217)from day to day in hope of being able to report progress  
(2-217)about the delightful Legend more fully than I am even  
(2-217)yet supplied with the means of doing. For indeed all I  
(2-217)can say is that our Manager young Siddons is delighted  
(2-217)with the piece and determined to bring it out with as  
(2-217)much force as he can possibly muster. But his wife and  
(2-217)he went to perform at Manchester and I left town before  
(2-217)their return (if it has yet taken place) so that I really have  
(2-217)not had opportunity to procure those practical remarks

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(2-218)which I expect his experience may enable him to suggest.  
(2-218)I am concerned at this because of course the sooner You  
(2-218)are possessed of them the more time you will have to  
(2-218)consider any of them that may merit your attention. I

(2-218)have shewn the play to Erskine whose best pretension to  
(2-218)such distinction though he has many is his early and  
(2-218)decided preference of your dramatic works to all others  
(2-218)of every age and country Shakespeare himself hardly  
(2-218)excepted. But neither from him have I got more than  
(2-218)general and unqualified expressions of satisfaction and  
(2-218)pleasure. As I did not get your letter till I was safely  
(2-218)landed I did not consult Mr. Mackenzie. Indeed I was  
(2-218)willing to have young [Siddons']s remarks which may be  
(2-218)really of consequence before those of any other person  
(2-218)and for that purpose entrusted him with the Manuscript.  
(2-218)Mr. Mackenzie is however a most excellent critic on  
(2-218)dramatic composition and shall be the first person to  
(2-218)whom I shew it so soon as I go to town.

(2-218)There is a point of some little consequence which has  
(2-218)not occurred to your recollection, namely how I am to  
(2-218)arrange with Siddons about the profits of the piece, which  
(2-218)if the play succeeds (as it cannot chuse but succeed  
(2-218)splendidly) must necessarily be an object of considerable  
(2-218)importance. He expressed himself willing to pay a sum  
(2-218)of money which I declined for the present referring myself  
(2-218)to your future instructions. I believe it will be better to  
(2-218)abide by the author's rights which supposing the piece to  
(2-218)run nine nights and so forth cannot be less than about  
(2-218) 300 or 400. This is what I should prefer in my own  
(2-218)case because I should then in any event neither have  
(2-218)to reproach myself with making a foolish bargain for  
(2-218)myself or with taking the Manager in by vain  
(2-218)expectations.

(2-218)There is a circumstance rather favourable to the effect  
(2-218)upon the stage arising from the contrast between the  
(2-218)tartan worn by the Macleans which has a red glaring  
(2-218)effect and that of the Campbells which is dark green.

(2-219)Thus the followers of the Chieftains will be at once  
(2-219)distinguished from each other.<sup>1</sup>

(2-219)I think your answer to Lady Louisa's criticism upon  
(2-219)Herberts departure from the Castle is quite convincing.  
(2-219)But as the objection staggered me a good deal and may  
(2-219)occur to others perhaps you will think of adding a line  
(2-219)or two stating as an additional reason for his departure  
(2-219)that his friends had no occasion for his aid in prosecuting  
(2-219)their revenge. He is a delightful character the most  
(2-219)interesting stage lover I have the honour to be acquainted  
(2-219)with so we must leave no blot in his scutcheon, nor even  
(2-219)the appearance of one.

(2-219)I fear all this while you have been thinking me little  
(2-219)better than the " fause Sir John " whom you previously  
(2-219)entrusted with the legend ; but I hope soon to send you  
(2-219)all the remarks which can possibly occur as essential.  
(2-219)Ballantyne the printer whom I think you may have seen  
(2-219)at my house came here on Sunday last. Siddons had  
(2-219)shewn him some parts of the Manuscript as they are on  
(2-219)most intimate habits and expressed himself even more

(2-220)warmly than to me on this subject. Now I like this  
(2-220)excessively. For there is no saying how far a real and  
(2-220)warm interest in a part may warm even a very middling  
(2-220)performer. He has a bad way of planting his legs in  
(2-220)attitudes which make me wish them broken on the wheel.  
(2-220)However he is a good worthy young man and much of  
(2-220)a gentleman. The theatre will I think be quite a bijou  
(2-220)we supd in it as [Carrs] rooms on the night of the  
(2-220)memorable Oxo[nian ball]. It is intended to be only

(2-220)temporary but I wish the Trustees would buy it outright  
(2-220)and fit it up as a permanent theatre for I doubt our being  
(2-220)able to raise 20,000 to build a new one and between our  
(2-220)pride and our poverty the scheme may be left in the same  
(2-220)state as the New College. I could tell you a long and piteous  
(2-220)tale of our time being occupied with discharging the arrears  
(2-220)of my duty literary and professional since I came down :  
(2-220)but I must needs say my conscience hints at some very  
(2-220)idle days spent in shooting and fishing.

(2-220)Dr. & Mrs. Baillie talkd of being in Scotland this season  
(2-220)and gave us hopes of seeing them at Ashestiel. Nothing  
(2-220)would give us more pleasure than an opportunity of returning  
(2-220)their kind hospitality. There are a good many things in  
(2-220)this pastoral country worth seeing and we would have pride  
(2-220)and pleasure in displaying them to the best advantage.

(2-220)Charlotte joins in best & kindest compliments to Miss  
(2-220)Baillie. What a pity that the art of Prince Housseins  
(2-220)tapestry is lost and that folks who love each other can only  
(2-220)converse by the assistance of their fore finger & thumb.

(2-220)You will oblige me very much by the permission to  
(2-220)insert any little stray copy of verses which you may  
(2-220)entrust me with in a little selection of poetical specimens  
(2-220)entitled " English Minstrelsy " now printing by Ballantyne  
(2-220)for his Brother who has opened trade in Edinr. as a  
(2-220)bookseller and publisher. The selection contains some  
(2-220)very pretty things both ancient and modern. Believe me  
(2-220)honoured in permission to subscribe myself your affectionate  
(2-220)& unworthy brother in the Muse. WALTER SCOTT

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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1809

(2-221)[ . . . this scrawl to Dr Baillie's care as the surest way of  
(2-221)reaching you. What think you of Spain ? the days of

(2-221)William Wallace & of the Cid Ruy Diaz de Bivar seem to  
(2-221)be reviving there.]

[Royal College of Surgeons, London, and Abbotsford Copies}

TO REV. MR. BERWICK

(2-221)DEAR SIR,-I was duly honoured with your liberal  
(2-221)kind and most interesting letter. It has been my fate  
(2-221)so very often to form by epistolary correspondence some  
(2-221)of the most valuable literary connections and private  
(2-221)friendships which I can boast that it is no new thing for  
(2-221)me to have all the regard of intimacy for a correspondent  
(2-221)to whom I am personally an utter stranger. Your  
(2-221)acquaintance with my respected friend Lady Charlotte  
(2-221)Rawdon 1 gives me another tie upon your favour of  
(2-221)which I am proud and happy to avail myself. During  
(2-221)Lord Moira's command in Scotland I had the pleasure  
(2-221)to see her Ladyship often and to be honoured with her  
(2-221)esteem. I have also several valuable letters from the late  
(2-221)Lady Moira containing a great deal of very curious  
(2-221)information which I have reason to suppose could have  
(2-221)been derived from no other source. I regretted much not  
(2-221)seeing Lady Charlotte when I was last in London though  
(2-221)she did Mrs. Scott the honour of calling. But retournons  
(2-221)a nos moutons. I have a world of questions about the  
(2-221)Dean which your kindness encourages to put without  
(2-221)order and just in the miscellaneous way in which they  
(2-221)occur to me.

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LETTERS OF

1809

(2-222)The correspondence between Swift and Vanessa must  
(2-222)be of the utmost curiosity and I am both surprised and  
(2-222)delighted at hearing of its being in existence. It is  
(2-222)impossible to justify Swift in his conduct to Stella and

(2-222)Vanessa, yet we must make great allowance for the frailty  
(2-222)of a mind seduced by finding himself the exclusive object  
(2-222)of love and admiration of two such fascinating women.  
(2-222)Unquestionably Swift had [a] vain idea of maintaining a  
(2-222)platonic love with both and as sex did not enter into his  
(2-222)views of the connexion he possibly thought there was no  
(2-222)risque in giving either a rival. How vain and how weak  
(2-222)the attempt of maintaining with two different ladies a  
(2-222)connection which had all the intenseness of affection  
(2-222)though not of desire the event well shewd.<sup>1</sup>

(2-222)The Legion Club has been almost unintelligible in  
(2-222)former editions for want of those illustrations with which  
(2-222)your goodness proposes to supply me. Richard Tighe so  
(2-222)frequently the object of Swift's satire was I presume the  
(2-222)Dick Fitz Baker of that performance. I am particularly  
(2-222)desirous to learn something of this person's history and  
(2-222)of that of Joshua Lord Alien satirized by the Dean under  
(2-222)the name of Traulus. L. C. Justice Whitsted and Judge  
(2-222)Beal claim also some attention sufficient at least to make  
(2-222)intelligible the particular sarcasms which Swift has  
(2-222)launched against them.

(2-222)I have the first collection of the Drapiers Letters  
(2-222)published by Faulkner in 1725 under the title Fraud  
(2-222)Detected or the Hibernian Patriot. They are stated to  
(2-222)have been collected and published by the order of the  
(2-222)Drapiers Club at Mr. Taplins in Truck Street. The  
(2-222)collection contains several songs of the said patriotic club  
(2-222)in honour of the Drapier (very sorry poetry). It also

(2-223)contains Some Considerations on the attempt to pass  
(2-223)Woods money &c " By a Lover of his country " and Some  
(2-223)Reasons Shewing the necessity the people of Ireland are

(2-223)under to refuse this coinage by the same Author. These  
(2-223)tracts are well written and I suspect by the Dean himself.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-223)Faulkner closes in the preface with the poem of Prometheus  
(2-223)(which we know to be Swift's) and says that no  
(2-223)pen but the Drapier could have written like his. Pray  
(2-223)my dear Sir what do you think of these pieces. Ought  
(2-223)they to be received into the Works cum nota. Faulkner  
(2-223)doubtless speaks of them as written by a Gentleman  
(2-223)distinct from the Drapier but this may only mean that  
(2-223)they were not written by Swift under the same assumed  
(2-223)character which he had taken in the beginning of the  
(2-223)contest and the same distinction is made as to Prometheus  
(2-223)the authorship of which is indisputable.

(2-223)In a letter of Lord Orrery to Dean Swift he mentions a  
(2-223)strange and shocking story of an assault made upon the  
(2-223)person of the Dean in the unfortunate declension of his  
(2-223)faculties by Mr. Wilson a Clergyman. What followed  
(2-223)upon this atrocious matter ? I should have thought the  
(2-223)" jolly boys of St. Patrick the Cauvan Demons " would  
(2-223)have" torn the miscreant limb from limb.

(2-223)Among the various reasons alleged for the Dean's  
(2-223)strange conduct towards Stella and Vanessa personal  
(2-223)imperfections have been currently resorted to and I own  
(2-223)plausibly. A late author connecting the supposed  
(2-223)frigidity with Swift's deafness and fits of giddiness is hardy  
(2-223)enough to assign a cause for the imperfection-see Dr.  
(2-223)Beddoes' Hygeia (2) Vol. III p. 186. But it is a cause too

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(2-224)disgraceful to be adopted on the ipse dixit of a theorist or  
(2-224)even to be alluded to. Swift himself always imputes his  
(2-224)giddiness to indigestion in consequence of a surfeit in fruit.

(2-224)Excuse my dear Sir this desultory letter and when you  
(2-224)consider its length and its character dont be too apprehensive  
(2-224)of the trouble of my correspondence, which you  
(2-224)shall check guide and manage in the way most easy for  
(2-224)you. I cannot hope to visit Ireland before next Spring.  
(2-224)Should your goodness at any time lead you to extend your  
(2-224)correspondence beyond the bounds of an ordinary epistle  
(2-224)my friend Mr. Robert Dundas now your Secretary of  
(2-224)State will transmit anything through me that you may  
(2-224)chuse to send under his all franking cover. Believe me  
(2-224)my dear Sir Ever your much obliged very humble Servant  
(2-224)WALTER SCOTT

(2-224)ASHESTIEL BY SELKIRK 17 August 1809

[Owen D. Young]

TO JOHN BACON MORRITT

(2-224)I SHOULD be very ungrateful my dear Morritt did I not  
(2-224)early acknowledge your interesting packet. I like the  
(2-224)feudal tale<sup>1</sup> upon reading it several times over even better  
(2-224)than I did when I heard it in Portland place yet that is  
(2-224)saying a great deal. It has occasional roughness in the  
(2-224)measure yet no more than the usual license of the antique  
(2-224)ballad readily admits so I will not urge you upon any  
(2-224)further sacrifice of sense or spirit to mere sound. I  
(2-224)intend to couple it with Glenfinlas in the third volume of  
(2-224)the Border Ballads. They have neither of them much to  
(2-224)[do] there but we must trust their contents will be their  
(2-224)best apology.

(2-224)I have a letter from Gifford the first time I have heard  
(2-224)from him since I left London. I really tremble for  
(2-224)the fate of the Quarterly. G. is able and good humourd

(2-225)and most heartily zealous and yet I fear he will not  
(2-225)succeed in making a cake of the right leaven for the  
(2-225)present generation. I will not take to the boat however  
(2-225)while the ship holds together and so I will open on  
(2-225)your friend Mrs. Montagues letters 1 which are well worthy  
(2-225)to be pelted out of the field. Why are we not within  
(2-225)ten miles that we might con over grievances together at  
(2-225)least weekly. This drubbing of the French at Talavera  
(2-225)makes amends for much political martyrdom. Not  
(2-225)contented with spelling over the gazette rather longer  
(2-225)than Charlottes patience endured, like the Upholsterer  
(2-225)in the farce I beat up my Neighbour Laidlaw (the  
(2-225)splendour of whose kirk you cannot have forgotten)  
(2-225)to make him happy too. That honest gentleman as well  
(2-225)as I myself was however a little staggerd at the inactivity  
(2-225)of Cuesta's 30,000 Spaniards. I suppose Sir Arthur did  
(2-225)not care to trust them out of leading strings otherwise I  
(2-225)should have deemd the Spaniard too much of a Fidalgo  
(2-225)[sic] to suffer his allies to engross both buffets and glory.  
(2-225)I trust they will be able to play Old Gooseberry with  
(2-225)Sebastian! after having had the benefit of such an  
(2-225)example. Why have not these dishes of skimd milk upon  
(2-225)the Continent a little of that dogged English courage  
(2-225)which sets off by saying you may overpower me but you  
(2-225)shall not rout me.

(2-225)I snap at your offer of the translations from Metastasio  
(2-225)like a dog at a butterd crust. The version of Ti Soverrai  
(2-225)di mi is exquisitely beautiful but as beggars must not be  
(2-225)chusers I refer myself to the ladies to chuse which they  
(2-225)think will do the miscellany most honour. Here is a  
(2-225)trifle s I intend to send-a pitiful sonnet wrote in former  
(2-225)days to my mistresses eye-brow or rather eyelid after it  
(2-225)had wept itself dry.

(2-226)The violet in her summer bower  
(2-226)Where birchen boughs with hazels mingle  
(2-226)May boast herself the fairest flower  
(2-226)In glen or copse or forest dingle.

(2-226)Though sweet its gem of azure hue  
(2-226)Beneath the dew drops weight reclining  
(2-226)I've seen an eye of lovelier blue  
(2-226)More sweet through watery lustre shining.

(2-226)The summer sun that dew shall dry  
(2-226)Ere yet the day be past its morrow  
(2-226)Nor longer in my false loves eye  
(2-226)Remaind the tear of part[in]g sorrow.

(2-226)[A mad world] my masters as friar John says.  
(2-226)I have no news to send you from the banks of Tweed  
(2-226)excepting that we may safely and truly adopt Touchstones  
(2-226)chorus " The rain it raineth every day."

(2-226)My kind respects attend Mrs. and Miss Morritt and  
(2-226)Charlotte offers her love to all at Rokeby. I ever am  
(2-226)Yours most sincerely W. SCOTT

(2-226)ASHESTIEL 17 Augt. 1809

[Law]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

(2-226)YOUR kind letter my dear Miss Clephane with all its  
(2-226)obliging and interesting inclosures I have been upbraiding  
(2-226)me with ingratitude for these few days past. My time

(2-226)has recently been occupied by the unexpected arrival of  
(2-226)two stranger Southernns a governor and a pupil who in  
(2-226)attempting to penetrate through the hills from Yarrow  
(2-226)to the vale of Tweed lost their way, their hats, their  
(2-226)horses, their servants, each other, their wits, and well

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-227)nigh (for the night approached) their lives. I was  
(2-227)obliged to raise the hue and cry among the Shepherds  
(2-227)before the younger could be recoverd and brought in  
(2-227)safety to our farm. They left me this morning and as  
(2-227)they came through peril by field they are returning by  
(2-227)flood for it has pourd ever since their departure. A  
(2-227)pretty recollection they will retain of Ettricke forest.

(2-227)But to the purpose-I have transcribed Sir Ralph the  
(2-227)Rover 1 from memory very imperfectly and inaccurately  
(2-227)I do believe-it seems to me that the arrangements of  
(2-227)the stanza into four lines does not uniformly throw the  
(2-227)pauses with spirit and effect. But you may perhaps be  
(2-227)able to find out a better plan of dividing the lines. I find  
(2-227)I have left the book containing Ave Maria Stella in  
(2-227)Edinburgh an error which I will remedy the first time I  
(2-227)go there. As a slight indemnification you will find some  
(2-227)lack-a-daysical lines on a violet which I divid for the  
(2-227)nonce in the non-age of my Muse. Perhaps you may find  
(2-227)a tune for them, the only circumstance which can give  
(2-227)them any value. Although I am so much your debtor  
(2-227)on the accmpt of obligation I venture to prefer a  
(2-227)request, to have the air of Montroses lines, the words are  
(2-227)familiar to me. It is for my little girl that I request this  
(2-227)favour. She begins to sing occasionally and though I  
(2-227)am uncertain whether she will ever come to any  
(2-227)proficiency worth mentioning it is always interesting to Papa  
(2-227)and Mama. Did I tell you that I had selected (as a

(2-227)favour to the little Ballantyne just commencing the  
(2-227)bookselling trade) a small collection of ancient and modern  
(2-227)pieces called English Minstrelsy, when it is published  
(2-227)I will send you a copy as it will contain Queen Oracca  
(2-227)and some other little things not hitherto published.

(2-227)I am glad you like Spenser who in defiance of the tedium  
(2-227)of a long continued allegory is a prime favourite of mine.  
(2-227)Old Dr. Blacklock a blind bard who may have been

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(2-228)known to Mrs. Clephane put him into my hands when I  
(2-228)was at the High School and I connect many pleasant  
(2-228)ideas with the first perusal.<sup>1</sup> If you read with attention  
(2-228)the history of Queen Elizabeths time you may perceive  
(2-228)that besides his moral allegory Spenser had a political  
(2-228)allegory couched under his tissue of romantic fiction. Thus  
(2-228)Prince Arthur represents in one sense Magnanimity a  
(2-228)Heroic Virtue, in another the Earl of Leicester the  
(2-228)unworthy favourite of Elizabeth and patron of Spenser.  
(2-228)Duessa is Falsehood in general but she is also poor Queen  
(2-228)Mary. The adventures of Timias are well known to be  
(2-228)an allegorical account of the life of Raleigh. You have  
(2-228)his desperate engagement at the ford which he really  
(2-228)defended against a large party of Irish rebels, his disgrace  
(2-228)wt. Belphebe (Q. Elizabeth) for an intrigue with Miss  
(2-228)Throgmorton &c. &c. I have often thought that the  
(2-228)difficulty and even danger of carrying on this part of the  
(2-228)allegorical mystery was a principal reason of the poets  
(2-228)leaving the poem imperfect. The key which he proposed  
(2-228)to make had too many and too complicated wards so he  
(2-228)left it unfinished in despair.

(2-228)Some traces of political allegory may be discovered in  
(2-228)the Orlando Furioso but they are in detached portions

(2-228)of the poem which generally speaking is a bona fide (2-228)romance.

(2-228)Just after receiving your letter I received a long one  
(2-228)from Lord Glenbervie 2 who is about to edit Gawain

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(2-229)Douglas's works. It contained many long queries  
(2-229)concerning the history of the Douglasses for the preface  
(2-229)is to give some account of the most distinguished heroes  
(2-229)of the family. On some of these I was able to give his  
(2-229)lordship a little information but the following I submit  
(2-229)to your consideration as chiefly interested in the questions  
(2-229)not without hopes that by Mrs. Clephanes kind assistance  
(2-229)you may contribute to clear his doubts. In recompense  
(2-229)I have enquired at Lord Glenbervie if he knows as a  
(2-229)great genealogist anything of the descent of the mother  
(2-229)of the Knight of Acre. You know how much I admire  
(2-229)Sir Sidney and cannot doubt I will be delighted could  
(2-229)I hope to assist in appropriating his descent to the  
(2-229)Doughty Douglasses. Lord Glenbervies queries are-

(2-229)What authority is there for saying that the Lady whose  
(2-229)arm was broken at the murder of James I she having  
(2-229)thrust it into the Staple to supply the bar, was of the  
(2-229)family of Morton.

(2-229)The Douglas that perished at Chatham when the Dutch  
(2-229)burned the Fleet of Charles Iids reign because he would  
(2-229)not leave his blazing ship without orders-of what family  
(2-229)was he ?

(2-229)Who was the Douglas who is mentioned in Carletons  
(2-229)Memoirs as having sacrificed his life to return the  
(2-229)standard of his regiment at the battle of Steenkirk I

(2-229)believe ?-

(2-229)Now to a Douglas like you " here's room for meditation "  
(2-229)as for me whose moss trooping veins have only  
(2-229)such a tincture of Douglas blood as a drop of Ottar of  
(2-229)roses would be in a barrell of whisky it cannot be expected  
(2-229)that I should be at all au fait of such deep subjects of  
(2-229)enquiry.

(2-229)I am delighted with your highland tales and with  
(2-229)Mrs Clephanes goodness in dictating them. I shall  
(2-229)certainly one day turn them to excellent account but it  
(2-229)must be after I have visited you in the Hebrides, and that  
(2-229)I fear is a remote prospect.

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(2-230)Charlotte joins kindest and best remembrances to Mrs.  
(2-230)Clephane and Miss Anne to whom I beg my most respectful  
(2-230)and kind compliments and am very truly your most  
(2-230)obliged and faithful humble servant,

(2-230)W. SCOTT

(2-230)ASHESTIEL, 17 August 1809.

(2-230)P-S.-I am sorry you have had any subject of disagreement  
(2-230)with Lady H. but I can more readily pardon  
(2-230)her appropriating your verses than your underrating  
(2-230)them. 1

(2-230)The Coronach of Maclean is one of the most beautiful  
(2-230)specimens of Celtic poetry I have ever seen. I would  
(2-230)attempt to gratify you by putting it into English Metre,  
(2-230)but I distrust my own powers of combining the same  
(2-230)degree of strength and simplicity.

[Northampton]

TO SAMUEL ROGERS

(2-230)My DEAR ROGERS,-I am about to ask a great boon of  
(2-230)you which I shall hold an especial courtesy if you can  
(2-230)find in your heart to comply with. I have hampered  
(2-230)myself by a promise to a young bookseller whom I am for  
(2-230)various reasons desirous to befriend that I would look over  
(2-230)and make additions to a little miscellany of poetry which  
(2-230)he has entitled English Minstrelsy and on which his Brother  
(2-230)James Ballantyne the Scottish Bodoni intends to exert  
(2-230)the utmost extent of his typographical skill. The selection  
(2-230)is chiefly from the smaller pieces of dead authors but  
(2-230)it would be very imperfect without a few specimens from  
(2-230)the present masters of the Lyre. I have never told you  
(2-230)how high my opinion so far as it is worth any thing ranks

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-231)you in that honour'd class. But I am now called upon to  
(2-231)say in my own personal vindication that no collection of  
(2-231)the kind can be completed without a specimen from the  
(2-231)Author of the pleasures of Memory and therefore to  
(2-231)transfer all responsibility from myself to you I make the  
(2-231)present application. Beggars should not be chusers-  
(2-231)therefore I most generously abandon to you the choice  
(2-231)of what you will give my begging box and am only  
(2-231)importunate that you will not turn me empty from your  
(2-231)door. I would not willingly exert my influence with you  
(2-231)in vain nor leave my miscellany so imperfect as it will be  
(2-231)without something of yours.<sup>1</sup> Why won't you think of  
(2-231)coming to see our lands of mist and snow. Not that I  
(2-231)have the hardness of heart to wish you and George Ellis  
(2-231)here at this moment for it would be truly the meeting of

(2-231)the Weird Sisters in thunder lightening & in rain. The  
(2-231)lightening splintered an oak tree before my door last  
(2-231)week with such a concussion that I thought all was gone  
(2-231)to wrack. I have pretty good nerves for one of the  
(2-231)irritable and sensitive race we belong to but I question  
(2-231)whether even the poet laureate would have confided  
(2-231)composedly in the sic evitabile fulmen annexed to his  
(2-231)wreath of bays. Believe me dear Rogers Ever Yours most  
(2-231)Sincerely WALTER SCOTT

(2-231)ASHESTIEL BY SELKIRK 18th August [1809].

[Abbotsford Copies]

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TO THE RIGHT HONBLE. LADY CHARLOTTE RAWDON

(2-232)I SHOULD be very ungrateful my dear Lady Charlotte  
(2-232)did I permit your Ladyships letter with which I am this  
(2-232)moment honoured to remain unanswered even a single  
(2-232)post. I was obliged to leave town for a few days when  
(2-232)your Ladyship honoured Mrs. Scott with a visit in Half  
(2-232)Moon Street and on my return had the misfortune to  
(2-232)find Lady Charlotte was gone to Brighton if I rightly  
(2-232)recollect the answers of the Porter in St. James's Palace.

(2-232)Mr. Berwick has behaved towards me in the kindest  
(2-232)way possible and what was still more flattering has taught  
(2-232)me to ascribe a great part of his civility to the interest  
(2-232)your Ladyship bestows on my undertakings. Every  
(2-232)person to whom I have applied joins in representing him  
(2-232)as the most deeply skilled in all that relates to the interesting  
(2-232)object of my recent researches. In short " Go to  
(2-232)Berwick " has not been more frequently called for in a  
(2-232)ball room than it was returned in answer to all my

(2-232)enquiries about Swift. So I went to Berwick accordingly  
(2-232)and have every hope of profiting by my journey. I am  
(2-232)only afraid of wearying his kindness by the multiplicity  
(2-232)of my demands but I must trust to your Ladyships  
(2-232)Interest with him to plead my apology.

(2-232)Your Ladyships letter forcibly recalled the agreeable  
(2-232)evening society at poor dear Lady Charlottes. 1 I can  
(2-232)never think on her without deep emotion, with talents,  
(2-232)rank, beauty, accomplishments, above all with the best  
(2-232)of human hearts how much she has had to suffer in her  
(2-232)passage through this valley of Sorrow. Petty paltry  
(2-232)calumny, pecuniary embarrassment, the long lingering  
(2-232)and cruel illness of poor Jack Campbell whom her  
(2-232)attentions alone could soothe and gratify at last his death  
(2-232)for whom I may say she had lived almost exclusively and

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(2-233)all this distress accumulated on a mind peculiarly sensitive  
(2-233)makes up a bitter cup indeed.

(2-233)It is about three years since I was in the romantic  
(2-233)country where your Ladyship is now enjoying I hope  
(2-233)better weather than we can boast among these mountains.  
(2-233)I was then particularly interested in the ruind towers of  
(2-233)Ashby de la Zouche built if I mistake not by your  
(2-233)Ladyships ancestor the celebrated Lord Hastings, beheaded  
(2-233)by Richard of Gloucester. I thought a good deal  
(2-233)about Lord Moira your Ladyship and your honoured  
(2-233)Mother (whose letters I preserve as reliques) at the time  
(2-233)I visited these splendid remains of feudal magnificence.

(2-233)Tomorrow I believe Lady Dalkeith will arrive at  
(2-233)Bowhill a shooting seat of Lord Ds. not far from this place.  
(2-233)The happy birth of another boy has in some degree

(2-233)dispelled the gloom which the untimely death of my  
(2-233)lamented young Chief spread over her and I trust time  
(2-233)which converts the deepest wounds to scars will at length  
(2-233)restore her usual Cheerfulness.

(2-233)Mrs. Scott begs to offer her most respectful & affectionate  
(2-233)compliments to your Ladyship. I wish we could  
(2-233)transport you to this wilderness where to make up for  
(2-233)narrow Lodgings & sorry Cheer you should have old  
(2-233)ballads family legends of feud & battles and tales of  
(2-233)Ghosts and fairies without measure or limit.

(2-233)I have serious thoughts of visiting Ireland next Spring  
(2-233)for I feel bound in honour to make my Editn. of the Dean  
(2-233)of St. Patricks in some degree worthy of the interest your  
(2-233)Ladyship honours it with.

(2-233)I have the honour to remain with great respect your  
(2-233)Ladyships most obedient & faithful humble servant

(2-233)WALTER SCOTT

(2-233)ASHESTIEL NEAR SELKIRK 20th August [1809]

[Abbotsford Copies]

234            LETTERS    OF            1809

TO MRS. SCOTT

(2-234)MY DEAR MOTHER,-I received your note and have  
(2-234)made all necessary enquiries after the little boy.<sup>1</sup> His  
(2-234)mother and her husband are now settled in Selkirk &  
(2-234)living in a very decent and orderly manner. The  
(2-234)boy as I learn from all the neighbours is very much  
(2-234)attended to & both are greatly attachd to him.

(2-234)I therefore doubt whether he could be placed in any  
(2-234)family where he would be so well attended to or in any  
(2-234)town where I could know so exactly how he comes on.  
(2-234)He is said to be of a quiet bookish disposition so that I  
(2-234)have put him (being now nine years old) to the grammar  
(2-234)school at Selkirk which is fortunately a very excellent  
(2-234)one. I shall look after his education and if he shews any  
(2-234)aptitude for learning he may make his choice between the  
(2-234)Law and the Kirk as in either profession if I live and he  
(2-234)himself behave well I can probably assist him materially.  
(2-234)The Mother & her husband shew the utmost reluctance  
(2-234)to part with him and unless I was sure that it was to be  
(2-234)very materially to his advantage I should think it harsh  
(2-234)to take him from them to place him any where, where  
(2-234)possibly he might be less attended to. He is always very  
(2-234)neatly dressd & is really a very pretty boy. I hope you  
(2-234)will come to Ashestiel this summer and you shall see him  
(2-234)here.

(2-234)Charlotte and I are quite well and much obliged for  
(2-234)your attention to the little bodies. Love to the Major.  
(2-234)Ever affectionately & dutiful son                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-234)ASHESTIEL Sunday [1809]

(2-234)Pray take care of yourself this damp weather. I shall  
(2-234)be responsible for any extra expence attending Daniels  
(2-234)education. The idea of his being a clergyman seems to

1809                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      235

(2-235)flatter his mother very much and she promises the  
(2-235)strictest attention to his morals.

[Law]

## TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-235)SINCE I heard last from you I have been enjoying  
(2-235)myself al fresco on the banks of Loch Lomond, which (no  
(2-235)offence) could put Derwentwater into its waistcoatpocket.  
(2-235)Moreover, I met with an old follower of Rob Roy, who  
(2-235)had been at many a spreagh (foray) with that redoubted  
(2-235)free-booter, and shewd me all his holds. On my return  
(2-235)I found the enclosed from Ellis, which I think is worth the  
(2-235)double postage which, failing a frank it is like to cost you.  
(2-235)He is an excellent and warm-hearted friend and I long to  
(2-235)make you acquainted side by side, as I believe three folks,  
(2-235)even the three graces, cannot be said to meet face to face.  
(2-235)When I see Geo: Canning and Geo: Ellis most anxious  
(2-235)about the prosperity of Ro: Southey, and remember  
(2-235)former days it reminds me of

(2-235)via salutis,  
(2-235)Quod minime reris, Graia pandetur ab urbe.<sup>1</sup>

(2-235)I am convinced that what Swift said of Whig and Tory  
(2-235)is true of most civil dissensions and that the really honest  
(2-235)only require to know each others sentiments to agree  
(2-235)while knaves and fools invent catch-words and shibboleths  
(2-235)and war-cries to keep them from coming to a just  
(2-235)understanding.

(2-235)I thought it by far the best way in a negotiation  
(2-235)of some delicacy, that Ellis and Canning should know  
(2-235)your own precise statement of your views and politics  
(2-235)which straind through another medium than that of  
(2-235)your own manly and independent expressions might  
(2-235)have suffered in strength, spirit and precision. I intend  
(2-235)to answer Ellis, pressing the augmentation of the pension  
(2-235)as a mode of cutting short dependance. It may be

(2-236)resigned when the Historiographers place (for which  
 (2-236)you are so peculiarly fitted) shall open to you, or any  
 (2-236)preferment suitable to your wishes in emolument and  
 (2-236)in the nature of its duty.

(2-236)You will see that Ellis agrees with you and me in  
 (2-236)Spanish matters-alas ! alas ! an evil fate seems to arm  
 (2-236)the enemy with weapons not his own and disconcert  
 (2-236)every effort in that glorious cause. God for his own  
 (2-236)wise ends has sent confusion into all counsellors that are  
 (2-236)formed against the destined scourge of his wrath " appall'd  
 (2-236)the guilty and made mad the free." How it is to end  
 (2-236)heaven knows ; I who am by nature and feeling no  
 (2-236)croaker hardly dare venture to conjecture.

(2-236)Don't tease yourself or Pater noster about the Morte  
 (2-236)Arthur but take your own time. My idea was entirely  
 (2-236)different from yours, to reprint namely the whole from the  
 (2-236)only original Caxton which is extant with all the superstition  
 (2-236)and harlotrie which the castrator in the reign of  
 (2-236)Edward VI chose to omit.<sup>1</sup> A Classic of Henry VIIth's  
 (2-236)time is so valuable that I still think once you have been  
 (2-236)afloat for a year or two I will give a very limited edition  
 (2-236)of Sir Thomas Mallory in his native dress. But this is a  
 (2-236)distant vision.

(2-236)I like your Missionary article exceedingly and I think  
 (2-236)you will join with me in admiring the beautiful conclusion  
 (2-236)of the last Review on Spanish affairs 2 -But we must have

(2-237)a little fun in our next, for which purpose I intend to play  
 (2-237)football with Mrs. Montagues Letters. I think Lord

(2-237)Valentia is rather inferior to Bruce. I know that surly  
(2-237)Patagonian, and though he may have romanced in  
(2-237)matters where his own prowess was concerned yet I think  
(2-237)no one could ever have described the battles of Serbraxes  
(2-237)and the strange dispersion which afterwards took place,  
(2-237)without having seen it. Genl. Murray saw two Abyssinians  
(2-237)in Upper Egypt at the time of the Indian army's being  
(2-237)there, the elder of whom remembered Bruce as the  
(2-237)commander of the Koccob horse and he remarked that  
(2-237)although they did not always immediately recollect  
(2-237)circumstances mentioned by the traveller, yet such  
(2-237)frequently recurd to their recollection with all their  
(2-237)particulars, a day or two afterwards. I therefore think  
(2-237)the negative evidence as to his warlike and princely  
(2-237)character good for little. Even with our newspapers and  
(2-237)gazettes who pretends to remember all who have been  
(2-237)made peers and knighted and as for fighting, a prince  
(2-237)who left Bruce at home if he could have brought him out  
(2-237)neglected the most able-bodied associate you ever saw.  
(2-237)Qendragon was a joke to him in size and muscle.

(2-237)By the way Ellis fixes on me an article about Miss  
(2-237)Edgeworths Tales which I never saw. I have nothing in  
(2-237)the last Revw., Yours ever, WALTER SCOTT

(2-237)ASHESTIEL, 10 September [1809]  
[Brotherton]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-237)ASHESTIEL, 14th September 1809

(2-237)YOUR valued token of remembrance my dear Lady  
(2-237)Marchioness found me a traveller in the skirts of our  
(2-237)Highlands 1 and consequently did not receive quite so early

(2-238)an acknowledgment as if I had been quiet at home. I  
 (2-238)had promised to meet the Judge of Admiralty Sir William  
 (2-238)Scott near Loch Lomond but behold he received an  
 (2-238)express announcing his lady's sudden decease. I never  
 (2-238)in my life saw such a frightful person as the deceased so  
 (2-238)I cannot suppose the survivors grief will be quite  
 (2-238)overpowering. Indeed had the lady been my property I  
 (2-238)would have been tempted to reverse the unfeeling speech  
 (2-238)of a border chief who having lost one of his sons & got  
 (2-238)a grant of the murderers lands, declared them well worth  
 (2-238)a dead son. So I think the riddance of such an extraordinary  
 (2-238)encumbrance (for she bailed description) was  
 (2-238)well worth a peep at Loch Lomond.

(2-238)I have taken my wife who is fond of flowers into my  
 (2-238)counsels about the flower-roots & she is to make a proper  
 (2-238)selection which she trusts your Ladyship will accept as  
 (2-238)a small token of her respect. You need not be afraid  
 (2-238)that any of them will cost quite so much as the tulip root  
 (2-238)for which the Dutchman gave his country house & garden

SIR WALTER SCOTT        1809        239

(2-239)in exchange. They are are all ordinary things. The  
 (2-239)worst is that they cannot be safely sent till a week or  
 (2-239)two hence for some reasons which I dont understand  
 (2-239)but Mr. Wright is to take care that they are safely  
 (2-239)forwarded by the Mail coach.

(2-239)I can easily conceive the cruel scene [?] which Lord  
 (2-239)Hamilton's illness must have exhibited & how the Marquis  
 (2-239)must have felt all his former griefs & hopes revived in  
 (2-239)anticipating so overwhelming a dispensation. Thank  
 (2-239)God he is better & I trust likely to continue so. But the

(2-239)life of a bachelor however well regulated is in many  
(2-239)respects so unfavourable to a youth of delicate health  
(2-239)that nothing would give me more sincere pleasure than  
(2-239)to hear that Lord Hamilton 1 was happily settled in  
(2-239)life & that the lines of the family were extending to  
(2-239)another generation. But the Great cannot make these  
(2-239)arrangements so easily as the middle classes so the Heir  
(2-239)of Abercorn must in the first place get quite confirmed in  
(2-239)strength and then look about him.

(2-239)The sight of our beautiful Mountains and lakes (though  
(2-239)not new to me), and your Ladyship's kind exhortations  
(2-239)have sett me to threading verses together with what  
(2-239)success I am yet uncertain. But if I am not able to  
(2-239)please myself at all it is but a step to the fireside and the  
(2-239)poem will go into smoke like half the projects of this  
(2-239)world. Then says caution you hazard any little credit  
(2-239)you shave acquired and may disgrace the good opinion  
(2-239)of your friends by venturing again on the public arena.  
(2-239)To which resolution replies in the words of the great  
(2-239)Marquis of Montrose

(2-239)He either fears his fate too much  
(2-239)Or his deserts are small  
(2-239)Who dares not put it to the touch  
(2-239)To win or lose it all.

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(2-240)The worst is I am not very good or patient in slow and  
(2-240)careful composition and sometimes remind myself of a  
(2-240)drunken man who could run along enough after he could  
(2-240)not walk. I must however invoke the assistance of my  
(2-240)friendly critics and particularly of the Marquis when my  
(2-240)manuscript is in such forwardness as to admit of its being  
(2-240)presented for his inspection. Your Ladyship will recollect

(2-240)that he is to have an interest in it as patron in case it  
(2-240)succeeds so it will be for his Lordship's credit that as few  
(2-240)errors remain in it as possible.

(2-240)I cannot think what has become of my two letters. I  
(2-240)have a notion that the first may have found its way to  
(2-240)Stanmore & is still lying there. That which I wrote  
(2-240)from London was intrusted with some others to a rascally  
(2-240)valet-de-place whom I was forced to employ in consequence  
(2-240)of my own servant meeting with an accident.  
(2-240)So I should not be surprized if that is never heard of.

(2-240)I saw the Princess several times when in London.  
(2-240)She was in the highest possible spirits and very witty and  
(2-240)entertaining. Lewis was of all her parties, an acquaintance  
(2-240)which her Royal Highness had acquired when I  
(2-240)was in London. Of course I was only a second-rate  
(2-240)conjurer but did my best to amuse her. The P-- did  
(2-240)me the honour to speak of me in terms of considerable  
(2-240)bitterness before I came up to town-so I have no chance  
(2-240)of being the poet laureate of the next reign.<sup>1</sup> It is curious  
(2-240)how every word of such a personage is caught up and  
(2-240)repeated to those whom it concerns ; a circumstance  
(2-240)that ought to make them peculiarly cautious for although  
(2-240)few people can do them real service the meanest have it  
(2-240)often in their power to do them essential injury. But  
(2-240)I can never wish his father's son and the heir of the  
(2-240)Crown otherwise than well and am as safe in my obscurity  
(2-240)from the effects of his prejudice as a worm beneath a stone  
(2-240)from the foot of Goliath of Gath.

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(2-241)The Duchess of Gordon is at Kinrara her highland  
(2-241)farm where I have heard she shows to greater advantage  
(2-241)than anywhere being more sedate and less overpowering.

(2-241)IT would be highly ungrateful in me my dear Sir to  
(2-241)postpone acknowledging your most valued and curious  
(2-241)communication which I will not fail to adapt to the  
(2-241)particular passages in the freeholder and to use with due  
(2-241)acknowledgement. I am not unacquainted with Lord

(2-242)Forbes I whom I remember as a studious and interesting  
(2-242)young Man when Lord Moira had command in Scotland.  
(2-242)Should you at any time be disposed to favour me with a  
(2-242)packet beyond the common size of a letter it may be  
(2-242)safely addressed under cover to "George Hammond Esq  
(2-242)War Office London" who will forward it as those  
(2-242)official franks carry every weight.

(2-242)I have fag'd very hard at Swifts Journal in which I  
(2-242)agree with you he displays more of his true Character  
(2-242)& history than can be collected from any other source.  
(2-242)As this is a letter of thanks and acknowledgement I will  
(2-242)restrain my inquisitive temper upon the present occasion  
(2-242)and limit myself to an anxious wish that I could do  
(2-242)anything for you or any of your friends that could shew  
(2-242)in the slightest degree my sense of your kindness. I have  
(2-242)heard nothing of Miss White for an age. I hope she has  
(2-242)not suffered her enthusiastic taste for the romantic to  
(2-242)carry her under the waters of the Lake of Killarney in  
(2-242)search of the fairy castle of King Donoghoe. I have  
(2-242)received since I had the pleasure of hearing from you a  
(2-242)very kind letter from Lady Charlotte Rawdon who  
(2-242)expresses herself [gratified] that Mr. Berwick, the only man  
(2-242)whose aid was absolutely indispensable to my project  
(2-242)should have agreed to afford me his countenance- You  
(2-242)see my dear Sir I omit no opportunity to strengthen my  
(2-242)influence-with you being deeply conscious how much it  
(2-242)exceeds the desert of Dear Sir your most faithful and obliged

(2-242)ASHESTIEL 16 Sept. 1809.

W. SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO THE HONBLE. WM. SPENCER

(2-243)MY DEAR SPENCER,- Your letter with its kind and  
(2-243)elegant contents reached me two days ago. Your two  
(2-243)pieces are so equally beautiful that I will not permit the  
(2-243)Bookseller to make choice between them but will make  
(2-243)my own option on booksellers principles by chusing the  
(2-243)longest, as I know no better way of deciding upon their  
(2-243)several merits.<sup>1</sup> If you do not chuse to write us long  
(2-243)poems to be sure we must be contented with what you  
(2-243)call vers de societe, on the old principle that beggars must  
(2-243)not be chusers, but it is no difficult task to guess what  
(2-243)you could do een if you would. It was Campbell who  
(2-243)put, me on the trace of the exquisite morceau " Too late  
(2-243)I staid "-he repeated it to me and admired it excessively.

(2-243)The verses to Miss Beckford are truly beautiful. I am  
(2-243)ashamed to have nothing to send you in exchange for so  
(2-243)much exquisite amusement except a sort of nothing

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(2-244)written before I had laid aside violets and lilies for  
(2-244)nightshade and miseltoe. I found it among some old  
(2-244)scraps, and now destined to the Miscellany where it will  
(2-244)be, many thanks to you and other good friends, in much  
(2-244)better company than it deserves.

(2-244)The violet in her greenwood bower  
(2-244)Where bracken boughs with hazels mingle  
(2-244)May boast herself the fairest flower  
(2-244)In glen or copse or forest dingle.

(2-244)Though sweet its gem of azure hue  
(2-244)Beneath the dew-drops weight reclining

(2-244)I've seen an eye of lovelier blue  
(2-244)More sweet through watery lustre shining.

(2-244)The summer sun that dew will dry  
(2-244)Ere yet the day be past its morrow  
(2-244)Nor longer in my false love's eye  
(2-244)Remain'd the tear of parting sorrow.

(2-244)The pretty epigram you give in French is I suspect  
(2-244)untranslatable. We cannot contrast the complexions  
(2-244)without borrowing their word brunette. Our English poets  
(2-244)have (I don't know why) been so partial to fair belles  
(2-244)that we have no one poetical word expressing darker beauty.

(2-244)I wish you would come down among us to Edinburgh  
(2-244)when you publish your book. We would be delighted to  
(2-244)see you, from the lion Jeffrey down to your much obliged.  
(2-244)You have seen Sackerson 1 loose and taken him by the  
(2-244)chain so I need not tell you his literary severity covers an  
(2-244)excellent and friendly heart. I will also tell you all I am  
(2-244)doing and intending to do. Meanwhile I long to see  
(2-244)the book. Adieu-remember me to all who enquire  
(2-244)after me, and believe me most sincerely Your obliged  
(2-244)and affectionate  
WALTER SCOTT

(2-244)ASHESTIEL 16 Sept [1809]

[Sir Alfred J. Law]

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1809      245

TO ROBERT SURTEES.

(2-245)ASHESTIEL BY SELKIRK 17 Sept. 1809

(2-245)MY DEAR SURTEES,-Your obliging favour reached me  
(2-245)I fear too late to be of any use to Sadler, although it

(2-245)leaves me now no doubt that the abode of his father was  
(2-245)that same Tiltey Abbey,<sup>1</sup> which your industry has detected  
(2-245)in the neighbourhood of Hadham in Essex. But I fear  
(2-245)this little spark of light must remain entre nous, and the  
(2-245)world continue in darkness, for Sadler is at length out  
(2-245)of the printer's hands.<sup>2</sup> I have been meditating a letter  
(2-245)to you this some time on the subject of two little tracts  
(2-245)which I have my eye upon, and which I think may be  
(2-245)interesting to you. One is Norton's Address to the  
(2-245)misguided People of her Majestie's Dominions, especially  
(2-245)the Northern Parts. This I take to be that Norton of  
(2-245)Percy's ballad, who says,-

(2-245)Father, you are an aged man,  
(2-245)Your hair is white, your beard is grey ;  
(2-245)It were a shame, at these your years,  
(2-245)For you to rise in such a fray ;  
(2-245)Yet, father, I will wend with you :  
(2-245)Unarmed & naked will I be ;  
(2-245)For he that strikes against the Crown,  
(2-245)Ever an ill-death may he die.

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(2-246)The other is a Letter from Bishop Tunstall to Cardinal  
(2-246)Pole, if I recollect right, upon the subject of the Supremacy.  
(2-246)Let me know if you have, or would wish to have  
(2-246)either of these, or both.  
(2-246)I rejoice in the progress of your demoniacal collection ;  
(2-246)we will have a meeting one day upon the Border, and  
(2-246)compile a system of Daemonology, with the choicest  
(2-246)examples which out-of-the-way reading and hoary-headed  
(2-246)tradition can supply. I can give you the very freshest  
(2-246)tidings of the Bar-Guest, having seen the man who saw  
(2-246)him at York, a day or two after the execution of that  
(2-246)horrid wretch Mary Bateman, the witch and poisoner.

(2-246)Her history (more that of a fiend incarnate than a woman)  
(2-246)had set all the old superstitions afloat; and this fellow,  
(2-246)the footman of Miss Morritt, sister of my friend Morritt,  
(2-246)of Rokeby near Greta-bridge, was favoured with a vision  
(2-246)of the Bar-Guest, in the shape of a black pig. By the  
(2-246)way, what can be the derivation of this uncommon  
(2-246)provincial epithet ? Bahr-geist, in German, would signify  
(2-246)" the bier-spectre " ; but this conveys no good sense in  
(2-246)the present case.

(2-246)I should like very much to hear about the Brown Man  
(2-246)of the North of England ; for I am now reprinting the  
(2-246)Minstrelsy, and should be glad to add a note to "John  
(2-246)Leyden's Cout of Keeldar." And, a-propos of this  
(2-246)undertaking, I have either returned to you by mistake,  
(2-246)or most irretrievably mislaid, poor Ritson's "Raid of  
(2-246)Rookhope." If you will favour me with the loan of your  
(2-246)copy, inclosed by post, I will copy it out, and return it  
(2-246)instantly. I should be the more loth to omit the ballad,  
(2-246)as I have carefully preserved the ample notices with  
(2-246)which you favoured me on the subject, although I have  
(2-246)In some inconceivable way put the ballad aside, where I  
(2-246)cannot find it. There is no hurry about the matter, for  
(2-246)the printing is but just begun.

(2-246)I have been spending some time on the banks of  
(2-246)Lochlomond lately, where I have heard so many stories of

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(2-247)raids, feuds, and creaghs, that they have almost unchained  
(2-247)the devil of rhyme in my poor noddle. I saw an old man,  
(2-247)who had assisted the chief of the MacGregors, called  
(2-247)Them Dhu, or Black-knee, in one of the last forays. He  
(2-247)came down to levy black-mail at the church of Kilmaronnock,  
(2-247)on the verge of the Low-lands, where all the

(2-247)neighbouring farmers were summoned to pay tribute.

(2-247)One man dared to absent himself: his cattle were all

(2-247)driven off the next morning.

(2-247)I will let you know when I form any poetical plan. I

(2-247)have not got my copies of Somers yet, but I have one of

(2-247)the second volume for you when they arrive-I suppose

(2-247)to be left at Rushyford, as before.

(2-247)Mrs. Scott joins me in best compliments to Mrs. Surtees,

(2-247)and in a warm recollection of the hospitality of Mainsforth.

(2-247)Believe me ever, dear Sir, your obliged and

(2-247)faithful,

WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-247)ASHESTIEL, Sept. 26, 1809

(2-247)MY DEAR ELLIS,-Your letter gave me great pleasure,

(2-247)especially the outside, for Canning's frank assured me

(2-247)that his wound was at least not materially serious. So,

(2-247)for once, the envelope of your letter was even more

(2-247)welcome than the contents. That hairbrained Irishman's

(2-247)letter carries absurdity upon the face of it, for surely he

(2-247)would have had much more reason for personal animosity

(2-247)had Canning made the matter public, against the wishes

(2-247)of his uncle, and every other person concerned, than for

(2-247)his consenting, at their request, that it should remain a

(2-247)secret, and leaving it to them to make such communication

(2-247)to Lord C. as they should think proper, and when

(2-247)they should think proper. I am ill situated here for the

(2-247)explanations I would wish to give, but I have forwarded

(2-248)copies of the letters to Lord Dalkeith, a high-spirited and

(2-248)independent young nobleman, in whose opinion Mr.  
(2-248)Canning would, I think, wish to stand well. I have also  
(2-248)taken some measures to prevent the good folks of Edinburgh  
(2-248)from running after any straw that may be thrown  
(2-248)into the wind. I wrote a very hurried note to Mr. G. Ellis  
(2-248)the instant I saw the accident in the papers, not knowing  
(2-248)exactly where you might be, and trusting he would  
(2-248)excuse my extreme anxiety and solicitude upon the  
(2-248)occasion.<sup>1</sup>

(2-248)I see, among other reports, that my friend, Robert  
(2-248)Dundas, is mentioned as Secretary at War. I confess I  
(2-248)shall be both vexed and disappointed if he, of whose  
(2-248)talents and opinions I think very highly, should be  
(2-248)prevailed on to embark in so patched and crazy a vessel  
(2-248)as can now be lashed together, and that upon a sea which  
(2-248)promises to be sufficiently boisterous. My own hopes of  
(2-248)every kind are as low as the heels of my boots, and  
(2-248)methinks I would say to any friend of mine as Tybalt  
(2-248)says to Benvolio-" What! art thou drawn among these  
(2-248)heartless hinds ? " 2 I suppose the Doctor will be move the  
(2-248)first, and then the Whigs will come in like a land-flood,  
(2-248)and lay the country at the feet of Buonaparte for peace.  
(2-248)This, if his devil does not fail, he will readily patch up, and  
(2-248)send a few hundred thousands among our coach-driving  
(2-248)Noblesse, and perhaps among our Princes of the Blood.  
(2-248)With the influence acquired by such gages d'amitie, and  
(2-248)by ostentatious hospitality at his court to all those idiots  
(2-248)who will forget the rat-trap of the detenus, and crowd  
(2-248)there for novelty, there will be, in the course of five or

(2-249)six years, what we have never yet seen, a real French  
(2-249)party in this country. To this you are to add all the  
(2-249)Burdettites, men who, rather than want combustibles,

(2-249)will fetch brimstone from hell. It is not these whom I  
(2-249)fear, however-it is the vile and degrading spirit of  
(2-249)egoisme so prevalent among the higher ranks, especially  
(2-249)among the highest. God forgive me if I do them  
(2-249)injustice, but I think champagne duty free would go a  
(2-249)great way to seduce some of them ; and is it not a strong  
(2-249)symptom when people, knowing and feeling their own  
(2-249)weakness, will, from mere selfishness and pride, suffer the  
(2-249)vessel to drive on the shelves, rather than she should be  
(2-249)saved by the only pilot capable of the task ? I will be  
(2-249)much obliged to you to let me know what is likely to  
(2-249)be done-whether any fight can yet be made, or if all is  
(2-249)over. Lord Melville had been furious for some time  
(2-249)against this Administration-I think he will hardly lend  
(2-249)a hand to clear the wreck. I should think, if Marquis  
(2-249)Wellesley returns, he might form a steady Administration ;  
(2-249)but God wot, he must condemn most of the present  
(2-249)rotten planks before he can lay down the new vessel.  
(2-249)Above all, let me know how Canning's recovery goes on.  
(2-249)We must think what is to be done about the Review.  
(2-249)Ever yours truly,

(2-249)W. S.

[Lockhart]

TO JAMES MOORE 1

(2-249)SIR,-I am just honoured with your letter and have  
(2-249)the disadvantage of not being qualified to enter into

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LETTERS OF

1809

(2-250)the subject to which it relates having perused none  
(2-250)of the publications concerning the late ill fated affair in  
(2-250)the North of Spain. This has not arisen from any  
(2-250)indifference upon the topic but rather to the very painful

(2-250)interest which I must feel in a discussion on which after  
(2-250)all I am not very competent to form an opinion.

(2-250)I am neither responsible for the article in the Qy.  
(2-250)Review which you complain of, nor have I means of  
(2-250)exercising any controul over that publication with which I  
(2-250)am no[t] otherwise connected than as an occasional and rare  
(2-250)contributor. My personal acquaintance with the Editor  
(2-250)and one or two of the Gentlemen concernd frees them  
(2-250)from deserving the injurious epithet which your warmth  
(2-250)has hastily bestowd upon them and I might have  
(2-250)enlarged upon its injustice did not the cause of your  
(2-250)irritation claim sympathy and allowance. Had your  
(2-250)description been in any degree applicable I should not  
(2-250)have waited for the admonition of a gentleman to whom  
(2-250)I have not the honour to be known to break off all  
(2-250)connection with them not merely as reviewers a very  
(2-250)slender bond of union but as private friends. As I  
(2-250)should feel this no slight sacrifice whether their talents  
(2-250)or the length of our intimacy be considerd I am happy  
(2-250)to say the present circumstances do not appear to me to  
(2-250)demand it. With thanks for your expressions of personal  
(2-250)consideration I have the honor to be Sir Your most  
(2-250)obedient Servant

(2-250)WALTER SCOTT

(2-250)ASHESTIEL 3d October 1809

[Walpole Collection]

251            1809            SIR WALTER SCOTT

TO SAMUEL ROGERS

(2-251)ACCEPT my best thanks, my dear Rogers, for your  
(2-251)letter with the beautiful enclosure, a delightful though a

(2-251)melancholy tribute to the fate of poor Mrs. Duff,<sup>1</sup> with  
(2-251)whom I had the pleasure of being acquainted. I dined  
(2-251)in company with her during the time that the hidden  
(2-251)infection was in her veins, and have often since reflected  
(2-251)upon her manner and conversation during the course of  
(2-251)that day. She mentioned the story of the dog repeatedly  
(2-251)(indeed it seemed to hang on her spirits) but never dropt  
(2-251)the slightest hint of his having bitten or rather razed the  
(2-251)skin other face. It is a melancholy recollection and your  
(2-251)pathetic verses have awakened it very strongly. Many  
(2-251)thanks to you however for the gratification they have  
(2-251)afforded me though chastened by these sad reflections.

(2-251)I rejoice to hear that you are coming forth soon, I hope  
(2-251)your little jewel the Columbiad is at length to be drawn  
(2-251)out of the portfolio and given to the press. I also hope to  
(2-251)meet with another old and admired acquaintance the  
(2-251)copy of verses addressed to Miss Crewe when she lost two  
(2-251)notes of her voice in our rude climate. Pray do not  
(2-251)linger too long over your proof sheets but let us soon see  
(2-251)what we have long longed to see. I have been deeply  
(2-251)concerned for Mr. Canning's wound : he is one of the few,  
(2-251)very few statesmen who unite an ardent spirit of patriotism  
(2-251)to the talents necessary to render that living spirit efficient  
(2-251)& I don't see how the present ministry can stand without  
(2-251)him-these however would be the least of my regrets were  
(2-251)I certain that his health was restored.

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(2-252)The weather here has been dreary, indeed, seldom  
(2-252)two good days in continuance and though never much  
(2-252)afraid of rain in any moderate quantity, I have been  
(2-252)almost obliged like Hamlet to forego a custom of my  
(2-252)exercise and amuse myself within doors the best way I  
(2-252)can. In the course of which seclusion I have of course

(2-252)blotted much paper-believe me dear Rogers ever your  
(2-252)truly obliged WALTER SCOTT

(2-252)ASHESTIEL 4th October [1809]  
[Abbotsford Copies and Rogers and his Contemporaries]

TO THE REV. E. BERWICK

(2-252)MY DEAR SIR,-I must not long delay to acknowledge  
(2-252)the receipt of your most interesting and curious packet-  
(2-252)containing notes on the Legion Club throwing a most  
(2-252)brilliant light upon that most obscure satire. I should  
(2-252)not despair to render my edition truly valuable could I  
(2-252)but secure a few glimpses of such illumination. I think  
(2-252)but am very far from being certain that the Earl of  
(2-252)Dorsets adventure with Miss Dupasse is alluded to in the  
(2-252)Essay on satire in some such couplet as this-

(2-252)So Dorset purring like a thoughtful cat  
(2-252)Married-but wiser Puss ne'er thought of that.

(2-252)The poem was you know written by Mulgrave afterwards  
(2-252)John Sheffield Duke of Buckinghamshire and corrected  
(2-252)by Dryden who was way laid and Beaten by three hired  
(2-252)ruffians for his supposed share in it. I will not fail to  
(2-252)consult the book whenever I reach Edinburgh whither  
(2-252)I intend to return for the winter in the course of a  
(2-252)fortnight. If you come to London as you seem to intend  
(2-252)pray let me know by a line how I shall address you there.  
(2-252)I am plagued with the arrival of Company & have just  
(2-252)time to say I am with sentiments of sincere obligation  
(2-252)your obliged and grateful W. SCOTT

(2-252)ASHESTIEL 11th October 1809  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-253)SINCE I had the honour to write to you my dear Miss  
(2-253)Baillie I have had some further discussion with Mr.  
(2-253)Siddons our manager upon the subject of the family  
(2-253)Legend with which I am more delighted upon every  
(2-253)perusal. I have the enclosed letter from him on the  
(2-253)subject of the unrighteous mammon but I have given him  
(2-253)plainly to understand that although in the event of the  
(2-253)success of the piece being (from a stupidity of which I  
(2-253)cannot suppose an audience capable) such as barely to  
(2-253)recompense his outlay with some little profit, I do not  
(2-253)think you would wish to diminish it, yet that if as I hoped  
(2-253)and expected the run should be such as the piece deserved  
(2-253)I would by no means depart from your just title to a share  
(2-253)at least of the advantage such run might secure him. In  
(2-253)this I have no doubt of his acquiescing although from the  
(2-253)theatre which is temporary being of a very small size  
(2-253)I fear the utmost will fall greatly under what I formerly  
(2-253)supposed. I find that 300 is all that they give for a  
(2-253)new piece at Drury or Covent Garden so that the players  
(2-253)are even worse than the booksellers to the unhappy  
(2-253)authors.

(2-253)To go to what you will be more interested in-After  
(2-253)great consultation and the best means of enquiry being  
(2-253)resorted to, W. Erskine and I have definitively come to be  
(2-253)of opinion that the actual name MacLean must be  
(2-253)drop'd. The highland prejudices are still glowing  
(2-253)though in embers and we really find it would be most  
(2-253)unsafe to venture upon what a numerous and hot-headed  
(2-253)clan might though most unjustly take in Dudgeon. We  
(2-253)submit therefore that the Chief may be called Duart  
(2-253)(actually the name of his property) & the Clan either Clan

(2-253)Gillian or isles-men or Mull-men or any other substitute.

(2-253)The reality might be in this manner preserved while at

(2-253)the same time it was so thrown into shade as to give no

254                    LETTERS        OF                    1809

(2-254)offence to modern Macleans.<sup>1</sup> From the want of tolerable

(2-254)actors one or two subordinate parts must be thrown

(2-254)together but this as a matter of temporary necessity we

(2-254)may be able to arrange.

(2-254)It strikes me that Alien of Dara whose recall from

(2-254)banishment so strikingly marks Macleans character

(2-254)ought to be one of the vassals who leave Ellen on the Rock.

(2-254)I have some fear also that the scene in the cavern is

(2-254)rather long chiefly because the same arguments of

(2-254)superstitious potency which are used to seduce the

(2-254)vassals are necessarily repeated to the Chief-perhaps

(2-254)they might be abridged in the first instance. For a

(2-254)different reason there will be difficulty in introducing the

(2-254)shrieks of the seer and the piper at Argyles chamber door

(2-254)though both incidents are highly in character and read

(2-254)most admirably. But when a ludicrous effect may easily

(2-254)be produced by the stupidity of a low actor or by his

(2-254)willful buffoonery it is dangerous to lead him into

(2-254)temptation. The dying scream of Polonius and the

(2-254)crowing of the cock in Hamlet never fail to be greeted

(2-254)by the laughter of the audience.

(2-254)I do not make any apology my dear and admired friend

(2-254)for these observations which are dictated by my most

(2-254)anxious wish that the action may be as successful as

(2-254)possible. If being able to repeat the play were sufficient

(2-254)qualification I could act any character in it myself. And

(2-254)the oftener I have read it over the more I admire it. I

(2-255)read it last week to a plain sensible worthy couple who  
(2-255)make no pretence either to literature or sentiment but  
(2-255)rather consider such things as a bore and they were both  
(2-255)in tears at many passages and obviously much interested  
(2-255)and delighted with the whole.

(2-255)Mrs. Scott joins in kind compliments to Miss Baillie and  
(2-255)I ever am My dear Madam your honourd and obliged

(2-255)W. SCOTT

(2-255)ASHESTIEL 13 October [1809]

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO THE REV. MR. BERWICK

(2-255)My DEAR SIR,-Your invaluable notes on the Legion  
(2-255)Club<sup>1</sup> came safely here but owing to my absence on a tour  
(2-255)of visits, I did not receive them till a few days ago when  
(2-255)I immediately wrote to Ireland a letter which I doubt  
(2-255)not you will receive in due time containing the warmest  
(2-255)expressions of grateful thanks as so great a favour really  
(2-255)deserved. I understand from Mr. Walker that you are  
(2-255)about to favour the public with a translation of the life of  
(2-255)Appollonius of Tyanea<sup>2</sup> which has set me upon the pinnacle  
(2-255)of expectation, for you know I am a great admirer of  
(2-255)wizards, second sighted seers and all the gifted class of  
(2-255)soothsayers to which I believe your hero is sometimes  
(2-255)referred-when am I to hope for gratification ?

(2-255)Since you are in Great Britain might you not as well  
(2-255)return to green Erin by the Caledonian Desert of Hills.  
(2-255)Nothing would give me more pleasure than to have a  
(2-255)personal opportunity to express my gratitude to you and

(2-255)if at Edinburgh you can be contented with a Chamber in  
(2-255)the Wall (for my family has nearly outgrown my house)  
(2-255)we would try whether a very warm welcome would  
(2-255)extend its dimensions in fancy at least. We have  
(2-255)Manuscripts &c in the Advocates Library worth your

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(2-256)inspection and of living Lions you should see authors  
(2-256)and reviewers without end-you shall see even Jefferies  
(2-256)himself as Slender says of Sackerson-loose and take him  
(2-256)by the chain. I shall still be here for a week or two but I  
(2-256)suppose you will not at all events leave London soon  
(2-256)enough to find me on the banks of the Tweed- I had a  
(2-256)letter some days ago from Miss White safe on the Banks of  
(2-256)Killarney- Pray think of my petition and believe me  
(2-256)very truly your obliged and grateful                    W. SCOTT

(2-256)ASHESTIEL 14th October 1809

(2-256)The notes on the Legion Club are invaluable and clear  
(2-256)up some points which I thought impenetrably wrapt in  
(2-256)obscurity.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES MOORE

(2-256)SIR,-I am honoured with your letter & am sorry I  
(2-256)should in any respect have misunderstood the purport  
(2-256)of your former favour. My answer was founded on the  
(2-256)idea (however erroneous) of your having supposed that  
(2-256)I had in any degree connected myself with such a publication  
(2-256)as the Qy. Revw. without knowing that it was to  
(2-256)be supported by persons whose character might be a  
(2-256)warrant for its general tendency. At the same time it

(2-256)can hardly be supposed that I should guarantee the  
(2-256)opinions & statements which each article may happen to  
(2-256)contain for which the respective authors as well as the  
(2-256)editor (respectable as you know him to be) are individually  
(2-256)& exclusively responsible.

(2-256)I cannot conclude this correspondence without assuring  
(2-256)you that no man in Scotland connected by relation or  
(2-256)friendship could regret the fate of General Moore more  
(2-256)deeply & truly than Sir

[unsigned] [WALTER SCOTT]

(2-256)ASHESTIEL 17 Octr. [1809]

[Walpole Collection]

SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1809                      257

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-257)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE,-On receiving your long kind  
(2-257)and most wellcome letter yesterday I sought out Siddons  
(2-257)who was equally surprized and delighted at your liberal  
(2-257)arrangement about the Lady of the Rock. I caused  
(2-257)him send me the three first acts which he had got transcribed  
(2-257)after his own fancy using the pruning knife or  
(2-257)rather the tomahawk a little more than I think he needed  
(2-257)to have done. He is quite docile however to any thing  
(2-257)you wish, and when you have given the sheets your final  
(2-257)correction you can return them to me by sending them  
(2-257)under cover to Mr. Freling of the General post office  
(2-257)who through the interference of our kind Mr. Coxe is  
(2-257)good enough to enclose a packet for me now and then.  
(2-257)I understand the scope of Siddons alterations and  
(2-257)transpositions respects the conspirators, for having only two

(2-257)persons whom he can trust to in that department he says  
(2-257)he is forced from mere necessity to reduce Glenfadden to  
(2-257)a walking gentleman of little more importance than Elliot  
(2-257)or Durand in Venice preserved. How he has accomplishd  
(2-257)his transpositions I have not leisure to examine  
(2-257)minutely as I am anxious the sheets should reach you as  
(2-257)soon as possible. I understand he proposes no alteration  
(2-257)in the IV and V acts excepting in one place where he  
(2-257)transposes a few words to prevent an inaccuracy in the  
(2-257)action. It is where Argyle retires after receiving his  
(2-257)daughter to compose his spirits and immediately afterwards  
(2-257)re-appears in the garden which Siddons thinks and  
(2-257)justly would have a bad effect on the stage and be rather  
(2-257)too markd a transgression of the unity of time. A similar  
(2-257)fault occurs in the third Act where De Grey takes leave  
(2-257)of the fisherman upon the second island and a moment  
(2-257)afterwards appears on the mainland but I fear there is no  
(2-257)help for this. I will put all the names to rights and retain  
(2-257)enough of locality and personality to please the Antiquary

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(2-258)without the least risque of bringing Clan Gillian about  
(2-258)our ears.

(2-258)I went through the theatre which is the most complete  
(2-258)little thing I ever saw of the kind elegantly fitted up and  
(2-258)sufficiently large for every purpose. I trust with you  
(2-258)that our Scotch poverty may in this as in other cases be  
(2-258)a counter-balance to our Scotch pride and that we shall  
(2-258)not need in my time a larger or more expensive building.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-258)Siddons himself observes that even for the purposes of  
(2-258)show (so paramount nowadays) a moderate stage is  
(2-258)better fitted than a large one because the machinery is  
(2-258)pliable and manageable in proportion to its size. With  
(2-258)regard to the equipment of the Family Legend I have

(2-258)been much diverted with a discovery which I have made.  
(2-258)I had occasion to visit our Lord Provost (by profession a  
(2-258)stocking weaver) and was surprized to find the worthy  
(2-258)Magistrate filld with a new-born zeal for the drama-  
(2-258)he spoke of Mr. Siddons merits with enthusiasm and of  
(2-258)Miss Baillies powers almost with tears of rapture. Being  
(2-258)a curious investigator of cause and effect I never rested  
(2-258)untill I found out that this theatric rage which had seized  
(2-258)his Lordship of a sudden was owing to a large order for  
(2-258)hose, pantaloons and plaids for equipping the rival clans  
(2-258)of Campbell and Maclean, and which Siddons was  
(2-258)sensible enough to send to the warehouse of our excellent  
(2-258)provost.

(2-258)I am happy to find that your summer has been so  
(2-258)well employd. I have heard much of Devonshire and  
(2-258)hope one day to see a country which could afford you  
(2-258)so much pleasure.

(2-258)You will do me the greatest pleasure possible by your  
(2-258)kind intercession with Mrs. Hunter in favour of the  
(2-258)miscellany in which I am a good deal interested, and I  
(2-258)am delighted with your promise of the kitten which I  
(2-258)shall expect with impatience. There is a beautiful copy  
(2-258)of verses of yours to a Welch tune in Thomsons collection.

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1809            259

(2-259)Do you feel them so much at your disposal as to permit us  
(2-259)to insert them. We could mention where the music is to  
(2-259)be found and I think it would rather assist Thomsons  
(2-259)work than otherwise. Pray remember me kindly to Mrs.  
(2-259)Hunter when you forward my request. As a Sandiknow  
(2-259)bairn I hope she will allow me some influence with her.1

(2-259)Miss A. Baillie is I hope quite well and has gathered as

(2-259)many historical anecdotes as you must have found poetic  
(2-259)ideals in the dales of Devonshire. Charlotte joins in  
(2-259)kindest remembrances to her and to Dr. and Mrs. Baillie  
(2-259)whom we were grieved not to see. We had much kindness  
(2-259)to acknowlege and only can hope for some future  
(2-259)opportunity of shewing our sincere sense of it. I had the  
(2-259)pleasure to see Miss Graham when I was at Killermont  
(2-259)to bring home the Laird. He is just gone to the High  
(2-259)School and it is with inexpressible feeling that I hear him  
(2-259)trying to babble the first words of Latin ; the signal of  
(2-259)commencing serious study for his acquirements hitherto  
(2-259)have been under the mild dominion of a governess. I felt  
(2-259)very like Leontes

(2-259)Looking on the lines  
(2-259)Of my boy's face, methought I did recoil  
(2-259)Thirty good years- 2

(2-259)And O my dear Miss Baillie what a tale thirty years  
(2-259)can tell even in an uniform and unhazardous course of

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(2-260)life. How much I have reapd that I have never sown  
(2-260)and sown that I have never reapd. Always I shall  
(2-260)think it one of the proudest and happiest circumstances  
(2-260)of my life that enables me to subscribe myself your  
(2-260)faithful and affectionate friend

(2-260)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-260)EDINR. 27 October.

(2-260)P.S.-We think the Family Legend should come on the  
(2-260)stage in January when the town is full and before the  
(2-260)dancing parties commence. I would willingly attempt a  
(2-260)prologue did I not fear that it is a kind of thing in which I

(2-260)may fall short. What shall we do for an epilogue. The  
(2-260)Speech of Argyle which is rather too long if addressed to  
(2-260)the persons of the drama might if spoken to the audience  
(2-260)answer the purpose of an epilogue.

[1809] in Joanna Baillie's hand.

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

(2-260)Oct. 27 1809. EDINBURGH

(2-260)IT is neither Ingratitude nor Forgetfulness, my dear  
(2-260)Mrs Clephane, which has kept me so long silent, but that  
(2-260)foul fiend Procrastination, which has some times the  
(2-260)aspect of the first, and always the laziness of the other ;  
(2-260)without, I hope the more odious qualities of either-  
(2-260)Why we should wish to put off till tomorrow that which  
(2-260)most we wish to do would be something difficult to  
(2-260)conjecture, were there not riddles in our nature more  
(2-260)worth solving, and as difficult to answer-I will flatter  
(2-260)myself however, that you and my dear young friends  
(2-260)sometimes think of me, and without more anger than  
(2-260)may justly be bestowed upon a very lazy fellow, who is  
(2-260)daily thinking of your fireside, without having resolution  
(2-260)to embody his enquiries and kind wishes in a piece of

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1809

SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-261)square folded paper. I have little to plead from serious  
(2-261)occupation, for my autumn has been idly enough spent,  
(2-261)heaven knows. I wandered however as far as Loch  
(2-261)Lomond, and with difficulty checked myself from  
(2-261)wandering farther and farther. I think the main dragchain  
(2-261)was that I could not hope to find you in Mull, and  
(2-261)consequently must forego all hopes of learning Gaelic,

(2-261)and acquiring the traditional information with which I  
 (2-261)should otherwise expect to be delighted. I have besides  
 (2-261)still my Highland Epic in view-I have indeed begun to  
 (2-261)skirmish a little upon the frontiers of Perthshire and  
 (2-261)Lennox, into which I was led by the romantic scenery,  
 (2-261)the number of strange stories connected with it, and  
 (2-261)above all, by the inveterate [habit] of coupling the lines  
 (2-261)together by jingling rhymes, as I used to couple spaniels  
 (2-261)in sporting days- But I reserve my grand effort till  
 (2-261)I should know a little more of the language, and above all,  
 (2-261)till I can have the honour of visiting you in your lovely  
 (2-261)isle. The Douglasses enter a good deal into my present  
 (2-261)sketches which I have some thoughts of working into a  
 (2-261)romance, or romantic poem, to be called the Lady of the  
 (2-261)Lake. It will, should I find time to continue my plan,  
 (2-261)contain a good many lyrical pieces. As to the rest, I have  
 (2-261)been idle as comfortably as a man can be, when there  
 (2-261)is no sun on the brae, and no fire in the chimney, one or  
 (2-261)other of which I hold to be indispensable to the pleasures  
 (2-261)of indolence. Among other attempts to supply the want  
 (2-261)of their exhilarating influence one of the happiest has  
 (2-261)been to let my little Sophia crune over Montrose's Lines  
 (2-261)and hope I might one day introduce her to the young  
 (2-261)songstresses who introduced them to me in their musical  
 (2-261)dress. My little boy is just entered at the High School  
 (2-261)and my imagination like that of Leontes in the Winter's  
 (2-261)Tale is running thirty years back and recollecting when  
 (2-261)I first crept swinging my satchel through George's  
 (2-261)Square with Robert Dundas to learn tasks to which I  
 (2-261)could annex neither idea nor utility. I don't [know]

(2-262)why it is that the first words I heard him attempt of the  
 (2-262)Latin Grammar should have made such a powerful and  
 (2-262)melancholy impression on me, but it has reigned several

(2-262)days to the exclusion of others- This is a Papa's tale,  
(2-262)but you are a mamma, and therefore a safe confidante in  
(2-262)so important a matter.

(2-262)You cannot seriously suppose that I am anything less  
(2-262)than delighted with Miss Margaret's remembering and  
(2-262)writing to me-I am not greatly apprehensive of what is  
(2-262)usually called spoiling even children, much more young  
(2-262)people of her excellent talents and disposition. Undue  
(2-262)indulgence in pursuits or habits of a tendency to weaken  
(2-262)the judgement or dissipate reflection or blunt the  
(2-262)feelings is a high imprudence, or rather crime in the  
(2-262)Guardians of youth. But Youth is the season of frank and  
(2-262)confidential intercourse and of a thirst after information  
(2-262)which cannot be acquired without it. If this is interdicted  
(2-262)by the parent or friend how many instances do  
(2-262)we see of its seeking a more dangerous channel, and  
(2-262)where at all events can it find one so fit and natural.  
(2-262)In permitting Miss Clephane to indulge [me] with her  
(2-262)correspondence, you pay me the highest compliment, as  
(2-262)well as do me the greatest pleasure. I enclose a few  
(2-262)lines to thank her for all her kind communications.

(2-262)I had a letter today from Lady Hood enquiring if I  
(2-262)were dead or alive, and have just given her an unmerciful  
(2-262)proof of my being alive and, contrary to the proverb not  
(2-262)merry, in a letter as long and as dull as this. Sir Samuel  
(2-262)I find is just going to the Mediterranean.

(2-262)Mrs. Scott tells me she met Lady Clerk, who is going  
(2-262)soon on a visit to you-Charlotte sends her kind compliments  
(2-262)to you and the young ladies, and I am ever dear  
(2-262)Mrs. Clephane, Your faithful and obliged humble servant

(2-262)W. SCOTT  
[Northampton]

## TO MISS CLEPHANE

(2-263)YOUR kind letter my dear Miss Clephane has been  
(2-263)greatly too long a heavy burden on my conscience but  
(2-263)I should be truly unfortunate if those whose esteem I  
(2-263)value should judge of my regard by the regularity of  
(2-263)my correspondence. I have been spelling the traditions  
(2-263)and my little Sophia has been spelling the tune of  
(2-263)Montroses lines and now sings them pretty well for a  
(2-263)little marmoset whose voice is not yet quite in tune.  
(2-263>Your lines from Coeur de Lions lament are very well  
(2-263)turn'd indeed and with this great mark of excellent  
(2-263)taste that you have brought forward in your version  
(2-263)the most striking and affecting touches of the original.  
(2-263)I wish you would favour me with a copy of the beautiful  
(2-263)lines which you composed in your rocky pulpit overhanging  
(2-263)the Ocean in Mull. I thought them extremely  
(2-263)beautiful and they shall not go further than the private  
(2-263)drawer of my writing desk. To bribe you to compliance  
(2-263)I send you Queen Oracca which is printed in a little  
(2-263)selection of poetry now in the press which will contain  
(2-263)some pretty and unpublished poetry. I don't know how  
(2-263)it is but I can't fancy it so much in printing as I did in  
(2-263)recitation. The anonymous hunting song which accompanies  
(2-263)Queen Oracca is by your friend ; perhaps you  
(2-263)may be able to find a tune for it.-Nothing will give me  
(2-263)more pleasure than an opportunity to visit Torloisk and  
(2-263)if Mrs. Clephane make it her residence next Summer I  
(2-263)have strong hopes of putting myself to school to you in  
(2-263)the Gaelic though I fear I should but disgrace my  
(2-263)teacher. I have not the facility of acquiring languages  
(2-263)which I once possessed but I will promise to make up in  
(2-263)docility what I want in acuteness. I was bred up in

(2-263)great veneration for the Highlands in which my father  
(2-263)had many friends though I believe no relations. One of  
(2-263)our most constant visitors while I was a boy was old  
(2-263)Stuart of Invernahyle Brother in law to the last Appin

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(2-264)of that name. He was an enthusiastic Highlander and  
(2-264)had followed the standard of Charles Edwd. in 1745 and  
(2-264)of his father in 1715. Hence his memory was stord with  
(2-264)stories of these unfortunate campaigns as well as of older  
(2-264)times. These he was as fond of telling as I was of  
(2-264)listening to them for you must know that in my youth I  
(2-264)was of a very martial humour and like uncle Toby never  
(2-264)heard a drum beat but my heart beat with it. And had  
(2-264)I no other reason (as I have many) I should love the  
(2-264)accent of a highlander for the sake of this narrative old  
(2-264)warrior.

(2-264)Our Highland Legend is to be playd here in January.  
(2-264)We have disguised names etc. so as without altogether  
(2-264)destroying the locality of the places we shall not I hope  
(2-264)affront the ardent spirit of the Macleanes. We have got  
(2-264)a beautiful little theatre late Corrie's rooms where I hope  
(2-264)the insulted genius of the Drama will retire from the  
(2-264)disgusting and riotous scenes which have disgraced her  
(2-264)temple in the Metropolis.

(2-264)I must not forget to say I know Col. Douglas of  
(2-264)Strathendrie a little yet well enough to verify your  
(2-264)interesting portrait. His son David Douglas was my old  
(2-264)school and college companion and we still remain  
(2-264)friends though meeting less frequently owing to those  
(2-264)circumstances of connexion and cash which sometimes  
(2-264)cool early intimacy in the course of life. I have been  
(2-264)amusing myself with trying to scratch out a Douglas tale

(2-264)but this is only for your own ear and family as I have  
(2-264)not formed any serious intention of combining or  
(2-264)systematizing the parts I have written.

(2-264)The song which Campbell gave you is I think in Ritsons  
(2-264)Ancient Songs. I have lent the book and it is scarce as most  
(2-264)of his numerous collections have now become. But I  
(2-264)will recall it and you shall have the ditty apparelled as  
(2-264)Sir Philip Sidney says in the dust and cobwebs of antiquity  
(2-264)so soon as I write again. How does the Italian advance ?  
(2-264)and what is the harp saying in reply to your fingers and

265                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1809

(2-265)your sisters. Mrs. Scott joins me in best Compliments to  
(2-265)you all and I ever am dear Miss Clephane your very  
(2-265)respectful and faithful friend and servant

(2-265)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-265)EDINR. 27 October 1809

[Northampton]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-265)30 October 1809

(2-265)SIR,-I am favoured with your letter & have heard from  
(2-265)Mr. John Ballantyne the handsome manner in which  
(2-265)you received the communication which he made you  
(2-265)with my knowledge & concurrence. As you were about to  
(2-265)reprint Marmion (a work for which you had in every way  
(2-265)paid liberally) & in doing so with Mr. Ballantyne were  
(2-265)sacrificing perhaps your own feelings to my understood  
(2-265)wishes I could not but take your conduct handsomely &  
(2-265)it occurred to me as the only means of acknowledgement



(2-266)valuable information on the subject of Sadler which  
(2-266)perhaps the proprietors may think ought to be acknowledged  
(2-266)by the present of a copy.

(2-266)Mr. Surtees of Mainsforth by Rushieford Durham  
(2-266)Mr. Vernon Sadler of Southampton  
(2-266)Mr. Henry White of Lichfield  
(2-266)Mr. Sadler of Seabank near Swords Ireland

(2-266)Since the book was printed off, some curious particulars  
(2-266)have occurred respecting Sir Ralph Sadler, which if Mess.  
(2-266)Constable & Co think proper may be yet printed in an  
(2-266)additional leaf to the Life which is numbered in a different  
(2-266)series of paging from the State papers-But this cannot  
(2-266)be done before the 11th. instant when Mr. Scott will be  
(2-266)in Castle Street & will expect to hear by a card whether  
(2-266)Mr. Constable thinks this will be adviseable- 1

(2-266)ASHESTIEL Monday

(2-266)Mr. Archibald Constable, Bookseller Edinburgh  
[Stevenson]

TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-266)ASHESTIEL, Nov. 3, 1809

(2-266)MY DEAR ELLIS,-I had your letter some time ago,  
(2-266)which gave me less comfort in the present public

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(2-267)emergency than your letters usually do. Frankly, I see great  
(2-267)doubts, not to say an impossibility, of Canning's attaining  
(2-267)that rank among the Opposition which will enable him  
(2-267)to command the use of their shoulders to place him where

(2-267)-you cannot be more convinced than I am-he is  
(2-267)entitled to stand. The condottieri of the Grenvilles,-for  
(2-267)they have no political principles, and therefore no political  
(2-267)party, detached from their immense influence over  
(2-267)individuals,-will hardly be seduced from their standard  
(2-267)to that of Canning, by an eloquence which has been  
(2-267)exerted upon them in vain, even when they might have  
(2-267)hoped to be gainers by listening to it. The soi-disant  
(2-267)Whigs stick together like burs. The ragged regiment of  
(2-267)Burdett and Folkstone is under yet stricter discipline, for  
(2-267)you may have observed that no lover was ever so jealous  
(2-267)of his mistress as Sir Francis is of his mob popularity-  
(2-267)witness the fate of Paull, Tierney, even Wardle ; in short,  
(2-267)of whomsoever presumed to rival the brazen image whom  
(2-267)the mob of Westminster has set up. That either, or both  
(2-267)of these parties, will be delighted with the accession of  
(2-267)our friend's wisdom and eloquence, cannot for a moment  
(2-267)be disputed. That the Grenvilles, in particular, did he  
(2-267)only propose to himself a slice of the great pudding, would  
(2-267)allow him to help himself where the plums lie thickest,  
(2-267)cannot be doubted. But I think it is very doubtful

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(2-268)whether they, closely banded and confident of triumph  
(2-268)as they at present are, will accept of a colleague upon  
(2-268)terms which would make him a master; and unless  
(2-268)Canning has these, it appears to me that we (the Republic)  
(2-268)should be no better than if he had retained his office in  
(2-268)the present, or rather late. Administration. But how far,  
(2-268)in throwing himself altogether into the arms of Opposition  
(2-268)at this crisis. Canning will injure himself with the large  
(2-268)and sound party who profess Pittism, is, I really think,  
(2-268)worthy of consideration. The influence of his name is  
(2-268)at present as great as you or I could wish it; but those  
(2-268)who wish to undermine it want but, according to our

(2-268)Scottish proverb, " a hair to make a tether of." I admit  
(2-268)his hand is very difficult to play, and much as I love and  
(2-268)admire him, I am most interested because it is the  
(2-268)decided interest of his country, that he should pique,  
(2-268)repique, and capot his antagonists. But you know much  
(2-268)of the delicacy of the game lies in discarding-so I hope he  
(2-268)will be in no hurry on throwing out his cards.

(2-268)I am the more anxious on this score, because I feel an  
(2-268)internal conviction that neither Marquis Wellesley nor  
(2-268)Lord Melville will lend their names to bolster out this  
(2-268)rump of an Administration. Symptoms of this are said  
(2-268)to have transpired in Scotland, but in this retirement I  
(2-268)cannot learn upon what authority. Should this prove so,  
(2-268)I confess my best wishes would be realized, because I  
(2-268)cannot see how Percival could avoid surrendering at  
(2-268)discretion, and taking, perhaps, a peerage. We should  
(2-268)then have an Administration d la Pitt, which is a much  
(2-268)better thing than an Opposition, howsoever conducted  
(2-268)or headed, which, like a wave of the sea, forms indeed but  
(2-268)a single body when it is rolling towards the shore, but  
(2-268)dashes into foam and dispersion the instant it reaches its  
(2-268)object. Should Canning and the above-named noble  
(2-268)peers come to understand each other, joined to all among  
(2-268)the present Ministry whom their native good sense, and an  
(2-268)attachment to good warm places, will lead to hear reason,

(2-269)it does seem to me that we might form a deeper front to  
(2-269)the enemy than we have presented since the death of  
(2-269)Pitt, or rather since the dissolution of his first Administration.  
(2-269)But if this be a dream, as it may very probably be,  
(2-269)I still hope Canning will take his own ground in Parliament,  
(2-269)and hoist his own standard. Sooner or later it must  
(2-269)be successful. So much for politics-about which, after

(2-269)all, my neighbours the blackcocks know about as much  
(2-269)as I do.

(2-269)I have a great deal to write you about a new poem  
(2-269)which I have on the anvil-also, upon the melancholy  
(2-269)death of a favourite greyhound bitch-rest her body,  
(2-269)since I dare not say soul ! She was of high blood and  
(2-269)excellent promise. Should any of your sporting friends  
(2-269)have a whelp to spare, of a good kind, and of the female  
(2-269)sex, I would be grateful beyond measure, especially if she  
(2-269)has had the distemper. As I have quite laid aside the  
(2-269)gun, coursing is my only and constant amusement, and  
(2-269)my valued pair of four-legged champions, Douglas and  
(2-269)Percy, wax old and unfeary. Ever yours truly,

(2-269)W. S.  
[Lockhart]

#### TO LADY LOUISA STUART

(2-269)DEAR LADY LOUISA,-I was still lingering here like the  
(2-269)withered leaves till the last blasts of autumn shall blow us  
(2-269)to town when I was honoured with your remembrance.  
(2-269)Depend upon it Charlotte and I will be most happy and  
(2-269)honoured in knowing any one whom your Ladyship  
(2-269)values and will take an early opportunity to avail our-  
(2-269)selves of your kind introduction to Mrs. Waddington so  
(2-269)soon as we get to Edinr. which will be next week- The  
(2-269)business of the Parliamentary Commission has made it  
(2-269)necessary I should remain within call all this season and  
(2-269)consequently broke off all hopes of visiting Bothwell

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(2-270)which I had much at heart- 1 I have not been quite idle  
(2-270)though I dont know if your Ladyship will think I have

(2-270)been employed to good purpose when I tell you I have  
(2-270)made great progress in the romance I showed you at  
(2-270)Buchanan- It is against all my vows to write poetry  
(2-270)again but I hope the perjuries of bards are as venial  
(2-270)as those of Lovers are said to be. After all how can I  
(2-270)employ my time- My family have some claims on my  
(2-270)talent or half talent or whatever it is for it laid me on the  
(2-270)shelf as a professional man when I had as good prospects  
(2-270)as my neighbours. And here I have a reversionary  
(2-270)office saddled with the life-rent of an old gentleman who  
(2-270)has learned Compté de Grammonts art d'éterniser sa vie-  
(2-270)And though I admit with my cautious friends that an  
(2-270)author should take care of his reputation yet I cannot  
(2-270)help thinking with honest Bon Acres that the least  
(2-270)reputation can do in return is to take some care of the  
(2-270)author. So upon the whole I will go on with my Lady of  
(2-270)the Lake and tell my prudence she is no better than  
(2-270)Indolence in disguise.

(2-270)Charlotte begs to be most respectfully remembered to  
(2-270)your Ladyship and I beg all kind compliments at Bothwell.  
(2-270)I have little chance of seeing any of the family

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(2-271)unless perchance at Dalkeith in winter. I saw Lady  
(2-271)Dalkeith the other day in good spirits and looking as  
(2-271)beautiful as I ever saw her which is two bars at least  
(2-271)beyond any body I ever saw besides. Ever dear Lady  
(2-271)Louisa your obliged and most respectful humble servant

(2-271)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-271)ASHIESTIEL, 7th November [1809]

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-271)MR. SCOTTS Compliments to Mr. Constable will be  
(2-271)much obliged to him for a copy of Marmion to be revised  
(2-271)before going to press. Mr. Scott will be also obliged by  
(2-271)Mr. Constable sending him the two small Sadlers which  
(2-271)he proposes to place at his disposal properly packd for  
(2-271)forwarding if not sent already. Mr. Scott wishes to  
(2-271)know if Mr. G. would like to engrave for Swift Stella's  
(2-271)head if Mr. Scott can get permission to have a sketch done  
(2-271)from the original Drawing-Mr. S. has at length procured  
(2-271)Faulkners original Edition but is still in great want of  
(2-271)Delany's defence of Swift in Remarks upon Lord  
(2-271)Orrerys publication.

(2-271)Mr. Archibald Constable

[Postmark, November, 15 1809]

[Stevenson]

TO GEORGE THOMSON

(2-271)CASTLE STREET, November 16, 1809

(2-271)I WILL readily try the melodies, although the guerdon I  
(2-271)is far beyond the value of anything I can hope to produce.  
(2-271)Mrs. Scott having once set eyes upon it, I am afraid I  
(2-271)have no choice left but to do the best I can. As that best  
(2-271)may be indifferent I make you welcome with the Ballantynes'  
(2-271)consent, which I dare say you can obtain, to use

(2-272)in your publication a hunting song I and some verses  
(2-272)called " The Violet," which I gave them for a little  
(2-272)miscellany which J. Ballantyne is now printing.

[Hadden's George Thomson]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

(2-272)Dec. 27, 1809

(2-272)THE death of poor Miss Hume has shocked my mother  
(2-272)less than I anticipated ; old age is fortunate, if not in  
(2-272)decay of sensibility, at least in the increase of patience  
(2-272)under these afflictions, and Miss Hume's, notwithstanding  
(2-272)her great age, was so long, lingering, and painful, that  
(2-272)we all regarded her death as a release. I take the liberty  
(2-272)to enclose a bill for a small sum which I hope you will  
(2-272)consider as a Christmas gift to little Walter,2 to whom  
(2-272)pray make my compliments. . . .

(2-272)The Christmas parties go on as usual, and " commerce "  
(2-272)takes its nightly round without mercy. I would to  
(2-272)heaven Bonaparte would include that most stupid game  
(2-272)in his anti-commercial edicts. I am glad to hear my  
(2-272)little nephew takes so kindly to the church. What do  
(2-272)you think to make an English parson of him ? it is a line  
(2-272)in which if I live I might do him good service, and he  
(2-272)might come to be Bishop of Sodor and Man. If I do not  
(2-272)go to London in spring I shall be tempted to go to Ireland,  
(2-272)taking your Islet in my way, and will borrow Walter's  
(2-272)pony to see your wonders. My Walter is at the High  
(2-272)School, and I condescend to hear him his lessons every  
(2-272)day. Poor old Dr. Adam 3 died last week after a very  
(2-272)short illness, which first affected him in school. He was  
(2-272)light-headed, and continued to speak as in the class until

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-273)the very last, when, having been silent for many hours,

(2-273)he said, " That Horace was very well said ; you did not  
(2-273)do it so well," then added faintly, " But it grows dark,  
(2-273)very dark, the boys may dismiss," and with these striking  
(2-273)words he expired. He is to be buried on Friday, the  
(2-273)classes attending under their masters. It will be very  
(2-273)difficult to fill up his situation. . . .

[Familiar Letters]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

[Undated] 1

(2-273)MR. SCOTT returns Mr. Constable twelve Volumes of  
(2-273)Miss Swards correspondence with many thanks. Mr.  
(2-273)Constable will observe that Mr. S. has markd with  
(2-273)pencil a few passages in letters addressd to himself  
(2-273)from Miss Seward. There are several reasons why Mr.  
(2-273)Scott would not wish these passages to be printed-some  
(2-273)of them reflect severely upon living characters & others  
(2-273)have reference to opinions expressd by Mr. Scott in the  
(2-273)confidence of friendly correspondence & which he would  
(2-273)be unwilling should come before the public as it were by  
(2-273)informr through Miss Swards reply.

(2-273)Thursday 2 CASTLE STREET

[Stevenson]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-273)I ASSURE you my dear Lady Abercorn it has been no  
(2-273)idle fit that prevented me from long ere now making  
(2-273)you my best congratulations on the joyful event your  
(2-273)last letter so kindly announced to me. I sincerely hope  
(2-273)Lord Hamilton will find in his new state all that can

(2-273)render him as happy as his good & gentle disposition well  
(2-273)merits. I do not know the young lady though she is of  
(2-273)a Scotch family. I believe they have resided pretty much

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1809

(2-274)in England ; but I cannot doubt Lord Hamilton's taste  
(2-274)& trust that the union will be a blessing to you all.1 Lord  
(2-274)Aberdeen has just passed through Edinr. He promised  
(2-274)to dine with me today conditionally if he staid in town  
(2-274)but I grieve to say he has disappointed, and passes  
(2-274)onwards. And now as to my own occupation which for  
(2-274)this month passed has been incessant. The Commissioners  
(2-274)under the King's warrant for reporting upon  
(2-274)alterations in the Scottish Judicature have like every other  
(2-274)body that I know left all their work to be done just at the  
(2-274)time they were called upon to make their report so now  
(2-274)we have to work very hard and the poor Secretary has  
(2-274)hardly a moment to call his own from nine in the morning  
(2-274)till the same hour at night. But I expect it will be all  
(2-274)over in the course of a few weeks and that I shall have  
(2-274)time to renew my literary labours.

(2-274)I have made considerable progress in a new poem  
(2-274)which I intend to call The Lady of the Lake ; the scene is  
(2-274)laid in the Perthshire highlands which after all present  
(2-274)the finest part of our mountain prospects. I have taken  
(2-274)considerable pains on what I have written and shall be  
(2-274)anxious to solicit Lord Abercorn's opinion upon it because,  
(2-274)should it be honoured with his approbation I hope he  
(2-274)will permit me to inscribe it to him. Pray does your  
(2-274)Ladyship know Lord Clarendon ? I ask this question  
(2-274)because he has volunteered a correspondence with me in  
(2-274)a manner very flattering to my vanity so that I am a  
(2-274)little curious with respect to him. I don't think I ever  
(2-274)heard of him about town and I have an idea that he is

(2-274)in his domestic habits extremely retired. But all this  
(2-274)perhaps your Ladyship can tell me.

(2-274)What do you think of this new sort of amusement that  
(2-274)the public have found for themselves at Covent Garden 2

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1809            275

(2-275)I hate mobs of all kinds but I fear disciplined mobs especially  
(2-275)with such leaders as Clifford, who has just knowledge  
(2-275)enough to keep him within the verge of Law,  
(2-275)talent enough to do mischief and no capacity whatever  
(2-275)to do the least good. I pity poor John Kemble and  
(2-275)his little wife whom I met at the Priory. Yet they  
(2-275)played their cards ill in attempting to bully the audience.  
(2-275)I am not a believer in the continuance of the truce-the  
(2-275)love of frolic will revive on the slightest provocation and  
(2-275)there are so many people who can sound horns and dance  
(2-275)upon benches that such provocation will be taken  
(2-275)whether it be given or no.

(2-275)Perhaps I am a little too gloomy upon so foolish a topic  
(2-275)but I think the whole scene is a public and general disgrace  
(2-275)to the country. Neither am I greatly delighted with the  
(2-275)present prospect into the interior of the cabinet which  
(2-275)reminds me of that which presented itself to a wise man  
(2-275)of Gotham who carrying half a dozen game-cocks to the  
(2-275)place where a main was to be fought shut them up in  
(2-275)the same coop and was surprised to find that they had  
(2-275)fought and killed each other because he thought they  
(2-275)should have known that they were all on the same side.  
(2-275)Canning is I fear lost irrecoverably to government and  
(2-275)it will be difficult to keep ground in the House of Commons  
(2-275)without him. He sometimes writes to me and you  
(2-275)would laugh to see how frankly I offer my advice to him  
(2-275)in return stoutly exhorting adherence to his old friends.

(2-275)The Duchess of Gordon stayed here a day or two on  
(2-275)her road to Ireland and gave a grand party to all the  
(2-275)world, which Charlotte and I attended. I rather wonder  
(2-275)that your Viceroy has not contrived to parry this visitation  
(2-275)from La chere maman. She is not begging her Grace's  
(2-275)pardon altogether that conciliatory sort of person that is  
(2-275)best calculated to endure and to restrain and to mitigate  
(2-275)all the little heart-burnings which must arise in every  
(2-275)court whether regal or vice-regal.

(2-275)So you did not keep my friend Robt. Dundas with

276            LETTERS OF SIR WALTER SCOTT            1809

(2-276)you which I cannot but say I rejoice at. His effectual  
(2-276)interest must be in Scotland and no one can carry Scotland  
(2-276)that has not the command of the Board of Controul,  
(2-276)which is in a manner the key of the corn-chest; for your  
(2-276)Ladyship knows all our live articles of exportation are  
(2-276)our black-cattle and our children and though England  
(2-276)furnishes a demand for our quadrupeds we are forced to  
(2-276)send our bipeds as far as Bengal.

(2-276)I have just [sic] your Ladyships obliging note of the  
(2-276)[sic] as I was about to close my letter. I wonder Wright  
(2-276)sent the flowers to London as I should have thought  
(2-276)Portpatrick the nearer route but conceived he would  
(2-276)manage the matter better than the gardner, as I was  
(2-276)out of town. Charlotte will be delighted to find that  
(2-276)they succeed in Green Erin-

(2-276)Your friendly interest in whatever concerns me will  
(2-276)be my apology for telling you that the Commissioners  
(2-276)have fixed the value of my office of Clerk of Session at  
(2-276) 1100" a year. We have an idea of making a larger

(2-276)claim in parliament but it is no bad thing to look forwards  
(2-276)to when the appointment shall open to me-

(2-276)I beg to be kindly & respectfully remembered to the  
(2-276)Marquis & to the Ladies & ever am Dear Lady Marchioness  
(2-276)Your very respectful & much obliged

(2-276)WALTER SCOTT

(2-276)EDINR. 31st Dec. 1809.  
[Pierpont Morgan]

(2-276)All the good wishes of the season attend you dear Lady  
(2-276)Abercorn & all whom you love & who love you. Pray  
(2-276)do not omit to send me the verses. I shall be a severe  
(2-276)critic if they are not worthy of the subject.

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE 1

[early 1810?]

(2-277)DEAR SIR,-I have three pages ready to be copied.  
(2-277)You may send for them in about one hour. The rest of  
(2-277)my flax is on my spindle but not yet twisted into proper  
(2-277)yarn. I am glad you like the Battle of Beil an Daine. It  
(2-277)is rather too long but that was unavoidable. I hope you  
(2-277)will push on the Notes.                                      W. S.

(2-277)To save time I shall send the copy when ready to  
(2-277)John's Shop.  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES DUSAUTOY

(2-277)SIR,-I am honoured with your letter, which, in terms  
(2-277)far too flattering for the proverbial vanity of an author,  
(2-277)invites me to a task which in general I have made it a  
(2-277)positive rule to decline, being repeated in so many shapes  
(2-277)that, besides the risk of giving pain, it became a real  
(2-277)encroachment upon the time which I must necessarily  
(2-277)devote to very unpoetical labours. In your case, however,  
(2-277)sir, a blunt refusal to give an opinion asked in so  
(2-277)polite a manner, and with so many unnecessary apologies,  
(2-277)would be rude and unhandsome. I have only to caution  
(2-277)you against relying very much upon it. The friends who  
(2-277)know me best, and to whose judgment I am myself in  
(2-277)the constant habit of trusting, reckon me a very capricious  
(2-277)and uncertain judge of poetry, and I have had repeated  
(2-277)occasion to observe that I have often failed in anticipating

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1810

(2-278)the reception of poetry from the public. Above all, sir,  
(2-278)I must warn you against suffering yourself to suppose that  
(2-278)the power of enjoying natural beauty, and poetical  
(2-278)description, is necessarily connected with that of producing  
(2-278)poetry. The former is really a gift of Heaven, which  
(2-278)conduces inestimably to the happiness of those who enjoy  
(2-278)it; the second has much more of knack in it than the  
(2-278)pride of poets is always willing to admit, but at any rate  
(2-278)is only valuable when combined with the first. These  
(2-278)are considerations which may serve to reconcile you, sir,  
(2-278)to any failure which you may have experienced in your  
(2-278)attempt to imitate verses that pleased you, or to celebrate  
(2-278)scenes by which you have been delighted. I would also  
(2-278)caution you against an enthusiasm which, while it argues  
(2-278)an excellent disposition and a feeling heart, requires to  
(2-278)be watched and restrained, tho' not repressed. It is apt,  
(2-278)if too much indulged, to engender a fastidious contempt  
(2-278)for the ordinary business of the world, and gradually to

(2-278)unfit us for the exercise of the useful and domestic virtues,  
(2-278)which depend greatly on our not exalting our feelings  
(2-278)above the temper of well-ordered and well-educated  
(2-278)society. No good man can ever be happy when he is unfit  
(2-278)for the career of simple and commonplace duty, and I  
(2-278)need not add how many melancholy instances there are  
(2-278)of extravagance and profligacy being resorted to, under  
(2-278)the pretence of contempt for the common rules of life.  
(2-278)Cultivate then, sir, your taste for poetry and the belles-  
(2-278)lettres, as an elegant and most interesting amusement,  
(2-278)but combine it with studies of a more serious and solid  
(2-278)cast, such as are most intimately connected with your  
(2-278)prospects in future life, whatever those may be. In the  
(2-278)words of Solomon, " My son, get knowledge, and with all  
(2-278)thy getting, get understanding." The stock of ideas,  
(2-278)which you will thus acquire, you will find very useful in  
(2-278)your poetical exercises. But should you never carry  
(2-278)these to the perfection you very laudably aim at, the  
(2-278)knowledge you will thus acquire cannot fail to render

(2-279)you a useful and amiable member of society. With  
(2-279)respect to the idylls of which you have favoured me with  
(2-279)copies, they seem to me to have all the merits, and most  
(2-279)of the faults, of juvenile compositions. They are fanciful,  
(2-279)tender, and elegant, and exhibit both command of  
(2-279)language and luxuriance of imagination.

(2-279)On the other hand, they are a little too wordy, and  
(2-279)there is too much the air, to make the most of every thing :  
(2-279)too many epithets, and too laboured an attempt to  
(2-279)describe minute circumstances. There is a perspective  
(2-279)in poetry, as well as in painting, by which I mean the  
(2-279)art of keeping your landscape, with its attributes, in  
(2-279)harmony with your principal figures, and reserving your



(2-280)Compy. enclosed contains a charge for the tracts, etc.,  
(2-280)which Mr. Scott considered as his own property, and long  
(2-280)ago cut up. If the original edition of " Lithgow " and  
(2-280)the " Gushing Tears of Godly Sorrow " can be of any  
(2-280)use, they are at Messrs. Constable and Compy.'s service  
(2-280)for any time they choose, only not to be printed from and  
(2-280)to be returned.

(2-280)Mr. S. will be obliged to Messrs. G. and Co. to return  
(2-280)the accompt.

[Rosebery]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-280)Thursday [1810]

(2-280)MR. SCOTT'S compliments and makes Mr. Constable  
(2-280)very welcome to the use of the engraving which he hopes  
(2-280)the engraver will take care of. Mr. S. has the pleasure to  
(2-280)acquaint Mr. Constable that he is in hopes of making some  
(2-280)curious additions to Swift's Works hitherto unpublished.

(2-280)Mr. S. does not wish " Marmion " to be sent to press  
(2-280)without letting him know.

[Rosebery]

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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1810

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[Probably 1810 ?]

(2-281)DEAR BALLANTYNE,-I am glad you like O'Connors  
(2-281)Child.1 It did not strike me much there is a flogging up

(2-281)of the stile which I think is more in Wordsworth's way  
(2-281)than Campbells & which always occasions obscurity.  
(2-281)Look at a fragment of Wordsworth calld the Mountain-  
(2-281)Boy. I never saw O'Connors child nor had the least  
(2-281)idea of the subject till a week ago. I dont think it  
(2-281)very like Blanche. They are both mad to be sure but  
(2-281)one in the way of the Sybils and the other a la mode of a  
(2-281)Bess of Bedlam. All the notes are ready & I can add  
(2-281)or keep out a sheet as is most convenient. I therefore  
(2-281)trust you will make a calculation so as to inform me  
(2-281)when you call this evening what will be adviseable in that  
(2-281)respect. W. S.

(2-281)Mr. James Ballantyne  
[Stevenson]

#### TO HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF BUCCLEUCH

(2-281)MADAM,-I never apologise for intruding upon your  
(2-281)Grace when I can recommend to you an act of kindness  
(2-281)or of charity for I am always sure that the cause would  
(2-281)advocate itself even if introduced by a stranger and  
(2-281)I think your Grace would scold me if I did not think  
(2-281)that in such a case as the enclosed I have as the only Minstrel  
(2-281)of the Clan a sort of privilege to be a beggar. I believe  
(2-281)there is now no remnant of the Household poet except  
(2-281)the Laureat & the Highland pipers. Of the rights of

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(2-282)the former I know nothing but if I may regulate myself  
(2-282)on those of the Piper who is always the most important  
(2-282)as well as the most noisy attendant of the Chieftain I will  
(2-282)be quite warranted in begging a guinea from your Grace  
(2-282)and another from the Duke to save a brother Minstrel  
(2-282)from very short Commons. I do not warrant that the

(2-282)poetry will be good as the poor man has not been lately  
(2-282)in a way to improve his talents which were originally  
(2-282)far from despicable. But what your Grace may miss in  
(2-282)amusement you will I am sure account more than  
(2-282)compensated in bounty to a poor man who I fear needs  
(2-282)it much. If Lord Montagu has not forgot me he will give  
(2-282)me a guinea also.

(2-282)I hope the Duke & Lord Winchester the gallant Lord  
(2-282)John and all the young ladies are well especially my little  
(2-282)goddaughter. I have got a little keepsake for her but  
(2-282)I will claim a dinner at Dalkeith or Bowhill on her  
(2-282)birthday before I produce it. It is a very ancient & very  
(2-282)simple broach which I think may have one day fixd the  
(2-282)mantle of a British princess.

(2-282)Your Grace will always believe me your most respectful  
(2-282)& very faithful humble Servant

(2-282)WALTER SCOTT

(2-282)EDINR. 22d March [1810]1  
[Buccleuch]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-282)[1810]

(2-282)I READ the history of the Register with great pleasure.  
(2-282)Some points we differ on but they are daily becoming  
(2-282)less important. The tone of candour and impartiality  
(2-282)struck every one :-it must I think make its way & the  
(2-282)Ballantynes deserve it for they are men of candour &

(2-283)liberality themselves. I know not where they have  
(2-283)picked up their poetical critic who is a dashing fellow<sup>1</sup> but  
(2-283)lets I think his tongue run a little before his wits ; a  
(2-283)common fault in his trade. I expect Kehama will rival  
(2-283)Thalaba which will place it very high in my opinion.  
(2-283)Two very accomplished girls (Hebrideans by the way or  
(2-283)Hebredeans if you like that better) have been delighting  
(2-283)us every evening for this week past by singing passages  
(2-283)from Thalaba & Madoc which they had set to very wild  
(2-283)& sweet music of their own composition- 2 There is  
(2-283)something very odd brewing in France at present-if  
(2-283)Bonaparte cannot contrive to strike some very magnificent  
(2-283)stroke his power will be in danger for I am well assured  
(2-283)the discontents are universal. The war with Spain as  
(2-283>wretchedly impolitic as it was detestably unprincipled is  
(2-283)the subject of deep though secret execration, & for some  
(2-283)reason or other his finances seem to flag. I hope our  
(2-283)merchants will not be such owls as to let him increase  
(2-283)them at their expence. Yet I have little doubt they will.  
(2-283)I agree with you our exertions in Spain are by no means  
(2-283)equal to the magnificence of the object. Why not have  
(2-283)a squadron of frigates with 8000 or 10,000 men upon the  
(2-283)northern coast and a similar squadron in the Mediterranean.  
(2-283)Thy soul is in that quarrel so completely that  
(2-283)I cannot endure the apathy with which it is generally  
(2-283)treated. Lord Wellington's army is I presume kept up  
(2-283)to the numbers fit for the country to maintain but there  
(2-283)might be an equal number at a reasonable distance in  
(2-283)his rear. He has hitherto managed admirably well and

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(2-284)I am told his portuguese army is daily increasing in  
(2-284)numbers and discipline.

(2-284)Mrs. Scott joins in kind compliments to Mrs. Southey

(2-284)and I am ever Dear Southey yours truly

(2-284)WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-284)My DEAR LADY AND FRIEND,-I was honoured two days  
(2-284)ago with your kind token of remembrance enclosing Miss  
(2-284)Owenson's very pretty verses to which I pay the highest  
(2-284)compliment in admitting them to be worthy of the  
(2-284)subject. I beg you will let Miss Owenson know with  
(2-284)my respectful compliments that I did not write and have  
(2-284)scarcely even read, the review of *Ida of Athens*,<sup>1</sup> My time  
(2-284)has been indeed so very much occupied that though a  
(2-284)great admirer of novels I have not perused one for many  
(2-284)months, but I am sure that the authoress of the *Irish*  
(2-284)*Girl* can produce nothing deserving of severe criticism  
(2-284)and still more certain that no motive would have prevailed  
(2-284)on me to give pain to female genius for the sake  
(2-284)of showing my own supposed wit. The few essays I  
(2-284)have made in the craft of reviewing are either of a grave  
(2-284)cast or refer to books which I could conscientiously  
(2-284)praise. There are I think in the *Quarterly Review* only  
(2-284)two exceptions. In the one case I was provoked by the

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-285)insufferable petulance of the author and in the other by  
(2-285)the extreme want of candour of a certain author who,  
(2-285)having loaded me in private with undesired and undesirable  
(2-285)flattery chose to abuse me without temptation  
(2-285)or provocation in his next book-The worst of being  
(2-285)supposed to review at all is that you get the reputation  
(2-285)of writing a great number of articles which you have  
(2-285)never even read-much less written.

(2-285) Lord Melville left this country about the beginning of  
(2-285) last month in high health and spirits-indeed I have not  
(2-285) seen him looking better for a long time: and as he practises  
(2-285) the abstinence recommended I hope he will enjoy a  
(2-285) confirmed state of health for many years. I suspect he  
(2-285) will go against the Ministry at least not with them in the  
(2-285) stormy debates which are just approaching. I grieve  
(2-285) for it and wish our friends on all sides would recollect  
(2-285) the fable of the bundle of arrows which were so easily  
(2-285) broken singly.

(2-285) Perhaps we would [not] quite agree on the subject of  
(2-285) George Canning, 1 with whom I have been for years a good  
(2-285) deal. But I think there would be no great difference  
(2-285) between us. The want of Pitt's commanding genius is  
(2-285) feelingly displayed by this wretched and impolitic  
(2-285) squabbling among his friends.

(2-285) You bid me my dear friend write verses for you and  
(2-285) on friendship. Alas I am scarcely at this moment fit to  
(2-285) write verses for the Bellman's Christmas box-above  
(2-285) " Good morrow my Masters all, and a merry Christmas  
(2-285) to you," I am sure I could not soar. The pressure of the  
(2-285) Commission business has been so constant, the meetings  
(2-285) generally sitting from twelve till five and the rest of my  
(2-285) time spent in making up Minutes Reports and other  
(2-285) official duty that I have never had a moment to put on  
(2-285) my cap and bells. The enclosed jangling verses are  
(2-285) the only effort I have made in rhyme since I came to

(2-286) Edinburgh for the winter. They were written within this  
(2-286) hour and are to be spoken to a beautiful tragedy of Joanna  
(2-286) Baillie (authoress of the plays on the passions) founded

(2-286)upon a Highland story of the Old time. I am much  
(2-286)interested in its success, as she intrusted the MS. with me.  
(2-286)The principal female part is very prettily rehearsed by  
(2-286)Mrs. Henry Siddons our Manager's better half. Harry  
(2-286)Mackenzie author of The Man of Feeling writes an epilogue  
(2-286)so the piece being entirely of Scotch manufacture has,  
(2-286)independent of its own merit every chance of succeeding  
(2-286)before a national audience. The day of trial is to-morrow  
(2-286)-I want to send your Ladyship two little trumpery volumes  
(2-286)of Miscellanies containing some scraps of my own, with  
(2-286)others better worthy of your perusal which I begged and  
(2-286)borrowed from some friends to help off a selection of  
(2-286)pieces made by some booksellers here whom I wish to  
(2-286)encourage.

(2-286)It is true my new ditty is sold but the price is two  
(2-286)thousand guineas not pounds. When I was fond of  
(2-286)horses I learned from the jockey to sell by guineas and  
(2-286)buy by pounds. It is a comfortable reflection that  
(2-286)should the Whigs come in to-morrow, their gall and  
(2-286)bitterness will be of little consequence to me. I have  
(2-286)nothing fortunately which they can take away and am  
(2-286)able by the liberality of the public to wait calmly until  
(2-286)I come to possession of my official income which I  
(2-286)believe will amount to 1100 a year.

(2-286)I am very anxious the said poem should be such as  
(2-286)Lord Abercorn can stand godfather to with credit. The  
(2-286)tale cannot be very well sent without the verses being no  
(2-286)great matter in itself. But I will soon send you a specimen  
(2-286)if not a whole canto. I have tried, according to promise,  
(2-286)to make "a knight of love who never broke a vow."-  
(2-286)But well-a-day though I have succeeded tolerably with  
(2-286)the damsel my lover spite of my best exertions is like  
(2-286)to turn out what the players call a walking gentleman.  
(2-286)It is incredible the pains it has cost me to give him a little

(2-287)dignity. Notwithstanding this I have had in my time  
(2-287)melancholy cause to paint from experience for I gained  
(2-287)no advantage from three years constancy except the  
(2-287)said experience and some advantage to my conversation  
(2-287)and manners. Mrs. Scott's match and mine was of our  
(2-287)own making and proceeded from the most sincere  
(2-287)affection on both sides which has rather increased than  
(2-287)diminished during twelve years' marriage. But it was  
(2-287)something short of love in all its fervour 1 which I suspect  
(2-287)people only feel once in their lives. Folks who have been  
(2-287)nearly drowned in bathing rarely venturing a second time  
(2-287)out of their depth. Excuse this long and tedious prattle  
(2-287)and believe me with respectful compliments to the  
(2-287)Marquis, Dear Lady Abercorn your obliged and faithful  
(2-287)humble servant,

(2-287)WALTER SCOTT

(2-287)EDINR. 21 Jan. 1810

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-287)IT would be a sin and a shame my dear Miss Baillie  
(2-287)to delay writing any longer. I hoped all might bes and  
(2-287)would bes concerning the Family Legend would have  
(2-287)ended this evening which was fixd for representation  
(2-287)but Mrs. Henry Siddons has been seized with a cruel  
(2-287)inflammation and swelling in the eyes which casts off the  
(2-287)coming forth till next week, so I must still write in the  
(2-287)future tense. We delayd announcing the alteration till  
(2-287)this morning in hopes there might be some change but  
(2-287)alas ! to no purpose. All the boxes were taken twice over

(2-287)and the public expectation was greatly excited so far as  
(2-287)we can judge every person will come disposed to be  
(2-287)pleased so all manoeuvre will be perfectly unnecessary.

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(2-288)In case of any blunder in the performance however we  
(2-288)have taken care to have an hundred of your admirers  
(2-288)(for their name here is Legion) in the way of highland  
(2-288)friends ; that is through good report and bad report.  
(2-288)I have written the prologue-sad stuff enough to be sure  
(2-288)but I wanted to get out of the common strain of Whilome  
(2-288)and Of Yore as for example

(2-288)Of yore the hardy warriors of the north  
(2-288)Each in his filabeg came boldly forth

(2-288)or

(2-288)Whilome beneath their chieftains high command  
(2-288)The plaided Gael left his mountain strand  
(2-288)And much in love with lowland sheep and cattle  
(2-288)By night descended to the hungry battle.

(2-288)I dont know if after all I have got into a much better  
(2-288)strain. But I endeavoured to secure your dignity which  
(2-288)does not admit of your suing for applause in forma pauperis  
(2-288)and eke to give something of a national cast to the  
(2-288)feelings of the Audience.

(2-288)About the casting of the piece we have done as well as  
(2-288)circumstances would admit. The players are generally  
(2-288)speaking tolerable and perfect in their parts. Benlora I  
(2-288)like least but he is a good looking stout fellow and the  
(2-288)part will bear a little ranting if he will not quite out  
(2-288)Herod Herod.

(2-288)Maclean (or Duart) is playd by a very docile and  
(2-288)anxious performer. I flatterd him by telling him your  
(2-288)opinion of that part which had fallen to his lot, and he is  
(2-288)to labour to secure some sympathy for his weakness of  
(2-288)character. Indeed as they all seem to like their parts  
(2-288)very well and to study hard I think the piece has a chance  
(2-288)of being performd greatly short to be sure of my feeling  
(2-288)of its merits but yet very creditably. Mrs. Siddons plays  
(2-288)her part very sweetly indeed. She has increased her  
(2-288)op[h]thalmia by crying for the disappointment. Erskine  
(2-288)and I were constant at Rehearsal.

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(2-289)This letter accompanies two volumes of the Miscellany  
(2-289)which you so kindly honourd at my request. You will  
(2-289)find your beautiful Tab in all her glory.<sup>1</sup> Thomson and  
(2-289)the Ballantynes being musical friends, have made some  
(2-289)treaty by which he gives them the use of his words for  
(2-289)their collection and they give him the use of some lines  
(2-289)of the said collection for his music. In which way they  
(2-289)have the advantage of inserting your beautiful Heath-  
(2-289)Cock. I have another copy of the poems for Mrs. Hunter  
(2-289)when I can find an opportunity to send them free of  
(2-289)expencc.

(2-289)My little folks have all had such colds as well beseem  
(2-289)this bitter weather but they have proved only colds whereat  
(2-289)we rejoice for they have been generally attended by fever.

(2-289)Dont think of answering this hasty scrawl- You shall  
(2-289)hear from me fully on Tuesday- Mrs. Scott joins in kind  
(2-289)love to Miss Agnes Baillie and I am ever yours sincerely  
(2-289)and respectfully

(2-289)WALTER SCOTT

(2-289)22 January, 1810

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO HENRY MACKENZIE

(2-289)MY DEAR SIR,-With best thanks I return the very  
(2-289)excellent Epilogue a which makes me very doubtful how  
(2-289)far I shall come off with tolerable credit. I am only glad  
(2-289)the Prologue will come before and not after the well-graced  
(2-289)Epilogue, yours ever truly W. SCOTT

(2-289)CASTLE STREET Wednesday [January 29, 1810]

[W. Forbes Gray]

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TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-290)30th January 1810

(2-290)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE,-You have only to imagine all  
(2-290)that you could wish to give complete success to a play and  
(2-290)your conception will still fall short of the complete and  
(2-290)decided triumph of the Family Legend. The house was  
(2-290)crowded to a most exceeding degree, many people had  
(2-290)come from your native capital of the West. Every thing  
(2-290)that pretended to distinction whether from rank or  
(2-290)literature was in the boxes and the pit such an aggregate  
(2-290)mass of humanity as I have seldom if ever witnessed  
(2-290)in the same space. It was quite obvious from the  
(2-290)beginning that the cause was to be very fairly tried  
(2-290)before the public and that if anything went wrong no  
(2-290)effort even of your numerous and zealous friends could  
(2-290)have had much influence in guiding or restraining the

(2-290)general feeling. Some goodnatured persons had been  
 (2-290)land enough to propagate reports of a strong opposition  
 (2-290)which although I considered them as totally groundless  
 (2-290)did not by any means lessen the extreme anxiety with  
 (2-290)which I waited the rise of the curtain. But in a short  
 (2-290)time I saw there was no ground whatever for apprehension  
 (2-290)and yet I sat the whole time shaking for fear a  
 (2-290)sceneshifter or a carpenter or some of the subaltern  
 (2-290)actors should make some blunder and interrupt the  
 (2-290)feeling of deep and general interest which soon seized  
 (2-290)on the whole pit box and Gallery as Mr. Bayes has it.  
 (2-290)The scene on the rock struck the utmost possible effect  
 (2-290)into the audience and you heard nothing but sobs on all  
 (2-290)sides. The banquet-scene was equally impressive and  
 (2-290)so was the combat. Of the greater scenes that between  
 (2-290)Lorn and Helen in the castle of Maclean, that between  
 (2-290)Helen and her Lover and the examination of Maclean  
 (2-290)himself in Argyles castle, were applauded to the very  
 (2-290)echo. Siddons announced the play for the rest of the  
 (2-290)week which was received not only with a thunder of

1810

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-291)applause but with cheering and throwing up hats and  
 (2-291)handkerchiefs. Mrs. Siddons supported her part  
 (2-291)incomparably although just recovered from the indisposition  
 (2-291)mentiond in my last. Siddons himself playd Lorn  
 (2-291)very well indeed and moved and lookd with great  
 (2-291)spirit. A Mr. Terry who promises to be a fine performer  
 (2-291)went through the part of the Old Earl with great taste  
 (2-291)and effect.<sup>1</sup> For the rest I cannot say much excepting  
 (2-291)that from highest to lowest they were most accurately  
 (2-291)perfect in their parts and did their very best. Malcolm  
 (2-291)de Grey was tolerable but stickish; Maclean came off  
 (2-291)decently. But the conspirators were sad hounds. You  
 (2-291)are my dear Miss Baillie too much of a democrat in your

(2-291)writings-you allow life soul and spirit to those inferior  
 (2-291)creatures of the drama and expect they will be the  
 (2-291)better of it. Now it was obvious 10 me that the poor  
 (2-291)monsters, whose mouths are only of use to spout the vapid  
 (2-291)blank verse which your modern play wright puts into the  
 (2-291)part of the confidant and subaltern villain of his piece,  
 (2-291)did not know what to make of the energetic and poetical  
 (2-291)diction which even their subordinate departments abounds  
 (2-291)[sic] with in the Legend. As the play greatly exceeded the  
 (2-291)usual length (lasting till half-past ten) we intend when  
 (2-291)it is repeated to-night, to omit some of the passages where  
 (2-291)the weight necessarily fell on the weakest of our host,  
 (2-291)although we may thereby injure the detail of the plot.  
 (2-291)For the same reason and from the fellows awkwardness  
 (2-291)I doubt Benlora must e'en go to the Keep with his friends  
 (2-291)instead of dying on the stage. While I mention these  
 (2-291)circumstances I must repeat that none of them hurt the  
 (2-291)reception of the piece in the slightest degree last night  
 (2-291)nor was there the slightest token of dissatisfaction except  
 (2-291)from a discarded Box keeper (as it proved) who was like  
 (2-291)to have found a speedier way out of the two shilling  
 (2-291)gallery than that by which he got into it. The scenery

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(2-292)was very good and the rock without appearance of  
 (2-292)pantomime was so contrived as to place Mrs. Siddons  
 (2-292)in a very precarious situation to all appearance. The  
 (2-292)dresses were more tawdry than I would have judged  
 (2-292)proper but expensive and showy. I got my brother's  
 (2-292)highland recruiting party to reinforce the garrison  
 (2-292)of Inverary and as they appeared beneath the porch  
 (2-292)of the castle and seemd to fill the courtyard behind the  
 (2-292)combat scene had really an appearance of reality.

(2-292)Siddons has been most attentive anxious assiduous

(2-292)and docile and had drilled his troops so well, that  
(2-292)the prompter's aid was unnecessary and I do not  
(2-292)believe he gave a single hint the whole night-nor were  
(2-292)there any false or ridiculous accents or gestures even  
(2-292)among the underlings although God knows they fell often  
(2-292)far short of the true spirit. Mrs. Siddons spoke the  
(2-292)Epilogue extremely well. The prologue, which I will send  
(2-292)you in its revised state, was also very well received. Mrs.  
(2-292)Scott has her kindest compliments of congratulation.  
(2-292)She had a party of thirty friends in one small box which  
(2-292)she was obliged to watch like a clocking hen till she had  
(2-292)gathered her whole flock for the crowd was insufferable.  
(2-292)I am going to see the Legend to-night when I shall enjoy  
(2-292)it quietly for last night I was so much interested in its  
(2-292)reception that I cannot say I was at leisure to attend  
(2-292)to the feelings arising from the representation itself.  
(2-292)People are dying to read it. If you think of suffering a  
(2-292)single edition to be publishd to gratify their curiosity I  
(2-292)will take care of it. But I do not advise this because untill  
(2-292)printed no other theatres can have it before you give  
(2-292)leave. My kind respects attend Miss Agnes Baillie, and  
(2-292)believe me ever your obliged and faithful humble Servant,  
(2-292)  
(2-292)WALTER SCOTT

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1810                      293

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-293)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE-Having opportunity of a  
(2-293)cover I take the benefit of it to add a few words to my  
(2-293)long epistle of yesterday. Last night I was again at the  
(2-293)theatre when the Legend went off with equal brilliancy.  
(2-293)The shortening some of the scenes between the saving

(2-293)Helen from the rock and the arrival of Maclean at  
(2-293)Inverara had the effect of tearing ornaments from a  
(2-293)balloon. The piece was less elegant or rather in my  
(2-293)opinion defaced but it rose more lightly. Our critics  
(2-293)here speak highly of the tragedy. Jeffery was with us  
(2-293)the first night and distinguished by the animation of his  
(2-293)applause. He was I believe anxious to confute a dirty  
(2-293)and unfounded report that he had been mustering a  
(2-293)party against the piece.<sup>1</sup> Our Lord president as good a  
(2-293)judge of the Belles Lettres as of the Law over which he  
(2-293)presides calld me up to the bench this moment to express  
(2-293)his delight at having witnessd and aided the triumph  
(2-293)of a tragedy which may rival the best in our language.  
(2-293)David Hume (nephew of the historian) and a great admirer  
(2-293)of the Drama says Helen is the finest model of  
(2-293)female virtue firmness and feeling which any stage has  
(2-293)exhibited. In short all your friends are amply gratified  
(2-293)with your renown except myself-and I am only dissatisfied  
(2-293)because I cannot get Garricks and Siddonses to play  
(2-293)the very humblest parts in the piece. I believe the  
(2-293)superintending rehearsals is very like cooking a dinner  
(2-293)and absolutely destroys the pleasure you have in seeing  
(2-293)your labours brought upon the board however keenly  
(2-293)they are enjoyed by others.

(2-293)Last night the house was full but not so excessively  
(2-293)crowded as the first. The boxes were all taken and well  
(2-293)filld although it was the 30th January and many as great  
(2-293)tories and cavaliers as myself straind a point of political

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(2-294)principle to give attendance. Tonight a great house is  
(2-294)expected, and on Saturday it will be as full as the first  
(2-294)evening. The Legend is to be acted on Monday and  
(2-294)then intermitted for a few nights to give new zest to the

(2-294)public appetite. I have promised my little people that  
(2-294)they shall attend on that evening as a brilliant reward  
(2-294)for my little boy's attention. He is flourishing in arts  
(2-294)and arms having gained 40 places within the last fortnight  
(2-294)and won two pitched battles. I was of course obliged to  
(2-294)look grave on these military successes but I am not sorry  
(2-294)that he can make his hand keep his head as we border folks  
(2-294)say-and in a public school it is an indispensable  
(2-294)requisite.

(2-294)A friend of mine writes dramatic criticism now and  
(2-294)then. I have begged him to send me a copy of the Edinr.  
(2-294)paper in which he inserts his lucubration and I will  
(2-294)transmit it to you. He is a play-going man and more in  
(2-294)the habit of expressing himself on such subjects than most  
(2-294)people.

(2-294)Our little theatre is unfortunately ill calculated for  
(2-294)hearing a circumstance of the least possible importance  
(2-294)in most new plays but which has been found seriously  
(2-294)inconvenient on this occasion.

(2-294)I am writing in the court so if any nonsense has slipped  
(2-294)into this hasty letter I request you to believe that it is good  
(2-294)Scotch Law. I beg best compliments to Miss A. Baillie  
(2-294)and am ever Dear Madam Yours most sincerely and  
(2-294)respectfully I

(2-294)WALTER SCOTT

(2-294)31 January 1810

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-295)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE,-I write these few lines to  
(2-295)inform you that your laurels flourish in all their original  
(2-295)verdure. Through this whole week the theatre has been  
(2-295)fully attended and by all the fashionable people in town.  
(2-295)On Saturday in particular the house was as full as on  
(2-295)Monday-fuller was impossible and the most enthusiastic  
(2-295)approbation was expressed in every quarter. All this while  
(2-295)the Legend has been the only subject of towntalk where  
(2-295)praise and censure were of course mingled. The weight of  
(2-295)criticism falls on the head of Duart and I observe that the  
(2-295)fair critics in general thinks [sic] that he gives up the lady  
(2-295)too easily. I begin heartily to wish that the play was  
(2-295)printed unless you think of bringing it out in London 1 and  
(2-295)printed as you wrote it. If you think of this you should  
(2-295)only part with the property of a single edition that you  
(2-295)may afterwards include it in your works. My reasons are  
(2-295)that the characters of Benlora and especially Lochtarish  
(2-295)are so defaced by bad action that it is impossible to suppose  
(2-295)their having the necessary influence upon Macleans mind.  
(2-295)Suppose we had never read Othello in our closet and saw  
(2-295)Iago represented by a very bad actor, I suspect the same  
(2-295)criticism would precisely apply.

(2-295)Yesterday I went with all my little folks who were  
(2-295)delighted, and cried like little pigs over Helens distresses.  
(2-295)All the boxes were full and the pit crowded. The same is  
(2-295)expected to night when upon mature consideration we  
(2-295)have determined that the public shall rise with an appetite  
(2-295)though it is the common custom to let the run continue  
(2-295)as far as it will go.

(2-295)In case you have not seen a playbill I inclose one which

(2-296)I got last night because I think in my own case I would  
(2-296)like to see one.

(2-296)They continued to make a good deal of effect by the  
(2-296)confused rush of the different parties out of the castle  
(2-296)gate previous to the combat but last night (all the soldiers  
(2-296)being out of town owing to an election) the Campbells  
(2-296)were not sufficiently and overpoweringly numerous.

(2-296)We are all of opinion that you are born to restore the  
(2-296)age of tragedy but that you must come down and assist  
(2-296)at the next play you bring forward-the amputations of a  
(2-296)player have a very raw and unpleasant effect admitting  
(2-296)them to be necessary on the whole. Did I tell you that  
(2-296)Argyle made a formal complaint of the flatness as he  
(2-296)supposed of his exit on one occasion and that I was obliged  
(2-296)to indulge him by putting a cracker to the end of his squib  
(2-296)that he might go off upon the grand pas. He plays the  
(2-296)character very well indeed. Mrs. Scott begs her kindest  
(2-296)remembrances to Miss Agnes Baillie Dr. and Mrs. Baillie  
(2-296)in which I sincerely join and I alway am Dear Madam  
(2-296)yours most faithfully and respectfully,

(2-296)WALTER SCOTT

(2-296)EDINR. 6 feby. [1810] 1

(2-296)The newspaper critique was not worth sending; [Mrs.  
(2-296)President Blair has requested the Legend for next Saturday;  
(2-296)a large house is expected. I don't know what to say about  
(2-296)alterations ; I should like to see it printed from the  
(2-296)original draught.]

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-297)February 10th, 1810

(2-297)THE Edinburgh has at length come forth and with a good  
(2-297)deal of spirit; but we will be better prepared for them  
(2-297)the next time, and at least divide the public with them.  
(2-297)I hope soon to hear all my contributions have come to  
(2-297)hand. Not a line yet from Sharpe or Douglas. This is  
(2-297)the true curse of gentlemen writers. Before I come to  
(2-297)London I hope to have at least three veterans in constant  
(2-297)pay. I mean men that will keep their engagements for  
(2-297)an article each.

[Smiles]

[TO SOPHIA BAILLIE] 1

(2-297)DEAR MRS. BAILLIE,-You honour me by your kind  
(2-297)intentions in my favour and I anxiously wait to tell you  
(2-297)that I have received what I shall highly value as a token  
(2-297)of your regard. I could only have wishd that you could  
(2-297)have prevaild on Miss J. Baillie to send her pen along  
(2-297)with your kind present as my own is likely to be worn to  
(2-297)the stumps [sic] in the service of the public. While a  
(2-297)stump is, left however it shall express as it has always done  
(2-297)my genuine feelings and particularly my sincere sense  
(2-297)of my friends kindness and that I may appear to merit  
(2-297)them I willingly take credit for every wish to serve them  
(2-297)when it is in my power. But the truth is Miss Baillies  
(2-297)piece required no assistance and nothing that I could  
(2-297)have done would have advanced or retarded its success  
(2-297)more than I could have detaind Garnerins (2) balloon  
(2-297)with my hand or helpd it to mount with the application  
(2-297)of my shoulder.-De Montfort last night was acted with

(2-297)deep and powerful effect to a crouded [sic] audience.

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(2-298)Even the critical Aristarch Jeffrey was melted into tears.

(2-298)So you see our friend is in as full sail on the stage as ever

(2-298)she has been from the press. 1

(2-298)I beg kindest and best Compliments to Dr. Baillie in

(2-298)which Charlotte most cordially joins. We were greatly

(2-298)disappointment [sic] by the cross accidents which

(2-298)prevented our having the pleasure to see you when in

(2-298)Scotland last Summer and I ever am Dear Madam Your

(2-298)honourd and obliged                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-298)EDINR 20th feby [1810]

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO ROBERT SURTEES 2

[early in 1810]

(2-298)MY DEAR SURTEES,-I am deep in arrear with you ;

(2-298)but I hope you have heard from me, though not directly.

(2-298)I mean, I hope you have received a copy of Sir Ralph

(2-298)Sadler's State Papers, so much indebted to your labours,

(2-298)and a second volume of " Somers Tracts." The first

(2-298)was forwarded, or at least the Bookseller promised to

(2-298)forward it, from London ; the second went from

(2-298)Edinburgh, to be left at Rushyford. If any miscarriage has

(2-298)happened, pray let me know, that the matter may be

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(2-299)remedied. I am now questioned by Mr. Clifford, who is

(2-299)questioned by a Sir somebody Lawson, who is desirous

(2-299)to know what was the nature of those misfortunes said in

(2-299)the Notes in the Letters relative to the great Northern  
(2-299)Rebellion, to have befallen certain namesakes of the said  
(2-299)knight; to wit, the Lawsons of Newcastle, who had shared  
(2-299)deeply in the spoils of the Church. To this of course I  
(2-299)could give as little information as Clifford ; so we both  
(2-299)come to you, on the strength of the old proverb, " I whip  
(2-299)the top, and my mother whips me."

(2-299)Your " Brown Man of the Muirs " is a noble fellow.  
(2-299)He has been brooding in my brain this many a day, and  
(2-299)is, I think, the genuine descendant of the ancient Duergar.  
(2-299)I hope soon to shew you something of him in romantic  
(2-299)poetry. Barthram, which is the most beautiful fragment  
(2-299)I have seen this many a day, is to figure in the new  
(2-299)edition of the Border Minstrelsy, of which I expected to  
(2-299)have sent you a copy ere now ; but cannot get it out of  
(2-299)the hands of the printer. The story of Barthram put me  
(2-299)in mind of a little incident I met with many years ago,  
(2-299)riding out of Liddesdale into Tiviotdale. There were  
(2-299)then no roads of any kind in that direction ; so to avoid  
(2-299)the bogs we kept upon the banks of a little brook which  
(2-299)acted as a drain to the springy morasses, and now and  
(2-299)then offered a little recess in which its waters wimpled  
(2-299)under the birches and alders, and its banks formed a  
(2-299)narrow and retired glen. In one of these we found a  
(2-299)small stone cross lying among the grass and heather. It  
(2-299)was thrown down from its pedestal, but not broken, and  
(2-299)bore a broad-sword and a pair of wool-shears, the shape  
(2-299)being nearly that of the ugly hieroglyphic below.

(2-299)On the opposite side two initial letters, and two others  
(2-299)lower down. The monument was obviously sepulchral.  
(2-299)It was so small, that, with the united strength of a friend,  
(2-299)and of my servant, I easily set it on end, where it may  
(2-299)stand, for aught I know, to this moment. We could hear  
(2-299)no tradition about the place ; probably because we did

(2-300)not light upon those who could have answered our  
(2-300)inquiries. As the spot is not two miles distant from the  
(2-300)Chapel of Hermitage Castle, it seems probable that the  
(2-300)place of sepulture was chosen for some reason similar  
(2-300)to that which occurs in the ballad of Barthram. Barthram  
(2-300)is not a name of our Border, though I know it is distinguished  
(2-300)in Northumberland.

(2-300)The prints in the second volume of Somers belong to  
(2-300)Volume I. " Derrick's State of Ireland." They are taken  
(2-300)from the original plates, in the only copy in which they  
(2-300)are known to exist, and are extremely curious, approaching,  
(2-300)I think, very nearly to the dress of our modern  
(2-300)Highlanders. I think they will be interesting to you.<sup>1</sup>

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-300)[Febry 20th (2) 1810]

(2-300)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE,-I am delighted to find by  
(2-300)your two kind favours that the Family Legend has  
(2-300)answered all your wishes. The last time it was acted the  
(2-300)House was almost as full as any of the preceding nights,  
(2-300)and the reception equally enthusiastic. Notwithstanding  
(2-300)all this how shall I find words to tell that I have to-night,  
(2-300)for I am just returned from the theatre seen a play for  
(2-300)the first time which has made at least an equal impression  
(2-300)upon me. What do you think of De Montfort presented  
(2-300)to a tossing (? toping) audience filled with dread horror  
(2-300)and consternation. Siddons acted ten thousand times  
(2-300)better than I ever saw him and a Mrs. Young played the

(2-300)Lady Jane very well indeed. Having had none of the  
(2-300)cookery upon this occasion I really enjoyd the feast just  
(2-300)so much the better. You must know that my eyes have  
(2-300)seldom flowd excepting like the rocks in the desart at the

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(2-301)touch of the rod. But I really felt like Sir Hugh Evans Mercy  
(2-301)upon me I have creat tispositions to cry. I met Jeffrey  
(2-301)coming out and we walked home together marvelling how  
(2-301)you could combine so much fine and interesting feeling  
(2-301)with the predominance of such a horrid passion.

(2-301)I need not I am sure say how much we were all gratified  
(2-301)by your friendly and affectionate reception of our efforts  
(2-301)which could have been of very little service had your own  
(2-301)been less than effectual. We might well answer you like  
(2-301)Rob Roy the summons which Mar sent him to charge at  
(2-301)the battle of Sheriffmuir " If you could not do it without  
(2-301)us you could not do it with us." You and I are above  
(2-301)the forms of civility necessary in talking over these matters  
(2-301)as the Saints in Cromwells time got beyond religious  
(2-301)ordinances, so I claim full credit and belief when I say  
(2-301)that your successful business gave me more pleasure than  
(2-301)if it had been my own, because I had that confidence in  
(2-301)its justice which I durst not in my own case have entertained  
(2-301)and never did entertain even in those instances  
(2-301)in which I have been most popular.

(2-301)Miss Holford has a right to consider me as having  
(2-301)got above the ordinances of civility with her too, for I  
(2-301)certainly did receive some time (years I believe) ago, a  
(2-301)copy of very beautiful verses addressed to my own honour  
(2-301)and glory. 1 But it is equally certain that I had no clue

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(2-302)given me to find out the ingenious authoress to whose name  
(2-302)and residence I was a perfect stranger and could find  
(2-302)no one here who had heard of either. And I will  
(2-302)frankly own I was not altogether displeased ac a circumstance  
(2-302)which seemd to excuse me from what is to me  
(2-302)always embarassing writing a letter about myself and  
(2-302)my poetry with all the commonplaces of gratitude and  
(2-302)modesty which whether real or assumed are always trite  
(2-302)flat and unprofitable and all this to a lady I had never  
(2-302)seen. I must find some opportunity of scouring my  
(2-302)scutcheon, from this stain of uncourteous ingratitude and  
(2-302)will consider how it can be done. Her Wallace is really  
(2-302)very fine-it will not please Scotch folks because Wallace  
(2-302)is one of those historical characters that get beyond the  
(2-302)reach of poetry, which when applied to them is apt to  
(2-302)fail in a certain degree for the reasons which Johnson  
(2-302)applies to sacred poems. But in England it ought to be  
(2-302)and I am sure will be eminently successful and if you have  
(2-302)any opportunity of sending to the poetess my anxious  
(2-302)and earnest wishes for her attaining her deserved rank  
(2-302)among the authors of the day and think it will please her  
(2-302)to know them you will oblige me greatly by conveying  
(2-302)them to her. She has escaped the chance of drawing the  
(2-302)claymore in good sad earnest, by the circumstance of its  
(2-302)not appertaining to her sex, for Sir William Cuming  
(2-302)in right serious rage was in search of the Author of  
(2-302)Wallace swearing that no man that wore a head should  
(2-302)libel the memory of the Red Cuming his ancestor.

(2-302)I have applied to my booksellers who are anxious to  
(2-302)do the utmost for the family whom you protect.<sup>1</sup> They are

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(2-303)willing to give seventy guineas-50 payable in a bill at

(2-303)6 months, and 20 upon the second edition going to press.  
(2-303)This will leave them little profit on the two first editions  
(2-303)of 1000 each and is a bargain which I should hold a good  
(2-303)one in my own case. But as the success of the sale will  
(2-303)depend much upon its coming out at this very time when  
(2-303)everybody is mad about it I think if it is to be printed  
(2-303)separately it had better be done speedily. Should the  
(2-303)Booksellers bargain prove too good a one! will engage  
(2-303)my own credit that they shall do farther by your proteges  
(2-303)whatever in your judgement shall be thought equitable.

(2-303)I forwarded your letter to Siddons-his little wife  
(2-303)received it with the deepest gratitude and I cannot  
(2-303)doubt for one moment that your slightest wish will be  
(2-303)their rule. But we shall have pirated copies to a certainty  
(2-303)if we do not print soon for though the Managers may  
(2-303)keep faith yet even an underling player has often been  
(2-303)known to pick up from memory a copy of a popular  
(2-303)piece though how mutilated heaven knows, and the  
(2-303)means of getting a few guineas do not so often occur as to  
(2-303)make them very scrupulous about the choice.

(2-303)Little Charles did not cry at the Family Legend not  
(2-303)because he was such a pebble hearted cur as Lancelots  
(2-303)dog Crab which did not shed a tear when the whole  
(2-303)house was drowned in sorrow but simply because he was  
(2-303)not there. We thought him rather too young to see [a]  
(2-303)theatrical exhibition-it is like eating peas in the bloom to  
(2-303)hurry our enjoyments before we can fully relish them.

(2-303)I inclose a few lines to dear Mrs. Baillie who has  
(2-303)contrived to make me most impatient for the arrival of  
(2-303)the waggon by telling me it contains a token of her kind  
(2-303)remembrance. I trust she does not hope that I shall

(2-304)accept it however elegant in exchange for the hug you  
(2-304)promised me on her part.1

(2-304)You talk of my writing tragedy but I am too cunning  
(2-304)for that. I will give you no apology for trespassing upon  
(2-304)my warren and composing poetical romances. I have  
(2-304)been very busy of late cobbling one for the public. Would  
(2-304)to heaven I were so near you as to read it over to you  
(2-304)bit by bit at tea time-My best compliments attend Miss  
(2-304)Agnes, and the Doctor without whom there is neither  
(2-304)living nor dying in which Charlotte cordially joins. Ever  
(2-304)yours faithfully,

(2-304)WALTER SCOTT

(2-304)Begun at the drowsy of 11 at night and finished in the  
(2-304)no less drowzy court of Session feby. 20th.

[Scott-Baillie Letters]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-304)[1810]

(2-304)DEAR SIR,-I send Mr. Jollie of Carlisles MS. so long  
(2-304)amissing & also a Caledonia 2 to be exchanged for a  
(2-304)large paper copy my first Volume being of that size-  
(2-304)I dont think the 2d. Vol contains altogether such curious  
(2-304)information as the first I am yours truly W. SCOTT

(2-304)Mr. Constable Bookseller  
[Stevenson]

TO J. B. S. MORRITT, 24 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON

(2-304)My DEAR MORRITT,-You are very good to remember  
(2-304)such a false knave as I am who have omitted so long  
(2-304)to thank you for a letter bringing me the assurances of

1810            SIR WALTER SCOTT            305

(2-305)your health and remembrance which I do not value  
(2-305)the less deeply and sincerely for my seeming neglect.  
(2-305)Truth is I do not eat the bread of idleness. My literary  
(2-305)reputation whether well or ill acquired deprived me of  
(2-305)my profession as a lawyer in which I was thriving as well  
(2-305)as my neighbours and it is bound in justice to make me the  
(2-305)best amends it can. Indeed when folks bid me take  
(2-305)heed to my reputation I am always tempted to answer  
(2-305)like Davy to Bob Acres that the least my reputation can  
(2-305)do in return is to take some heed to me. But I was born  
(2-305)a Scotchman and a bare one and was therefore born to  
(2-305)fight my way with my left hand where my right faild  
(2-305)me and with my teeth if they were both cut off. This  
(2-305)is but a bad apology for not answering your kindness  
(2-305)yet not so bad when you consider that it was only admitted  
(2-305)as a cause of procrastination and that I have been-let  
(2-305)me see-I have been Secretary to the Judicature Commission  
(2-305)which sat daily during all the Xmas Vacation.  
(2-305)I have been editing Swift and correcting the press at the  
(2-305)rate of 6 sheets a week. I have been editing Somers at  
(2-305)the rate of four D•<.D•<. I have written reviews -I have  
(2-305)written songs-I have made selections-I have superintended  
(2-305)Rehearsals-and all this independant of visiting  
(2-305)and of my official duty which occupies me four hours  
(2-305)every working day except mondays-and independent  
(2-305)of a new poem with which I am threatening the world.  
(2-305)This last employment is not the most prudent but I really  
(2-305)cannot well help myself. My office though a very good  
(2-305)one for Scotland, is only held in reversion nor do I at  
(2-305)present derive a shilling from it. I must expect that a

(2-305)fresh favourite of the public will supersede me and my  
(2-305)philosophy being very great on the point of poetical  
(2-305)fame I would fain at the risque of hastening my own  
(2-305)downfall avail myself of the favourable moment to  
(2-305)make some further provision for my little people.  
(2-305)I cannot otherwise honestly indulge myself in some  
(2-305)of the luxuries which when long gratified become a sort

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(2-306)of pseudo-necessaries.      As for the terrible parodies  
(2-306)which have come forth 1 I can only say with Benedict  
(2-306)" A college of such wit mongers cannot flout me out of  
(2-306)my humour." 2 Had I been conscious of one place about  
(2-306)my temper were it even, metaphorically speaking, the  
(2-306)tip of my heel vulnerable to this sort of aggression I  
(2-306)have that respect for mine own ease that I would have  
(2-306)shund being a candidate for public applause as I would  
(2-306)avoid snatching a honey-comb from among a hive of  
(2-306)live bees.

(2-306)My present attempt is a poem partly highland-the  
(2-306)scene Loch Katrine tempore Jacobi quinti. If I fail as  
(2-306)Lady Macbeth gallantly says-I fail and there is only a  
(2-306)story murderd to no purpose-and if I succeed why  
(2-306)then as the song says

(2-306)Up with the bonnie blue bonnet  
(2-306)The Durk and the feather and a'.

(2-306)I hope to shew this ditty to you soon in Portland  
(2-306)Place for it seems determined I must go to London  
(2-306)though the time is not fixd. The pleasure of meeting  
(2-306)you and half a dozen other freinds reconciles me to this  
(2-306)change of plan for had I answerd your letter the day  
(2-306)I received it I would have said nothing was less likely

(2-306)than my going to town in Spring. I hope it will be so late  
(2-306)as to afford me an opportunity of visiting Rokeby and  
(2-306)Greta side in my return. The feloun sow herself could

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1810            307

(2-307)not think of them with more affection than I do and  
(2-307)though I love Portland place dearly yet I would fain  
(2-307)enjoy both. But this must be as the fates and destinies and  
(2-307)sisters three determine. Charlotte hopes to accompany  
(2-307)me and is particularly gratified by the expectation of  
(2-307)meeting Mrs. Morritt. We think of our sunny days at  
(2-307)Rokeby with equal delight.

(2-307)Miss Baillie's play went off capitally here notwithstanding  
(2-307)her fond and over credulous belief in a Creator  
(2-307)of the world. In fact [it] is so generally believed that it  
(2-307)is Man who makes the deity that I am surprized it has  
(2-307)never been maintaind as a corollary that the knife and  
(2-307)fork make the fingers. We wept till our hearts were  
(2-307)sore and applauded till our hands were blisterd-what  
(2-307)could we more ? And all this to crouded theatres.

(2-307)I send a copy of the poetical collectanea1 not for you  
(2-307)my good friend because you would not pay your literary  
(2-307)subscription but for Miss Morritt. I though[t] of leaving  
(2-307)it as I came through Yorkshire but as I can get as yet an  
(2-307)office frank it will be safer in your charge. By a parity  
(2-307)of reasoning you will receive a copy of the new Edition  
(2-307)of the Minstrelsy just finishd and about to be ship'd,  
(2-307)enrichd with your Curse of Moy which is very much  
(2-307)admired by all to whom I have shewn it. This Longman  
(2-307)& Co/ will send. If they fail as is highly probable-be so  
(2-307)good as to send to Paternoster Row or call there on your  
(2-307)next pilgrimage to the patagonian priest of Egypt whom  
(2-307)we saw in Ironmongers lane enshrind in an old packing

(2-307)box. I find I am disappointed in my office frank but  
(2-307)will find some way of sending the poetical miscellany safe.  
(2-307)I am sorry that dear Lady Hood is so far from you. There  
(2-307)is something about her that makes me think of her with  
(2-307)a mixture of affection and so anxiety-such a pure and  
(2-307)excellent heart joint to such native and fascinating  
(2-307)manners cannot pass unprotected through your fashionable  
(2-307)scenes without much hazard of a twinge at least if

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(2-308)not a stab. I remember we talkd over this subject once  
(2-308)while riding on the banks of Tees and some how (I cannot  
(2-308)tell why) it falls like a death-bell on my ear. I would to  
(2-308)God she were with us in Scotland. She [is] too artless  
(2-308)for the people that she has to live amongst. This is all  
(2-308)vile croaking so I will end it by begging ten times love and  
(2-308)compliments to Mrs. Morritt in which Charlotte heartily  
(2-308)joins. Believe me ever dear Morritt Yours most faithfully

(2-308)EDINR. 2d. March 1810                      WALTER SCOTT  
[Law]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-308)CASTLE STREET 12 March 1810

(2-308)DEAR SIR,-As I am more moved by consideration of  
(2-308)former kindness than of recent neglect I cannot upon  
(2-308)reflection prevail upon myself to change the Editors in  
(2-308)the intended third edition of Sir Tristrem since you have  
(2-308)requested as a personal favour to yourself that I would  
(2-308)lay aside thoughts of doing so. At the same time as I  
(2-308)am unconscious of having parted with the property of  
(2-308)the work & I am sure never intended to do so I beg you  
(2-308)to understand that I retain my right to future editions in

(2-308)case I shall think proper to exercise it. I think you had  
(2-308)better communicate this letter to your partners because  
(2-308)they may decline holding the work in question as a favour  
(2-308)from me in which case I shall not be afraid of any charge  
(2-308)of want of liberality for not making a gratuitous present  
(2-308)to an opulent house of more than two editions of a valuable  
(2-308)copy-right. If however which I should like much better  
(2-308)you are disposed to consider my compliance with your  
(2-308)request as an act of personal kindness I will be glad to  
(2-308)waive further discussion of all disagreeable recollections  
(2-308)& proceed immediatly to adjust the new Edition. I  
(2-308)remain Dear Sir your obedient Servant

(2-308)WALTER SCOTT  
[Stevenson]

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TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-309)DEAR SIR,-I am much obliged by your frank acceptance  
(2-309)of Sir Tristrem on the footing on which my letter  
(2-309)placed it.<sup>1</sup> I shall be very desirous to have the 2d. Vol  
(2-309)of Caledonia as soon as possible as it may contain  
(2-309)something on the subject of Thomas the Rhymer. I will  
(2-309)call & speak about this & I am sure if Mr. Hunter is  
(2-309)really sorry for the occasion of my long absence from  
(2-309)your shop I will be happy to forget all disagreeable  
(2-309)circumstances & visit it often as a customer & amateur. I  
(2-309)think if necessary to add (before departing from this  
(2-309)subject & I hope for ever) that it is not in my power to  
(2-309)restore our relative situation as author & publishers  
(2-309)because upon the breach between us a large capital was  
(2-309)diverted by the Ballantynes from another object &  
(2-309)invested in their present Bookselling concern under an  
(2-309)express assurance from me of such support as my future

(2-309)publications could give them which is a pledge not to be  
(2-309)withdrawn without grounds which I cannot anticipate.  
(2-309)But this is not a consideration which need prevent our  
(2-309)being friends & well wishers.

(2-309)I am much obliged by the fine print & have also  
(2-309)received Sir Tristrem whom I shall make Mr. Weber  
(2-309)compare with the MS to rectifie any errors that may  
(2-309)have crept into the text. I remain Dear Sir Your  
(2-309)faithful Servant

(2-309)W. SCOTT

(2-309)2 CASTLE STREET 13 March [1810]

(2-309)The Notes are quite the same as cash. I inclose a rect

[Stevenson]

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TO SOPHIA BAILLIE

(2-310)MY DEAR MADAM,-Three days ago your beautiful  
(2-310)and most acceptable token of remembrance arrived safe  
(2-310)without the least damage from its long journey. It has  
(2-310)been the universal admiration of our little household and  
(2-310)is certainly the most elegant inhabitant of a glass-soever  
(2-310)since the time of Christalline la curieuse. But its beauty  
(2-310)is its least recommendation to me when I consider the  
(2-310)very flattering manner in which such a classical bijou  
(2-310)has come into my possession I shall never look upon it  
(2-310)without thinking of your goodness and endeavouring to  
(2-310)persuade myself that so far as goodwill was concernd it  
(2-310)has not been altogether misplaced. As for Charlotte  
(2-310)she has been standing opposite to it these two days on its

(2-310)little marble slab from which (to my inexpressible joy it  
(2-310)has displaced certain Chinese pagods) [sic] and making  
(2-310)curtseers [sic {apparently}] in the fulness other delight like  
(2-310)a young miss to her first doll. In the exercise of this  
(2-310)devotion she has got a little of the Influenza which I  
(2-310)endeavour to persuade her is a judgement for her Idolatry.  
(2-310)But she is positive that she can derive nothing but good  
(2-310)directly or indirectly from what comes from such kind  
(2-310)friends.

(2-310)My little housekeeper joins in kindest love and thanks  
(2-310)to you to Dr. Baillie to our dear friends at Hampstead  
(2-310)and we have some comfort in an apprehended journey to  
(2-310)London which in every other respect we would wish to  
(2-310)avoid that we may meet you all. Believe me Dear  
(2-310)Madam Your very faithful much obliged humble serv

(2-310)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-310)13 March 1810

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

SIR WALTER SCOTT      311      1810

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-311)NOTHING my dear Lady Abercorn would have kept  
(2-311)me so long silent under your commands but the impossibility  
(2-311)of immediately complying with them. Certain  
(2-311)little domestic exigencies to which the middling [?] class  
(2-311)of society are sometimes subjected obliged me to send  
(2-311)the Lady of the Lake to the press just after I had the  
(2-311)honour of writing to your Ladyship & I have only waited  
(2-311)untill such a reasonable portion of it was printed as might  
(2-311)give you some idea of the whole to dispatch it to Barons  
(2-311)court. It will reach you under an official cover for I

(2-311)have sent it to London for that purpose as parcels often  
 (2-311)miscarry by the Mail. Croker Secretary to the  
 (2-311)Admiralty & Member for one of your Ulster Counties  
 (2-311)takes care of it for you & I hope it will reach your  
 (2-311)Ladyship about the same time with this letter. It contains  
 (2-311)the two first cantos & I am truly anxious to know how you  
 (2-311)& Lord Abercorn like them.<sup>1</sup> If you think them really  
 (2-311)worthy of his patronage & should find his Lordship of the  
 (2-311)same opinion he will honour me greatly by taking them  
 (2-311)under his protection & I will only want your Ladyship's  
 (2-311)answer to request with proper respect that he will do so.  
 (2-311)But there is nothing of which I have so much fear as  
 (2-311)intrusion of this kind especially upon a person to whom  
 (2-311)I have been in too many instances inexpressably troublesome.  
 (2-311)I must therefore be indebted to your ever kind &  
 (2-311)friendly hint upon this subject. For if the Marquis likes the  
 (2-311)sample there is no man on earth to whom I would have  
 (2-311)such pleasure in giving the poem, & if he [does] not there  
 (2-311)is no man on earth to whom I ought to feel & do feel I

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(2-312)have less right to give trouble considering how unfortunate  
 (2-312)I have been already though very unwillingly. Let me  
 (2-312)add how desirous I am your Ladyship should think well  
 (2-312)of these Minstrel stanzas. The deuce take my lover  
 (2-312)I can make nothing of him ; he is a perfect automaton.  
 (2-312)It is very odd that the Border blood seems to rise in my  
 (2-312)veins whenever I begin to try couplets however torpid  
 (2-312)on other occasions. I am in my own person as Hamlet  
 (2-312)says indifferent honest and a robber or Captain of Banditti  
 (2-312)never comes across me but he becomes my hero. I  
 (2-312)believe had I been to write Gil Bias Captain Rolando  
 (2-312)would have been the principal personage from beginning  
 (2-312)to end. But we are all as heaven made us and if I come  
 (2-312)to see you in Ireland I will endeavour to avoid temptation

(2-312)and not to become a leader of robbers in the Wicklow  
(2-312)mountains which I have a notion must be one of the  
(2-312)[most] diverting preferments in the world. You will see  
(2-312)what has led to this rhapsody if the verses have reached  
(2-312)[you] for Black Sir Roderick the leader of a predatory  
(2-312)clan of highlanders is in danger despite all my resolutions  
(2-312)to the contrary of becoming the very chief of the story.

(2-312)You did not tell me if you exculpated me to your wild  
(2-312)Irish girl. Surely my apology was satisfactory.

(2-312)Politics are going to the very extremity of evil. The  
(2-312)Pitt party who had so many reasons for sticking together  
(2-312)are yielding up to personal animosity and internal feuds  
(2-312)that the force of the enemy never could have wrenched  
(2-312)from them. I am not sorry for the individuals much as  
(2-312)I respect many of them who are ruining their own credit  
(2-312)& interest. But I am deeply grieved that the country is  
(2-312)likely to be delivered up to the mercy [illegible] who  
(2-312)grown wise by experience will hardly be silly enough to  
(2-312)break their heads on another Catholic question.

(2-312)I hope the flowers have arrived safe. I will endeavour  
(2-312)to get you an office frank for the miscellany as really it  
(2-312)is not worth carriage to Ireland. I am waiting the  
(2-312)Chancellors commands which are seldom hastily issued

(2-313)whether I am to go to town or not this season. For once  
(2-313)in my life I am particularly anxious to stay at home  
(2-313)principally on account of my poem. And it will be no  
(2-313)little disappointment to me to find the Priory again  
(2-313)uninhabited. If I am called up I hope it will be late in  
(2-313)the season & that I shall find you returned to old England.  
(2-313)I beg my most respectful compliments to the Marquis

(2-313)& family & am ever truly Dear Lady Marchioness Your  
(2-313)obliged & faithful WALTER SCOTT

(2-313)EDIN. 14 March 1810.  
[Pierpont Morgan]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-313)NOTHING my dear Miss Baillie can loiter in my hands  
(2-313)when you are commanding officer. I have put the play in  
(2-313)progress through the press and I find my publishers the  
(2-313)Ballantynes had previously determined to make Mr.  
(2-313)Longman the proprietor of your other works, the offer of  
(2-313)a share in this. All that can be made of it in such a cause  
(2-313)certainly shall, and the booksellers shall be content with as  
(2-313)little profit as can in reason be expected. I understand  
(2-313)the trade well and will take care of this. Indeed I believe  
(2-313)the honour weighs more with the booksellers here than  
(2-313)the profit of a single play. So much for business.

(2-313)You are quite right in the risque I run of failure in a third  
(2-313)poem. Yet I think I understand the British public well  
(2-313)enough to set every sail towards the popular breeze. One  
(2-313)set of folks pique themselves upon sailing in the wind's eye  
(2-313)-another class drive right before it-Now I would neither  
(2-313)do one nor 'tother but endeavour to go as the sailors  
(2-313)express it upon a wind i.e. make use of it to carry me my  
(2-313)own way instead of going precisely in its direction-or  
(2-313)to speak in a dialect with which I am more familiar  
(2-313)I would endeavour to make my horse carry me instead

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(2-314)of attempting to carry my horse-I have a vainglorious  
(2-314)presentiment of success upon this occasion which may  
(2-314)very well deceive me but which I would hardly confess

(2-314)to any body but you nor perhaps to you neither unless  
(2-314)I knew you would find it out whether I told it you or no.

(2-314)You are a sharp observer and you look  
(2-314)Quite through the eyes of men-

(2-314)I plead guilty to the cause of my ill-breeding to  
(2-314)Miss H.1 The despair which I used to feel on receiving  
(2-314)poor Miss Seward's letters whom I really liked gave  
(2-314)me a most unsentimental horror for sentimental letters.  
(2-314)The Grossest thing I ever did in my life was to poor  
(2-314)dear Miss Seward she wrote me in an evil hour (I had  
(2-314)never seen her mark that!) a long and most passionate  
(2-314)epistle upon the death of a dear friend whom I had  
(2-314)never seen neither, concluding with a charge not to  
(2-314)attempt to answer the said letter for she was dead to  
(2-314)the world &c &c &c. Never were commands more  
(2-314)literally obeyed. I remained as silent as the grave till  
(2-314)the Lady made so many inquiries after me that I was  
(2-314)afraid of my death being prematurely announced by a  
(2-314)sonnet or elegy. When I did see her however she  
(2-314)interested me very much and I am now doing penance  
(2-314)for my illbreeding by submitting to edit her posthumous

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(2-315)poetry most of which is absolutely execrable. This,  
(2-315)however is the least of my evils for when she proposed  
(2-315)this bequest to me which I could not in decency refuse  
(2-315)she combined it with a request that I would publish her  
(2-315)whole literary correspondence. This I declined on  
(2-315)principle having a particular aversion at perpetuating  
(2-315)that sort of gossip. But what availed it-Lo ! to insure  
(2-315)the publication she left it to an Edinburgh Bookseller  
(2-315)and I anticipate the horror of seeing myself advertized  
(2-315)for a live poet like a wild beast on a painted streamer

(2-315)for I understand all her friends are depicted therein  
(2-315)at full length in body mind and manners. So much for  
(2-315)the risks of sentimental correspondence.

(2-315)Siddons' play was truly flat but not unprofitable.<sup>1</sup> He  
(2-315)contrived to get it well propd in the acting and though  
(2-315)it was such a thing as if you or I had written it  
(2-315)(supposing that is what in your case and I think even  
(2-315)in my own is impossible) would have been damned  
(2-315)seventyfold yet it went through and with applause. Such  
(2-315)is the humour of the multitude. They will quarrel  
(2-315)with venison for being dressed a day sooner than fashion  
(2-315)requires, and batten on a neck of mutton because on the  
(2-315)whole it is rather better than they expected. However  
(2-315)Siddons is a good lad and deserves success through  
(2-315)whatever channel it comes-His mother is here just  
(2-315)now-I was quite shocked to see her, for the two last  
(2-315)years have made a dreadful inroad both on voice and  
(2-315)person. She has however a very bad cold. I hope she  
(2-315)will be able to act Jane de Montfort, which we have long  
(2-315)pland.

(2-315)Mrs. Baillies kind token of remembrance arrived safe  
(2-315)this week to our infinite delight and astonishment being  
(2-315)certainly the prettiest ornament ever seen on this side of  
(2-315)the Tweed.

(2-315)Mrs. Scott joins in kindest love to Miss Agnes Baillie

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LETTERS OF

1810

(2-316)to the Doctor and his Lady and I ever am My dear Miss  
(2-316)Baillie very truly yours WALTER SCOTT

(2-316)EDINR 18 March 1810

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO ROBERT SURTEES

(2-316)EDINR. 23 March [1810]

(2-316)DEAR SURTEES,-I have postponed with great & gross  
(2-316)ingratitude acknowledging your various favours, & I have  
(2-316)mislaid a letter half written to you on the subject of your  
(2-316)communications, until I should be able to accompany  
(2-316)it with a copy of the new Edition of the Minstrelsy, which  
(2-316)owes you so much. I hope you got the Sadler tho' you  
(2-316)don't mention it. Constable assures me it was forwarded.  
(2-316)A Sir Somebody Lawson Yorkshire is urgent to know the  
(2-316)history of the Lawsons of Newcastle who J after you say  
(2-316)might furnish a supplement to Spellman on sacrilege.  
(2-316)Within two or three days you will receive " the minstrelsy"  
(2-316)& I write particularly not on that account but because  
(2-316)I will put up along with it Ritson's half-printed song also  
(2-316)his copy of Molinet's Remembrances & my translation.1  
(2-316)The last is worth nothing, but is heartily at Mr. Frank's  
(2-316)service, if it can illustrate his uncle's intention. I loved  
(2-316)poor Ritson with all his singularities & he was always  
(2-316)kind & indulgent to me. He had an honesty of principle  
(2-316)about him, which if it went to ridiculous extremities was  
(2-316)still respectable from the soundness of the foundation.  
(2-316)I don't believe the world would have made Ritson say  
(2-316)the thing he did. I wish we had his like at present.

(2-316)I am busied with a poem at present for the good of the

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1810      317

(2-317)world & of my children. Your Northumbrian Duerguar  
(2-317)comes in capital time to buckler by example a sort of  
(2-317)episodical fairy tale which occurs in it. The truth is, &  
(2-317)I know you will excuse my silence on account of it, I

(2-317)have been working harder than is quite good for me,  
(2-317)always apprehensive of a sudden call to London &  
(2-317)desirous to have my job out of hand before I go. I now  
(2-317)hope to send you a copy in the beginning of May of the  
(2-317)Lady of the Lake, a grand romance ambling on all four  
(2-317)like the paltry of Queen Guenever. I must not mislead  
(2-317)you however. It is a highland tale & rests a good deal  
(2-317)on highland chivalry, not Ossianic though-observe  
(2-317)that !

(2-317)I cannot find the Gentleman's Mag: or supplement.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-317)Oblige me by letting me know what you mean, & how I  
(2-317)can help your protege. If it is a subscription put me  
(2-317)down for a five guinea touch, if I am to get a book-so '.  
(2-317)if not, still put me down. I owe you much-much more  
(2-317)than ever I can pay in such a dribbleting kind of patronage.  
(2-317)So I would like to know your precise views in  
(2-317)favour of the decayed Aristocrat & I may get a friend or  
(2-317)two to give a little more strength to any thing I can do.  
(2-317)I cannot count on much in this for I am daily growing  
(2-317)more & more a hermit & envy you the pleasure of  
(2-317>walking out in your garden, chiefly because you can do  
(2-317)so sans hat sans coat if you have a mind.

(2-317)The story of the Lambton worm is not unlike that of  
(2-317)the Laidley worm of Spindlestonehaugh or rather that of  
(2-317)the serpent slain by our first Scottish Somerville, who  
(2-317)made him bolt a burning peat. I cannot help thinking  
(2-317)there is some strange truth disguised under all this  
(2-317)fiction. Who knows to what size the reptile race may  
(2-317)have attained, when the borders still so very wild were

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(2-318)comparatively uninhabited covered with wood & abounding  
(2-318)with those wild animals, on which creatures of prey

(2-318)subsisted. As their enemy man increased in numbers  
(2-318)the game disappeared before him, & they were at once  
(2-318)straightened in provisions, & became the object of active  
(2-318)& skilful hostility, underwent in short a sort of blockade &  
(2-318)storm at the same time. Many animals have disappeared  
(2-318)from the earth & many from the island-the wolf, the  
(2-318)wild bull or bison, the elk, & as to the lowlands the  
(2-318)red-deer are of that last number to which may be added the  
(2-318)Capper Cailzie or cock of the wood in the air, & the  
(2-318)Beaver in the Lake. If I could for a moment credit the  
(2-318)universal tradition respecting almost every Scottish loch  
(2-318)highland or lowland, I would say positively that their  
(2-318)water-cow always supposed to dwell there was the  
(2-318)Hippopotamus. Nor should I be at all surprized considering  
(2-318)the uniformity of the tradition both as to the  
(2-318)nature & appearance of the animal, if upon drawing  
(2-318)some of those lochs, which the rage for improvement will  
(2-318)one day bring about, we should pop upon a skeleton of  
(2-318)this Egyptian Behemoth. Holding this belief I must be  
(2-318)particularly gratified in contributing to aid the descendant  
(2-318)of a preux chevalier, who rid the world of one  
(2-318)example of a creature rather more curious as a specimen  
(2-318)than pleasant as a neighbour. Mrs. Scott begs kind  
(2-318)compliments to Mrs. Surtees, & believe me Ever yours

(2-318)WALTER SCOTT  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-318)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE-Believe me I have never in my  
(2-318)life been so much pleased as with your kind and  
(2-318)unmerited goodness in the matter of the Family Legend.  
(2-318)There is a free masonry among kindred spirits (and I am  
(2-318)your adopted brother) that always leads them to understand

(2-319)each other at little expence of words. I shall  
(2-319)hold myself highly honourd indeed in what will I am  
(2-319)certain make me live long after I should be otherwise  
(2-319)forgotten for no one can both eat his cake and have his  
(2-319)cake and I have enjoyd too extensive popularity in this  
(2-319)generation to be entitled to draw long dated bills upon  
(2-319)the applause of the next. In the course of a train of life  
(2-319)so fortunate as may make a prudent person fearful of  
(2-319)the future I have met with nothing that has given me  
(2-319)so much real pleasure and I verily hope to use your own  
(2-319)phrase that what I feel is not mere vanity but something  
(2-319)better.

(2-319)The play is now groaning in the press. I send the  
(2-319)proofs but this will not insure their being altogether  
(2-319)correct for in despite of great practice Ballantyne  
(2-319)insists I have a bad eye. I will gain one advantage by  
(2-319)this that I will obtain possession of the original  
(2-319)Manuscript which I will preserve among my other literary  
(2-319)valuables. Your introduction is delightful flattering to us  
(2-319)as Scotsmen and doubly pleasing as friends. Erskine is  
(2-319)two inches higher upon the kind mention made of him.  
(2-319)I have I understand missd the very finest performance  
(2-319)ever seen in Edinburgh Mrs. Siddons (the elder) in Jane  
(2-319)de Montfort. Every body agrees that she was never more  
(2-319)herself than in that character, playing with her son and  
(2-319)upon his theatre was doubtless one great cause not merely  
(2-319)of exertion but of real enthusiasm. She fairly cried  
(2-319)herself sick at her own part so you may believe there was  
(2-319)fine work in the front as they call the audience part of  
(2-319)the house. Never was there such a night for those  
(2-319)industrious females the laundresses. And how came you  
(2-319)to be absent Mr. Scott ? Why truly I was dreeing  
(2-319)penance for some undiscovered sin at a family party of

(2-319)about a month's invitation so flight was as much out of  
(2-319)the question as it was to support my disappointment  
(2-319)with patience for I expected enough although my  
(2-319)expectations appear to have fallen short of the truth.

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(2-320)The young Siddonians are delighted with the distinguishd  
(2-320)and flattering applause you have given to their  
(2-320)efforts.

(2-320)I wish I was like you in every thing but politics in  
(2-320)this free country make an early part of our education and  
(2-320)become bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. There  
(2-320)is no difference except in words and personal predilections  
(2-320)between the candid and well informed of both parties.  
(2-320)In principle there is and can be none. No Whig will allow  
(2-320)that it is his intention to break down the royal part of  
(2-320)the constitution and no Pittite will call himself an enemy  
(2-320)to legitimate freedom. The debateable ground between  
(2-320)the parties is very narrow indeed so far as real principle  
(2-320)is concernd. But it is in words and in partialities that  
(2-320)we differ and while we continue mortal words and  
(2-320)partialities will be principal motives to human action.  
(2-320)So we will e'en leave the parties to pull cap themselves  
(2-320)and hope that if we do happen to be weights in the one  
(2-320)scale or other at least we are not leaden ones.

(2-320)Did I not tell you that my own poem has nothing to  
(2-320)do with the valiant Sir Lancelot?1 It is a highland tale of  
(2-320)which the scene is laid on the verge of Loch Katrine. I  
(2-320)am pressing the printers to despatch and hope soon to  
(2-320)send you a copy. I will take care that the Bookseller's  
(2-320)cash is forth-coming as soon as our bargain permits. You  
(2-320)can put it in your scrutoir and dispose it as you please.  
(2-320)As for the prologue and epilogue I believe it is the rule

(2-320)of the Stage not to resume them after the first run of the  
(2-320)play is over that is so soon as the performance of another  
(2-320)piece has intervened. But do not hope you will escape  
(2-320)them in the printed copy. If I was as tedious as an  
(2-320)Emperor I could find in my heart to bestow it all upon  
(2-320)your Ladyship and I am too fond of sounding my trumpet  
(2-320)before you to be ashamed of its being a little out of tune.

SIR WALTER SCOTT                      321              1810

(2-321)You are quite right as to my private opinion of Westalls  
(2-321)illustrations-they are barely [? basely] devised like almost  
(2-321)every thing of the kind I ever saw-but what would have  
(2-321)it availed to have said so to the artist or to poor Longman  
(2-321)-the deed was done.<sup>1</sup> By the way I understand there  
(2-321)are two rival sets of illustrations in preparation for the  
(2-321)Lady of the Lake even before she makes her appearance.  
(2-321)Both will probably be execrable for if Westall who is  
(2-321)really a man of talent failed in figures of chivalry where he  
(2-321)had so many paintings to guide him what in the Devil's  
(2-321)name will he make of highland figures. I expect to see  
(2-321)my chieftain Sir Roderick Dhu (for whom let me bespeak  
(2-321)your favour) in the guise of a recruiting serjeant of the  
(2-321)Black Watch and his Bard the very model of Auld Robin  
(2-321)Gray upon a japand tea-tray.

(2-321)Mrs. Scott joins in kindest and best love to Miss A.  
(2-321)Baillie the Dr. Mrs. Baillie and family I am ever Your  
(2-321)truly obliged and faithful                                      W SCOTT

(2-321)EDINR 30th March [1810]

(2-321)I shall send this by the Advocates cover so it may be a  
(2-321)day after post.

1810                      322                      LETTERS      OF

[Written across the top, at the beginning of the letter :]

(2-322)By the way we have stuck to the original name Maclean  
(2-322)in the printed play. So I have so far altered the introduction  
(2-322)as to say he was called Duart in the representation.  
(2-322)The verse answers best with Maclean which there is no  
(2-322)pronouncing unrhythmically whereas the ordinary  
(2-322)pronunciation of Duart would puzzle Scotch folks.

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO THE REV. MR. BERWICK, ESCLOR, LEIXLIP

(2-322)MY DEAR SIR,-An uncommon pressure of business and  
(2-322)latterly great distress in my family by an inflammatory  
(2-322)fever which confined three of my four Children at once  
(2-322)gave me the appearance of ingratitude which is very far  
(2-322)from my heart. My bookseller has tantalized me with  
(2-322)the hopes of Appolonius<sup>1</sup> these two months and I have  
(2-322)partly delayed writing on that account not that my  
(2-322)verdict on Classical matters is worth six pence but  
(2-322)because if the book had been written in Arabic and by so  
(2-322)kind a friend I should have been anxious at least to say I  
(2-322)had seen it. My education was of a very desultory nature  
(2-322)not from want of the kindest paternal [care] but partly  
(2-322)from bad health in early youth partly from the interruptions  
(2-322)seclusions and indulgences I was too much permitted  
(2-322)to study what I liked and when I liked which was very  
(2-322)little and very seldom. To mend the matter I stuffed  
(2-322)my brains with all such reading as was never read and  
(2-322)in the department of my memory where should be a  
(2-322)Roman Patra lo ! there is a witches cauldron. I am

(2-323)more apt to pray to Thor or Woden than Jupiter think  
(2-323)of the fairies oftener than the Dryads and of Bannockburn  
(2-323)and Flodden more than Marathon and Pharsalia.

(2-323)I took the liberty of sending under Miss Whites protection  
(2-323)an Illustrated copy of the Lay of the last Minstrel.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-323)I wished to add Marmion but could not procure the 4to.  
(2-323)I trust soon to send you my new Adventure the Lady of  
(2-323)the Lake which I hope will serve to while away an idle  
(2-323)day and when I can procure a Marmion the set will be  
(2-323)complete.

(2-323)My poem has not interfered with Swift though my  
(2-323)progress has been slackd by other circumstances. In  
(2-323)the political tracts respecting Ireland I observe one or  
(2-323)two relating to the intended establishment of a Dublin  
(2-323)Bank and the subscriptions handed about for that purpose  
(2-323)which Swift treats with great ridicule. The commentator  
(2-323)just glances at such a scheme which he says was thrown  
(2-323)out in Parliament. I should like to know a little more  
(2-323)of the matter and if any one can assist me you can. The  
(2-323)Deans ridicule is generally so peculiarly applicable that  
(2-323)the reader loses much by not being made acquainted  
(2-323)precisely with the subject in hand. Are there for  
(2-323)example any of these subscription papers or copies of  
(2-323)them to be had. I have twenty more questions to put  
(2-323)but my eyes have been worn out with watching of late  
(2-323)and I scarce can write intelligibly. I am truly sorry for  
(2-323)Mr. Cooper Walkers illness ; he is a kind generous and  
(2-323)obliging man. I have not heard of dear Lady Charlotte  
(2-323)Rawdon this long and many a day.

(2-323)My Children are thank God all recovering though two  
(2-323)still keep their beds.

(2-323)Miss White mentions some letters of Swifts in the hands

(2-324)of Lady Castlereagh addressed it seems to Mrs. Howard  
 (2-324)who was her Ladyships ancestress. I have taken some  
 (2-324)measures to enquire about [them] but am afraid they may  
 (2-324)be only the originals of those already published. Believe  
 (2-324)me Dear Sir Always yours truly obliged

(2-324)WALTER SCOTT  
 (2-324)10th April [1810]

(2-324)This should have gone with the book but was forgot in  
 (2-324)the confusion occasioned by the Young peoples illness.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-324)EDINBURGH, 14th April 1810

(2-324)MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I would long since have  
 (2-324)written to your Ladyship to thank you for all your  
 (2-324)kindness in my behalf and to express how much I am  
 (2-324)pleased that Lord Abercorn to whom I am about to write  
 (2-324)a few lines likes his literary protege.<sup>1</sup> I am about to  
 (2-324)enclose the 3d and 4th cantos of the poem to Croker for a  
 (2-324)frank the 5th is going through the press and so soon as  
 (2-324)the 6th is achieved you shall have it all. It is I think in  
 (2-324)point of interest of story the best of my efforts and I hope  
 (2-324)will meet its share of public favour. I like the 4th canto  
 (2-324)myself and hope your Ladyship will like it for my sake.  
 (2-324)We have been in a terrible state for this fortnight past-  
 (2-324)three of my children at once ill of a dangerous and  
 (2-324)inflammatory fever brought on by the inauspicious

(2-325)weather with which we have been visited this spring.  
(2-325)My eldest boy struggled for life & it was by bleeding  
(2-325)blistering & strong drastic medecines that he has been  
(2-325)restored to us. The younger brother & sister were not  
(2-325)so severely affected & we were more early aware of the  
(2-325)danger. Still they were very ill & though I know you  
(2-325)can feel what our anxiety must have been yet you can  
(2-325)hardly know how much a small house & moderate  
(2-325)establishment renders difficult that attention which we  
(2-325)wish to be universal & yet hardly know how to give to  
(2-325)one without withdrawing from another. But even our  
(2-325)servants rather exposed themselves to great & constant  
(2-325)watching & fatigue than call in the assistance of strangers  
(2-325)& health thank God seems about to visit us again. My  
(2-325)eldest son whom I offered you for a page is the merest  
(2-325)skeleton I ever saw & would disgrace any decent mummy.  
(2-325)His brother & he still keep their beds & must for some  
(2-325)days. My eldest girl assisted her mother as a little nurse  
(2-325)& has quite escaped the disorder. It has been dreadfully  
(2-325)prevalent here & in many instances fatal.

(2-325)I must have expressed myself very ill to lead your  
(2-325)Ladyship to think I had any complaint to make of Lord  
(2-325)Melville. He has always been my kind generous and  
(2-325)ready friend nor doubt I in the least that I shall always  
(2-325)find him so as I have never remarked abatement in his  
(2-325)kindness and I am sure have never done anything to  
(2-325)deserve it. I think while they were making so many  
(2-325)alterations in the court I here they might have invalidated

(2-326)my Senior and cash-drawer and the Chief Baron Lord  
(2-326)Melville's nephew as well as the late Presidt. and several

(2-326)others of our Scotch Commission were desirous that it  
(2-326)should have been done : by granting a man of seventy-five  
(2-326)a pension for having discharged an important trust for  
(2-326)forty years they would have been guilty of no public  
(2-326)robbery and I who actually discharge the duty would  
(2-326)have been admitted at least to some recompence for my  
(2-326)labour. But I think the Advocate my soi-disant friend  
(2-326)set his face against it & I make [indecipherable here]  
(2-326)myself happy that the kindness of the public sets me  
(2-326)above depending upon his favour. It was never mentioned  
(2-326)to Lord M. that I know of nor did the plan  
(2-326)come from me. It was proposed by Sir Hay Campbell  
(2-326)as a necessary step to maintain the respectability of the  
(2-326)situation & warmly listened to, but departed from I  
(2-326)don't well know how nor why. So much for grumbling.  
(2-326)But I am much more angry for our friends at their  
(2-326)internal disunion than for neglecting such an individual  
(2-326)as myself. If the present or any un-whiggish administration  
(2-326)will but keep their ground I will make hay before  
(2-326)the light or sunshine of my little reputation sets and I have  
(2-326)always my official emoluments to look to one day for  
(2-326)the deuce is in it if a man twice my age outlive me after  
(2-326)all. But I detest the Whigs with a cordial detestation  
(2-326)and the bilious fits which I should experience under their  
(2-326)domination, would I am convinced get the better of me.

(2-326)Now here comes a great request. Your friend Lady  
(2-326)Castlereagh has I am told a numerous collection of  
(2-326)original letters of Swift written to her Ancestress Mrs.  
(2-326)Howard the favourite of Queen Caroline. Now this may  
(2-326)not be true but it bears a very probable face-I am  
(2-326)informed Lord Leitrim has seen them-there are letters  
(2-326)(it [is] said) to Queen Caroline (I presume while Princess  
(2-326)of Wales) to Mrs. Howard and to Pope-Now do you  
(2-326)think Lady Gastlereagh's countenance will so much belie  
(2-326)the goodnature which with beauty is its distinguishing

(2-327)characteristic as to refuse me copies of these letters?1 I  
(2-327)will take such care of them as has never been taken of  
(2-327)anything in this world and you need not tell Lady C. that  
(2-327)I am an old friend of Canning since I am sure I am [a]  
(2-327)sincere well-wisher to Lord Castlereagh whose conduct  
(2-327)since that unfortunate quarrel has been so manly  
(2-327)generous and patriotic-Do dear Lady write and let me  
(2-327)know what I can expect about these same letters-not  
(2-327)that there is any hurry only that I am impatient to know  
(2-327)if the whole be not one grand blunder or quizz.-I fear  
(2-327)there is now no chance of my being soon in England and  
(2-327)indeed in the present state of my family it is altogether  
(2-327)undesirable

(2-327)I am sorry for the miscarriage of the flower roots which  
(2-327)unless the gardner [sic] at the Priory has set them . . .  
(2-327)must be good for nothing. You say nothing of the fair  
(2-327)Novelist Miss Owenson. Surely she is not inexorable  
(2-327)[MS. sewn in here].-Believe me, my dear Lady Abercorn,  
(2-327)your Ladyship's truly obliged and faithful,

(2-327)WALTER SCOTT

(2-327)I am hopeless of profiting by the pamphlets on the  
(2-327)Fiorin Grass, being a wretched & most unwilling farmer.  
(2-327)But if your Ladyship sends them to me they will give me  
(2-327)consequence with all the Agriculturists in Selkirkshire.  
(2-327)So pray do-if not extremely big either Croker or Francis  
(2-327)Freling Genl. Post Office will forward them for me if  
(2-327)sent under their cover.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO CHARLES ERSKINE

(2-327)MY DEAR CHARLES,-I am very sorry to say you must  
(2-327)take belt & sword after all (2) -Anne is still very unwell, my

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(2-328)wife uneasy & Sophia we think about to take the same  
(2-328)complaint-the rest are recovering very slowly-Lord  
(2-328)Meadowbank1 has kindly sent to say he will be satisfied  
(2-328)with your attendance & will make it as light as possible.  
(2-328)This will also be convenient to enable me to get out my  
(2-328)new poem which we are printing very hard and as Lord  
(2-328)Meadowbank volunteerd to excuse me I hope you will  
(2-328)excuse me also. Believe me very kindly Yours  
(2-328)EDINR. 22d. April 1810 WALTER SCOTT

[Home & Lyell]2

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(2-328)[April-May 1810]

(2-328)DEAR JAMES,-I send the grand finale, and so exit the  
(2-328)Lady of the Lake from the head she has tormented for six  
(2-328)months. In canto VI. stanza 21,-stern and still, read  
(2-328)grim and still; sternly occurs four lines higher. For a  
(2-328)similar reason, stanza 24-dun deer, read fleet-deer. I  
(2-328)will probably call this morning. Yours truly,

(2-328)W. S.

[Abbotsford Copies and Note at the close of  
The Lady of the Lake]

TO JOHN WILSON CROKER

(2-328)MY DEAR SIR,-A thousand thanks for your kind billet.  
(2-328)To avail ourselves of your invaluable support in the  
(2-328)House it is necessary to mention to you the present state  
(2-328)of the business. The Advocate finding I believe that  
(2-328)the opposition of filling up the amount of our compensation  
(2-328)for our dues of office in the inadequate manner  
(2-328)recommended by the report of the commission was likely  
(2-328)to meet with opposition which he would find it difficult

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(2-329)to overcome has proposed in lieu thereof a reference of  
(2-329)our claims to the court of Exchequer in Scotland.1 Now  
(2-329)to this our objection is twofold. 1st That if the remit  
(2-329)be thus made generally the Court of Exchequer would  
(2-329)not hesitate to adopt the report of the Commission  
(2-329)sanctioned by such high authority & possessing the  
(2-329)concurrence of two of the six judges of that Court who  
(2-329)being Commissioners are prejudicated by that very  
(2-329)report. If the clause instead of being general were so  
(2-329)worded as to measure the compensation by the amount  
(2-329)of our fees of Office as now by law exigible much of our  
(2-329)objection would be removed because the unjust principle  
(2-329)of measuring our claim by the receipts of distant years  
(2-329)under a most inadequate system of collection would be  
(2-329)departed from. But we hope and trust the House with  
(2-329)the evidence before them which is full and complete and  
(2-329)within ten lines ; ready also to be verified on oath at  
(2-329)their bar will decide themselves upon the amount of what  
(2-329)is due to us. Or if we are to go to a Scottish Court why  
(2-329)not to the Court of Session of which we are officers and  
(2-329)where the extent of our dues is well known and recognised.  
(2-329)In fact the Excheqr. in Scotland has been most  
(2-329)unfavourable in such cases. I know not from what spirit  
(2-329)of public parsimony but their proceedings have given rise

(2-329)to the most clamorous complaints both from Quaternary  
(2-329)meetings and Sheriffs. As one instance out of many,  
(2-329)there was a woman sent to be hung in Fife. The Sheriff  
(2-329)had not only the disagreeable duty of seeing the ceremony

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(2-330)performed but the pleasure of paying for a handsome new  
(2-330)patent Gallows out of his own pocket for which he was  
(2-330)not allowed one penny in his crown-accompts, the Barons  
(2-330)saying he might have hung her on a tree. The Advocate  
(2-330)used to be loud enough upon such subjects when Sheriff  
(2-330)of Perthshire. I myself had occasion to bring some  
(2-330)witnesses from England to hang a horse-stealer-The people  
(2-330)would not come for the usual sum allowed them for  
(2-330)expenses on the road and as they were not liable to be  
(2-330)compelled I had no alternative but to give them a little  
(2-330)more to induce them to appear on the trial. They came  
(2-330)and convicted the man but I was obliged to pay the  
(2-330)difference myself as Sheriff of Selkirkshire.

(2-330)Excuse me troubling you with all these details especially  
(2-330)as Colin Mackenzie who lies leiger for us in town will be  
(2-330)able and anxious to give you more full information. On  
(2-330)Friday I shall [send] a copy of the Lady of the Lake for  
(2-330)you and I will avail myself of your cover to send one to  
(2-330)Canning. Believe me. Very truly yours,

(2-330)WALTER SCOTT

(2-330)EDINBURGH, 1st May, 1810.

[Brotherton]

TO LADY DALKEITH

(2-330)MY DEAR LADY DALKEITH,-Accept with my best  
(2-330)respects & with your Ladyships usual indulgence a copy  
(2-330)of the Lady of [the] Lake a Lady of whom I am as heartily  
(2-330)tired as ever I was of indifferent company & who  
(2-330)nevertheless trusting more to your goodness than to her desert  
(2-330)I hope may find some grace in your Ladyships eyes.  
(2-330)There are two copies in the same parcel one for Lady  
(2-330)Douglas, one for your Ladyships neighbour Mrs. Robert  
(2-330)Dundas. I hope the distance being short you will permit  
(2-330)one of the green merry men to deliver it in Downing  
(2-330)Street.

(2-330)The weather here has been very severe especially among  
(2-330)children. All mine have been deplorably ill but are now

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1810            331

(2-331)thank God recovering. I hope your Ladyships nursery  
(2-331)escaped the disorder which was something like an influenza.  
(2-331)I beg my most respectfully [sic] compliments to  
(2-331)the Lord of Tyndale & thanks for his kind attention to my  
(2-331)request by which he will befriend me in a most essential  
(2-331)particular. Believe me with deep respect & regard Ever  
(2-331)your Ladyships most obedient & obliged humble Servant

(2-331)EDINR. 7 May [1810]                            WALTER SCOTT  
[Buccleuch]

TO LADY ALVANLEY 1

(2-331)MY DEAR LADY ALVANLEY,-As a very slight tribute  
(2-331)of gratitude for the uncommonly kind & flattering  
(2-331)attention with which your Ladyship was pleased to honor  
(2-331)Mrs. Scott & me when in town last spring I have used the  
(2-331)freedom to send for your Ladyship's acceptance a poetical  
(2-331)romance which I have just intruded upon the public. It



(2-332)and hears and I would think a week or two of your  
(2-332)society a most important advantage indeed. Early  
(2-332)travelling in some respects is of advantage, it opens the  
(2-332)ideas of children and if their companions will have  
(2-332)patience to hear and answer their questions it is perhaps  
(2-332)the highest possible enjoyment you can give them.

(2-332)To quit the actual nursery and come to our literary  
(2-332)offspring. You must know that my young babe is born  
(2-332)in the shape of a comely quarto. Two or three days  
(2-332)since I addressed a copy for you to be left at Dr Baillies.  
(2-332)In case it has not appeared you will be kind enough to  
(2-332)cause enquiry to be made at Mr Miller Bookseller in  
(2-332)Albemarle Street to whose care it was addrest. I shall  
(2-332)be impatient to hear if it has given you any amusement  
(2-332)& if it has been so fortunate-a fico for the critics- This  
(2-332)accompanies a copy of the Family Legend which I learn  
(2-332)with surprize has not been forwarded to you. It is  
(2-332)positively more delightful in reading than in representation.  
(2-332)Lord Meadowbank came in here yesterday with  
(2-332)his eyes streaming from the perusal and fetching tears  
(2-332)from an old metaphysical lawyer and a Scotchman  
(2-332)beside is something like the miracle of Moses's rod in the  
(2-332>wilderness. The sale has been very much to the book-sellers

1810

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-333)satisfaction-four fifths of the quantity retained in  
(2-333)Scotland are already sold & the rest daily going off.

(2-333)James Grahame has returned to Scotland. His wife  
(2-333)is at present in town making interest to get him appointed  
(2-333)preacher to the Chapel in Queen Street and I am moving  
(2-333)heaven and earth to help her. But I fear he has been  
(2-333)too late of starting since I find many of the most sweet  
(2-333)voices are already engaged in behalf of other [sic] He

(2-333)is a worthy modest and most ingenious man-ill calculated  
(2-333)I fear to beat up against wind and tide which on  
(2-333)this occasion seem to set in against him, but still I dont  
(2-333)renounce hope of success. I have not heard why he  
(2-333)left the living in England but suppose he did not quite  
(2-333)find the climate agree with him.<sup>1</sup>

(2-333)I must break off having a great deal to do. Our  
(2-333)Session is about to set down my own duty as some thing  
(2-333)in arrear, one of my colleagues is absent in London and  
(2-333)another detained by family distress so I have more than

334                      LETTERS OF                      1810

(2-334)enough upon my hands. Charlotte joins in kind love  
(2-334)to Miss A. Baillie to the Doctor and his Lady and I ever  
(2-334)am My dear Miss Baillie most faithfully yours

(2-334)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-334)EDINBURGH 7 May [1810]

(2-334)I inclose a few lines for Mr Cox.  
[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO [LADY STAFFORD]

(2-334)MADAM,-I have the honour to send by the coach a  
(2-334)volume which in point of printing & paper at least may  
(2-334)claim a place in your valuable collection and I have  
(2-334)been anxious to select a copy which in these respects  
(2-334)may not disgrace your shelves though they hold some of  
(2-334)the most beautiful & curious books in England. But for  
(2-334)the matter of the volume I must invoke all your Ladyships  
(2-334)partialities & prejudices in my favour, as a Highland  
(2-334)Chieftainess, a Scottish Countess & if you will permit me  
(2-334)so much honour, as a friend of the rhymer and I fear that

(2-334)with all these to aid it may be weighd in the balance &  
(2-334)found wanting-not in point of weight Heaven knows  
(2-334)but in point of merit. Such as my Lady of the Lake is

(2-334)to you & to your honour I commit her I  
(2-334)And with her this-

(2-334)Meaning thereby this letter which perhaps requires an  
(2-334)apology although it is meant to contain one.

(2-334)I have [been] disappointed by various circumstances  
(2-334)from paying my respects at Cleveland House this season  
(2-334)which I once thought would have been in my power.  
(2-334)But my family have been very ill, & besides my Lord

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1810            335

(2-335)Advocate who has certain points to carry against my  
(2-335)brethren & myself has intrigued a little to detain me where  
(2-335)I am-at least I cannot help suspecting so much.

(2-335)I have taken the liberty to address a few lines to your  
(2-335)Ladyship to beg a ticket of admission to the gallery for a  
(2-335)female artist a Miss Auchterlony a respectable & amiable  
(2-335)woman who has been reduced by the extravagance other  
(2-335)father & brothers to cultivate a talent for painting for  
(2-335)her subsistence which she once made an amusement.  
(2-335)She comes to London on purpose to look at pictures & I  
(2-335)do not know any Collection she can see with so much  
(2-335)pleasure & advantage. I dont think a very great deal  
(2-335)of her genius which is of that unfortunate kind at least at  
(2-335)present which hovers between talent & accomplishment  
(2-335)& would therefore have graced the situation she was born  
(2-335)to, but I am afraid will hardly give her distinction as  
(2-335)an artist.

(2-335)I hope Lady Hood is well-& I beg to be respectfully  
(2-335)rememberd to the Marquis. I am with the greatest  
(2-335)respect Madam Your Ladyships obliged & respectful  
(2-335)humble Servt. WALTER SCOTT

(2-335)EDINR May [1810?]  
[Edin. Univ. Lib.]

TO THOMAS SCOTT

[Extract]

(2-335)13th May 1810

(2-335). .. I AM truly sorry for the reduction of the Militia,1  
(2-335)yet it is but an idle man's employment, and though the  
(2-335)immediate loss be severe, I would fain hope you may,  
(2-335)with your talents, find a more lucrative and active sphere  
(2-335)of exertion. I have not been quite idle myself, for my  
(2-335)situation makes it necessary that I should labour. My

336                    1810                    LETTERS           OF

(2-336)last effort has been a new poem, of which I expect to have  
(2-336)a copy for you in a week or two. ...

(2-336)There is no news here worth telling. Your old friend  
(2-336)Bailie Coulter died in his glorious year of Provostry, and  
(2-336)was buried as doubtless he would have wished to be, only  
(2-336)that Messrs. Young and Trotter, his opponents in the  
(2-336)Council, were intrusted with the charge of solemnising  
(2-336)his rites of sepulture.

(2-336)Matters look serious in London, and I fear infinite  
(2-336)pains has been taken to infect the Foot Guards with  
(2-336)democratic principles. I hope they will have the prudence

(2-336)to send them in an army to Portugal, and replace  
(2-336)them with regular marching regiments, less-subject  
(2-336)from their constitution and discipline to popular  
(2-336)contagion. I wish they may have no occasion to regret  
(2-336)disbanding Militia and Volunteers. Yet the sense of the  
(2-336)generality of the people is so sound that I cannot bring  
(2-336)myself to have serious apprehensions. We are beginning  
(2-336)to kindle here in a little degree. All reminds me of an  
(2-336)exclamation of the French as recorded in their old  
(2-336)history, " Tanneguy du Chatel, ou es-tu ? " What is  
(2-336)become of William Pitt ? It is astonishing how the loss  
(2-336)of one man has deranged the wisdom and disorganised  
(2-336)the force of this mighty people. You and I, with wives  
(2-336)and children, and seventeen years added to our lives,  
(2-336)will hardly scramble so well as we might have done in  
(2-336)1793-4 when the same game was playing.

(2-336)I was much obliged to you for your curious notices  
(2-336)about the remnant of old customs in the Isle of Man. I  
(2-336)am surprised their song of triumph over the wren 1 is in

337                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1810

(2-337)English. I remember to have heard verses of it, and if I  
(2-337)mistake not, the whole is in Johnson's collection of Scotch  
(2-337)songs and music.<sup>1</sup> Burns, who assisted Johnson, may have  
(2-337)picked it up in Dumfriesshire. As your residence in so  
(2-337)curious a place must have furnished you with many  
(2-337)miscellaneous remarks, I wish you would throw them  
(2-337)into the shape of a little Essay and send it to me for the  
(2-337)Register, of which I am a proprietor. . . .-I ever am,  
(2-337)yours affectionately,

(2-337)W. S.

[Familial Letters]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

(2-337)MY DEAR Miss GLEPHANE,-You must with your  
(2-337)friendly goodness excuse the laziness of my fingers in  
(2-337)consideration of the hard duty to which they have been  
(2-337)lately subjected in their editorial authorial and official  
(2-337)capacity. At times the quantity of ink which I am  
(2-337)obliged to shed weighs upon my conscience like Lady  
(2-337)Macbeth's sea of blood and the spot on the upper side  
(2-337)of my middle finger seems as indelible and as worthy of  
(2-337)execration as the stains of Duncan's gore. But I am  
(2-337)never insensible to your kindness and always happy to  
(2-337)hear of you from you and about you. Besides when  
(2-337)you have time to read over the Lady of the Lake notes  
(2-337)inclosed you will see how much I have been obliged to  
(2-337)your Gaelic erudition so that if I willfully neglected or  
(2-337)undervalued your correspondence there would not only  
(2-337)be unkindness in it but infinite folly. I shall have a copy  
(2-337)of the aforesaid Lady for you I hope very shortly of a size  
(2-337)fit for the chaise pocket.

(2-337)Shall I say I am sorry you have met some little dis-  
(2-337)appointments among your fashionable friends ? 2 I think

338                      LETTERS    OF                      1810

(2-338)I cannot because you know the use which may be made  
(2-338)of experience even when bought at the expence of high-  
(2-338)raised expectation or of injured feeling. Yet you have  
(2-338)such an excellent and affectionate adviser in Mrs. Clephane  
(2-338)that I hope you will have no more of that knowledge  
(2-338)of mankind (aye or womankind either) which is bought  
(2-338)with pain to yourself. The modern fashionables arc a  
(2-338)bad race. Selfish feeling and self-indulgence is uppermost  
(2-338)in their minds-assist them in their parties-give  
(2-338)them the eclat of talent and the superiority derived from

(2-338)the exercise of any accomplishment and you shall be the  
(2-338)little deity of the hour; but never look for your  
(2-338)worshippers the next morning-they are chasing some new  
(2-338)butterfly with equal ardour and equal sincerity. After  
(2-338)all one must submit to all this-it is the order of things  
(2-338)and I dare say has been so since courts and cities first  
(2-338)arose.

(2-338)On debruit, on enleve, on s'intrigue, on projette, I  
(2-338)have often thought it very fortunate that I was not  
(2-338)thrown among these gay folks even for the occasional  
(2-338)space of a visit to London untill I was of an age not to  
(2-338)be much biassed by the opinions of the day nor greatly  
(2-338)elated by the temporary attentions which I have sometimes  
(2-338)received from those whom somebody terms " Those  
(2-338)dangerous persons called our betters."

(2-338)Yet I have known many whose hearts have retained  
(2-338)their natural and noble feeling under the highest varnish  
(2-338)of polishd manners. Enough of morality and of that  
(2-338)melancholy, most melancholy of sciences calld the  
(2-338)knowledge of the world.

339                SIR WALTER SCOTT                1810

(2-339)I am very glad you like the little selection of poetry-  
(2-339)it contains much that I dont precisely admire but such a  
(2-339)collection should be miscellaneous and have something  
(2-339)for every taste.

(2-339)I have been strongly tempted to go to the Hebrides  
(2-339)this season but I think I shall decline it chiefly because I  
(2-339)shall not find you at Mull or the Seaforth family at Castle  
(2-339)Brahan.<sup>1</sup> Yet this is uncertain for Staffa <sup>2</sup> tempts me with  
(2-339)the offer of a stout sloop and right men to carry me to  
(2-339)the out isles, which he has provided for the more profitable

(2-339)purpose of transporting kelp. I understand however his  
(2-339)sister Flora is in a very dangerous way which will perhaps  
(2-339)make him stay in England longer than he expected  
(2-339)and so I think my jaunt to the Hebrides is like to  
(2-339)blow up.

(2-339)I hope when you return to Scotland you will take our  
(2-339)farm of Ashestiel in your way where I will be particularly  
(2-339)happy to show you all the wonders of our land which  
(2-339)if you except Melrose Abbey are very few. Our country  
(2-339)is pastoral but not romantic-our house is a good large  
(2-339)farm house capable of accommodating our friends but  
(2-339)too small to admit mere visitors. Mrs. Scott joins anxiously  
(2-339)in this request and in kind Compliments to Mrs. and Miss  
(2-339)Clephane. As a penance for doubting the pleasure I  
(2-339)would have in hearing from you I wish you would write  
(2-339)me your opinion of the Lady of the Lake-The notes were  
(2-339)printed when I was out of town so they have mangled  
(2-339)some Gaelic words-Ever your faithful and respectful

(2-339)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-339)EDINR. 19 May 1810

[Northampton]

340        LETTERS OF                    1810

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-340)EDINBURGH, May 20, 1810

(2-340)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-I am very sensible of the value  
(2-340)of your kind approbation of my efforts,<sup>1</sup> and trust I shall,  
(2-340)under such good auspices, keep my ground with the  
(2-340)public. I have studied their taste as much as a thing so  
(2-340)variable can be calculated upon, and I hope I have again

(2-340)given them an acceptable subject of entertainment.  
 (2-340)What you say of the songs is very just, and also of the  
 (2-340)measure. But, on the one hand, I wish to make a  
 (2-340)difference between my former poems and this new  
 (2-340)attempt, in the general tenor of versification, and on the  
 (2-340)other, having an eye to the benefits derivable from the  
 (2-340)change of stanza, I omitted no opportunity which could  
 (2-340)be given or taken, of converting my dog-trot into a  
 (2-340)hop-step-and-jump. I am impatient to see Kehama ;  
 (2-340)James Ballantyne, who has a good deal of tact, speaks  
 (2-340)very highly of the poetical fire and beauty which pervades  
 (2-340)it; and, considering the success of Sir William Jones, I  
 (2-340)should think the Hindhu mythology would not revolt  
 (2-340)the common readers, for in that lies your only danger.  
 (2-340)As for Don Pelayo, it should be exquisite under your  
 (2-340)management: the subject is noble, the parties finely  
 (2-340)contrasted in manners, dress, religion, and all that the  
 (2-340)poet desires to bring into action ; and your complete  
 (2-340)knowledge of every historian who has touched upon the

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1810      341

(2-341)period, promises the reader at once delight and  
 (2-341)instruction.

(2-341)Twenty times twenty thanks for the History of Brazil,  
 (2-341)which has been my amusement, and solace, and spring  
 (2-341)of instruction for this month past. I have always made  
 (2-341)it my reading-book after dinner, between the removal of  
 (2-341)the cloth and our early tea-time. There is only one  
 (2-341)defect I can point out, and that applies to the publishers  
 (2-341)-I mean the want of a good map. For, to tell you the  
 (2-341)truth, with my imperfect atlas of South America, I can  
 (2-341)hardly trace these same Tups of yours (which in our  
 (2-341)Border dialect signifies rams), with all their divisions and  
 (2-341)subdivisions, through so many ramifications, without a

(2-341)carte de pays. The history itself is most singularly  
(2-341)entertaining, and throws new light upon a subject which we  
(2-341)have hitherto understood very imperfectly. Your labour  
(2-341)must have been immense, to judge from the number of  
(2-341)curious facts quoted, and unheard-of authorities which  
(2-341)you have collected. I have traced the achievements of  
(2-341)the Portuguese adventurers with greater interest than I  
(2-341)remember to have felt since, when a school-boy, I first  
(2-341)perused the duodecimo collection of Voyages and  
(2-341)Discoveries called the World Displayed 1 -a sensation which  
(2-341)I thought had been long dead within me ; for, to say the  
(2-341)truth, the philanthropic and cautious conduct of modern  
(2-341)discoverers, though far more amiable, is less entertaining  
(2-341)than that of the old Buccaneers, and Spaniards, and  
(2-341)Portuguese, who went to conquer and achieve adventures,  
(2-341)and met with strange chances of fate in consequence,  
(2-341)which could never have befallen a well-armed boat's  
(2-341)crew, not trusting themselves beyond their watering-  
(2-341)place, or trading with the natives on the principles of  
(2-341)mercantile good faith.

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(2-342)I have some thoughts of a journey and voyage to the  
(2-342)Hebrides this year, but if I don't make that out, I think  
(2-342)I shall make a foray into your northern counties, go to  
(2-342)see my friend Morritt at Greta Bridge, and certainly  
(2-342)cast myself Keswick-ways either going or coming. I  
(2-342)have some literary projects to talk over with you, for the  
(2-342)re-editing some of our ancient classical romances and  
(2-342)poetry, and so forth. I have great command of our  
(2-342)friends the Ballantynes, and I think, so far as the filthy  
(2-342)lucre of gain is concerned, I could make a very advantageous  
(2-342)bargain for the time which must necessarily be  
(2-342)bestowed in such a labour, besides doing an agreeable  
(2-342)thing for ourselves, and a useful service to literature.

(2-342)What is become of Coleridge's Friend ?<sup>1</sup> I hope he had a  
(2-342)letter from me, enclosing my trifling subscription. How  
(2-342)does our friend, Wordsworth ? I won't write to him,  
(2-342)because he hates letter-writing as much as I do ; but I  
(2-342)often think on him, and always with affection. If you  
(2-342)make any stay at Durham let me know, as I wish you to  
(2-342)know my friend Surtees of Mainsforth. He is an excellent  
(2-342)antiquary, some of the rust of which study has clung to  
(2-342)his manners ; but he is good-hearted, and you would  
(2-342)make the summer eve (for so by the courtesy of the kalendar  
(2-342)we must call these abominable easterly blighting  
(2-342)afternoons) short between you. I presume you are with my  
(2-342)friend Dr Southey,<sup>2</sup> who, I hope, has not quite forgotten  
(2-342)me, in which faith I beg kind compliments to him, and  
(2-342)am ever yours most truly,

(2-342)WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart]

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1810            343

TO J. B. S. MORRITT

(2-343)[P.M. 23 May 1810]

(2-343)MY DEAR MORRITT,-I need not say how acceptable  
(2-343)your approbation of the Lady of the Lake is to me because  
(2-343)you will readily give me credit for feeling both as a friend  
(2-343)and as a poet upon the occasion.

(2-343>Your criticism is quite just as to the Son of the dry  
(2-343)Bone, Brian. Truth is I had intended the battle should  
(2-343)have been more detaild and that some of the persons  
(2-343)mentiond in the third canto and Brian in particular  
(2-343)should have been commemorated. I intended he should  
(2-343)have been shot like a corbie on a craig as he was

(2-343)excommunicating and anathematizing the Saxons from some  
(2-343)of the predominant peaks in the Trosachs. But I found  
(2-343)the battle in itself too much misplaced to admit of being  
(2-343)prolonged by any Details which could be spared. For it  
(2-343)was in the first place episodical and then all the principal  
(2-343)characters had been disposed of before it came on and  
(2-343)were absent at the time of action and nothing hinged  
(2-343)upon the issue of consequence to the fable. So I e'en  
(2-343)left it to the judgement of my readers whether Brian was  
(2-343)worried in the Trosachs or escaped to take earth in his  
(2-343)old retreat in Benharrow near Ardkinlas.

(2-343)My principal reason of writing immediady is to beg  
(2-343)you will have the goodness to address your pamphlet to  
(2-343)me under cover to Mr. Freling General Post Office  
(2-343)who gives me the privilege of his unlimited frank in  
(2-343)favour of literature. Any moderate packet will always  
(2-343)reach me in that way. The Ballantynes I am sure will  
(2-343)be desirous to have some.-I have a little commission for  
(2-343)you if you will be kind enough to accept of it. You  
(2-343)know I fell in love with your Library table and now that  
(2-343)the Lady has put crowns into my purse I would willingly  
(2-343)treat myself unto the like-only I think I have not much  
(2-343)occasion for the space which holds accompt books in  
(2-343)other respect[s] it is quite a model: and in that respect I

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(2-344)don't quarrell with it; for why should I not be a rich  
(2-344)man one day and have accompt Books. Now were I to  
(2-344)send to your Upholsterer (not to mention I have forgot his  
(2-344)local habitation and his name) he would probably send  
(2-344)me what he best pleased and therefore I intrude so far on  
(2-344)your time as to request you when you are taking a walk to  
(2-344)order me such a table as yours; the terms to be ready money  
(2-344)on the things arriving here. I should like it to come before

(2-344)I leave town for Ashestiel which will be 12 July.

(2-344)I sometimes have thought of a jaunt to the Hebrides  
(2-344)this summer. But if this highland trip should misgive  
(2-344)I would not have you be too secure from an invasion at  
(2-344)Rokeby for I have been persuading myself that the  
(2-344)Carlisle stage would set me down at Greta Bridge in no  
(2-344)time at all and I sleep most delectably in a mail-coach.  
(2-344)But all this is at present as much a dream [as] honest John  
(2-344)Bunyan's Pilgrim's [Progress].

(2-344)So your London citizens are taking the alarm. As  
(2-344)Dryden says 1

(2-344)I would it should be so-tis a good horror  
(2-344)First let them fear for rapes and plunderd houses  
(2-344)Cold Burghers must be struck and struck like flints  
(2-344)Ere their hid fire will sparkle-

(2-344)It is disgraceful to see the legislature of this mighty  
(2-344)Kingdom representatives of all the power wisdom and  
(2-344)property of Great Britain insulted by the very scum of  
(2-344)the earth for such must the mob of Westminster [be] and  
(2-344)very little better do I hold the factious demagogues of  
(2-344)the Livery.

(2-344)I am vexd about Lady Hood & wish her here with all  
(2-344)my heart & soul. I have not interested myself in  
(2-344)anybodys happiness so much this long while & I feel very  
(2-344)jealous for her unprotected state.

(2-344)Mrs. Scott joins in kind Compliments to Mrs. Morritt.  
(2-344)I fear she will be now longing excessively for the groves  
(2-344)of Rokeby. Ever yours W. SCOTT

(2-345)Pray dont be lazy [but] finish your ballad 1 with a  
(2-345)wannion 2 to you. Ellis is at Sunninghill-well I hope  
(2-345)& active in the good cause. I have not heard from him  
(2-345)lately through my own fault. Pray rummage out your  
(2-345)copy of the Minstrelsy from Longman & Co/. It has  
(2-345)been with them ages ago.

(2-345)Our parliamentary affair was settled by Composition.

[Law]

TO THOMAS SCOTT, ESQ., DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN

[Extract]

(2-345)EDINBURGH, 25th May 1810

(2-345)MY DEAR TOM,-I write under some anxiety for your  
(2-345)interest, though I sincerely hope it is groundless. The  
(2-345)devil or James Gibson has put it into Lord Lauderdale's  
(2-345)head to challenge your annuity s in the House of Lords on  
(2-345)account of Your non-residence and your holding a commision  
(2-345)in the militia. His lordship kept his intention as  
(2-345)secret as possible but unfortunately it reached the kind  
(2-345)and friendly ear of Colin Mackenzie. Lord Melville  
(2-345)takes the matter up stoutly, and I have little doubt will  
(2-345)carry his point unless the whole bill is given up for the  
(2-345)season, which some concurring opposition from different  
(2-345)quarters renders not impossible. In that case you must,  
(2-345)at the expense of a little cash and time, show face in  
(2-345)Edinburgh for a week or two and attend your office.

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(2-346)But I devoutly hope all will be settled by the bill being

(2-346)passed as it now stands. This is truly a most unworthy  
(2-346)exertion of private spite and malice, but I trust it will  
(2-346)be in vain.

[Lockhart]

TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-346)[May-June 1810]

(2-346)MY DEAR ELLIS,-I have been scandalously lazy in  
(2-346)answering your kind epistle, received I don't know how  
(2-346)long since ; but then I had been long your creditor, and  
(2-346)I fancy correspondents, like merchants, are often glad to  
(2-346)plead their friends' neglect of their accompt-current as  
(2-346)an apology for their own, especially when they know that  
(2-346)the value of the payments being adjusted, must leave a  
(2-346)sad balance against them. I have run up an attempt on  
(2-346)the Curse of Kehama for the Quarterly ; a strange thing  
(2-346)it is-the Curse, I mean-and the critique is not, as the  
(2-346)blackguards say, worth a damn ; but what I could I did,  
(2-346)which was to throw as much weight as possible upon the  
(2-346)beautiful passages, of which there are many, and to slur  
(2-346)over the absurdities, of which there are not a few. It is  
(2-346)infinite pity of Southey, with genius almost to exuberance,  
(2-346)so much learning and real good feeling of poetry, that,  
(2-346)with the true obstinacy of a foolish papa, he will be most  
(2-346)attached to the defects of his poetical offspring. This  
(2-346)said Kehama affords cruel openings for the quizzers, and  
(2-346)I suppose will get it roundly in the Edinburgh Review.  
(2-346)I could have made a very different hand of it indeed, had  
(2-346)the order of the day been pour déchirer.

(2-346)I told you how much I was delighted with your  
(2-346)critique on the Lady 1 ; but, very likely moved by the  
(2-346)same feeling for which I have just censured Southey, I

(2-346)am still inclined to defend the eight-syllable stanza, which  
(2-346)I have somehow persuaded myself is more congenial to

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(2-347)the English language-more favourable to narrative  
(2-347)poetry, at least-than that which has been commonly  
(2-347)termed heroic verse. If you will take the trouble to read  
(2-347)a page of Pope's Iliad, you will probably find a good many  
(2-347)lines out of which two syllables may be struck without  
(2-347)injury to the sense. The first lines of this translation  
(2-347)have been repeatedly noticed as capable of being cut  
(2-347)down from ships of the line into frigates, by striking out  
(2-347)the said two-syllabled words, as-

(2-347)"Achilles' wrath to Greece, the direful spring  
(2-347)Of woes unnumbered, heavenly goddess, sing,  
(2-347)That wrath which sent to Pluto's gloomy reign  
(2-347)The souls of mighty chiefs in battle slain,  
(2-347)Whose bones unburied on the desert shore,  
(2-347)Devouring dogs and hungry vultures tore."

(2-347)Now, since it is true that by throwing out the epithets  
(2-347)underscored, we preserve the sense without diminishing the  
(2-347)force of the verses-and since it is also true that scarcely  
(2-347)one of the epithets are more than merely expletive-I do  
(2-347)really think that the structure of verse which requires  
(2-347)least of this sort of bolstering, is most likely to be forcible  
(2-347)and animated. The case is different in descriptive  
(2-347)poetry, because there epithets, if they are happily  
(2-347)selected, are rather to be sought after than avoided, and  
(2-347)admit of being varied ad infinitum. But if in narrative you  
(2-347)are frequently compelled to tag your substantives with  
(2-347)adjectives, it must frequently happen that you are forced  
(2-347)upon those that are merely common-places, such as  
(2-347)" heavenly goddess," " desert shore," and so forth ; and I

(2-347)need not tell you, that whenever any syllable is obviously  
(2-347)inserted for the completion of a couplet, the reader is  
(2-347)disposed to quarrel with it. Besides, the eight-syllable  
(2-347)stanza is capable of certain varieties denied to the heroic.  
(2-347)Double rhymes, for instance, are congenial to it, which  
(2-347)often give a sort of Gothic richness to its cadences ; you  
(2-347)may also render it more or less rapid by retaining or  
(2-347)dropping an occasional syllable. Lastly, and which I

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(2-348)think its principal merit, it runs better into sentences  
(2-348)than any length of line I know, as it corresponds, upon  
(2-348)an average view of our punctuation, very commonly with  
(2-348)the proper and usual space between comma and comma.  
(2-348)Lastly the Second,-and which ought perhaps to have  
(2-348)been said first,-I think I have somehow a better knack  
(2-348)at this " false gallop " of verse, as Touchstone calls it,  
(2-348)than at your more legitimate hexameters ; and so there  
(2-348)is the short and long of my longs and shorts. Ever yours,

(2-348)WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO MRS. SCOTT OF HARDEN 1

(2-348)5 June [1810]

(2-348)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-I am proud that the Lady of  
(2-348)the Lake can divert an hours pain or lassitude though very  
(2-348)sorry Lord Egremont 2 should need her assistance for that  
(2-348)purpose. The line he mentions must be a very indifferent  
(2-348)one for I have had repeated application for a commentary.<sup>3</sup>  
(2-348)The best I can give is that I thought the Fox Glove a stiff  
(2-348)glaring sort of a flower no bad emblem of pride. As to  
(2-348)the Nightshade you know its deleterious qualities & it

(2-348)ran in my confused head that the ancients used its juice  
(2-348)in poisoning state criminals. Bruised hemlock was

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(2-349)however employd for that purpose in the affair of Socrates  
(2-349)nor am I prepared to affirm that my own recollection  
(2-349)will prove more accurate in any other though I have  
(2-349)never, enquired. In transmitting this account of my  
(2-349)meaning to Lord Egremont be so good as to take notice  
(2-349)that I give it under the reservation of my privilege to  
(2-349)adopt any more ingenious meaning which my critics may  
(2-349)find out for me.

(2-349)I am returning to Edinr. au plus vite & I fear I shall  
(2-349)find difficulty from the state of official duty to be out upon  
(2-349)5th June. But we will meet and be merry in summer.  
(2-349)Believe me dear Madam truly & respectfully Yours

(2-349)MELROSE Wednesday                                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-349)I have a nice little foal at Ashestiel for the little cousins.  
[Polwarth]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-349)[EDINBURGH June 10, 1810] 1

(2-349)MY DEAR Miss BAILLIE,-I am truly gratified by your  
(2-349)kind approbation of the Lady of the Lake for were I to be  
(2-349)asked who in Great Britain I should most wish to please by  
(2-349)my poetical attempts I would certainly name the person  
(2-349)whose works had afforded me the highest degree of  
(2-349)interest and pleasure and in this respect I know not any  
(2-349)one who comes within a bow shot of you. As I am quite  
(2-349)sensible of the necessity of giving the public some variety

(2-349)of manner as well as of story I stretched my canvas on  
(2-349)a much smaller scale than when I attempted the story  
(2-349)of Flodden. Should I ever write again which is very  
(2-349)uncertain I intend to take the Hebridean character and  
(2-349)scenery with that of the North of Ireland for my subject-  
(2-349)but this is truly speaking of the saddling of a foal.

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(2-350)I have forwarded your letter to Grahame and have  
(2-350)done all the little in my power to assist him in his object.  
(2-350)The only good I can do is to endeavour to remove  
(2-350)political prejudices founded on his poem of Copenhagen,<sup>1</sup>  
(2-350)and being myself " more an ancient Roman than a Dane "  
(2-350)I have, I think, some chance of being listend to upon  
(2-350)such a subject. What probability of success he has is at  
(2-350)present uncertain. The vestry in whom the Election lies  
(2-350)are like other solemn bodies mysterious and oracular and  
(2-350)the individuals who compose that august Sanhedrim  
(2-350)when spoke to separately cry " hum" "go to" look  
(2-350)wise and make the most of their temporary importance.  
(2-350)But we will keep a sharp look out and do the best we can  
(2-350)for the Sabbath Bard who is really a most worthy and  
(2-350)amiable man and an excellent painter of Scottish manners  
(2-350)and scenery.

(2-350)The adventure of the Duke of Cumberland is indeed  
(2-350)terrible. It looks as if all the curses of the poor  
(2-350)Highlanders upon the head of his predecessor in title had been  
(2-350)suspended in effect and had now fallen upon the  
(2-350)inoffensive wearer of his unlucky coronet. Is it not very  
(2-350)odd that old Duke William, after all the " Tears of  
(2-350)Scotland," <sup>2</sup> should have died quietly in his bed and that  
(2-350)this man who is one of the most orderly of his family (I  
(2-350)believe) should be hackd to pieces by an Italian Valet  
(2-350)for no reason at all. By the way I have used the incident

(2-350)in conversation as a confutation to those who deny that  
(2-350)the excess of hatred in De Montfort's character is founded  
(2-350)in nature. Seilis [sic] appears though in low life to have  
(2-350)been a remarkable person and I dare say was quite right  
(2-350)in his quarrels with Neale but finding his complaints  
(2-350)neglected and that none of the friends to whom he  
(2-350)mentiond them sympathized with his feelings he brooded  
(2-350)over them till he became capable of this desperate

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(2-351)action.<sup>1</sup> A passion which we dare not impart to others or  
(2-351)which when imparted attracts no sympathy is sure in minds  
(2-351)of a certain cast to burn with a flame more ardent because  
(2-351)smotherd. But to talk to you of passions is really sending  
(2-351)as we say saut to Dysart.

(2-351)I have heard nothing from the gentleman whom you  
(2-351)mention as the person you wish to draw the price of the  
(2-351)Family Legend. The money is ready-had I not better  
(2-351)send you the Bill and you can transfer it to him in your  
(2-351)own way. The Booksellers credit is I suppose nearly  
(2-351)expired-I mean the time of payment is at hand. By the  
(2-351)way the said family Legend was acted the other day  
(2-351)to an overflowing house. Many people brought the  
(2-351)book in their pocket and it seemd even to gain on the  
(2-351)public from the acquaintance they had formd with it in  
(2-351)the closet.

(2-351)Charlotte sends you ten thousand kind thanks for your  
(2-351)rect. We have not had occasion to use it because this  
(2-351)vile cough which still hangs about our young people will  
(2-351)declare itself to be the hooping cough.<sup>2</sup> The two eldest  
(2-351)left Edinr. to day to go to Ashestiel with their mother  
(2-351)for a few days in hopes the change of air may relieve them  
(2-351)of this obstinate cold. They were otherwise quite

(2-351)recovery of their indisposition and regaining strength and  
(2-351)good looks apace. Charlotte would have written to tell

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(2-352)you all this but she feels or rather thinks she feels difficulty  
(2-352)in expressing herself on paper so accurately as she would.  
(2-352)She sometimes takes fits of apprehension of this kind  
(2-352)though she understands English like a native.

(2-352)I enclose for Mrs. Hunter a copy of the little metrical  
(2-352)Miscellany which has long lain at the bottom of my  
(2-352)portmanteau when packed for London. I assure you  
(2-352)I value her applause not a little for my sense of it is  
(2-352)proportioned to my estimation of her acknowledged  
(2-352)talents. I fancy Dr. Baillie and you Northern folks  
(2-352)banished to the lands where

(2-352)Meadows flower and cornfield [sic] wave in the sun,

(2-352)like my poetical bouquet the better that it is chiefly  
(2-352)composed of highland heather.

(2-352)My kindest Compliments attend Miss Baillie the Dr.  
(2-352)and his Lady in which my wife does not join expressly  
(2-352)because she is thirty miles off and I am a bachelor and  
(2-352)obliged to my bookseller if he will dine with me. But  
(2-352)I think I can answer for her kindest wishes so I send  
(2-352)them upon trust. Ever your truly obliged & affectionate  
(2-352)W. SCOTT

(2-352)EDINR. 10 June [1810]

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO THOMAS SCOTT

[Extract]

(2-352)EDINBURGH, June 12th [1810]

(2-352)DEAR TOM,-I have the pleasure to acquaint you that  
(2-352)I have every reason to believe that the bill will pass this  
(2-352)week. It has been committed ', upon which occasion Lord  
(2-352)Lauderdale stated various objections, all of which were  
(2-352)repelled. He then adverted to your case with some  
(2-352)sufficiently bitter observations. Lord Melville advised  
(2-352)him to reserve his epithets till he was pleased to state

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(2-353)his cause, as he would pledge himself to show that they  
(2-353)were totally inapplicable to the transaction. The Duke  
(2-353)of Montrose also intimated his intention to defend it,  
(2-353)which I take very kind of his Grace, as he went down on  
(2-353)purpose, and declared his resolution to attend whenever  
(2-353)the business should be stirred. So much for

(2-353)" The Lord of Graham, by every chief adored,  
(2-353)Who boasts his native philabeg restored." l

[Lockhart]

TO THOMAS SCOTT

[Extract]

(2-353)EDINBURGH, 21st June 1810  
(2-353)MY DEAR TOM,-The bill was read a third time in the  
(2-353)House of Lords, on which occasion Lord Lauderdale  
(2-353)made his attack, which Lord Melville answered. There  
(2-353)was not much said on either side : Lord Holland

(2-353)supported Lord Lauderdale, and the bill passed without a  
(2-353)division.<sup>2</sup> So you have fairly doubled Cape Lauderdale.  
(2-353)I believe his principal view was to insult my feelings, in  
(2-353)which he has been very unsuccessful, for I thank God I  
(2-353)feel nothing but the most hearty contempt both for the  
(2-353)attack and the sort of paltry malice by which alone it  
(2-353)could be dictated.

[Lockhart]

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TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-354)29th June 1810

(2-354)MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I was agreeably disappointed  
(2-354)by your kind letter in which you take upon  
(2-354)you a fault which was really mine for I ought to have  
(2-354)apprized you that the Lady of the Lake was waiting to  
(2-354)pay her respects to your Ladyship and the Marquis as you  
(2-354)passed through Dumfries. I am truly glad the Marquis  
(2-354)thinks it worth his patronage as I certainly most sincerely  
(2-354)wished it might not disgrace his Lordship's acknowledged  
(2-354)taste and the kind and friendly dispositions with proofs  
(2-354)of which he has honoured me upon so very many occasions.  
(2-354)I like it myself as well as any of my former  
(2-354)attempts, and the public seem to receive it with kindness  
(2-354)which even the sanguine hopes of the Booksellers had not  
(2-354)anticipated. The quarto edit. of 2000 has not lasted a  
(2-354)fortnight and the smaller edition [is] now published of  
(2-354)which I hope to send your Ladyship a copy to-morrow or  
(2-354)next day as it contains a few corrections made since the  
(2-354)1st edition. As for my lover I find with deep regret  
(2-354)that however interesting lovers are to each other it is no  
(2-354)easy matter to render them generally interesting. There

(2-354)was however another reason for keeping Malcolm  
(2-354)Graeme's character a little under as the painters say for  
(2-354)it must otherwise have interfered with that of the King  
(2-354)which I was more anxious to bring forward in splendour  
(2-354)or something like it.

(2-354)As the Session of our Courts will soon be over I intend  
(2-354)to go for a fortnight to the Hebrides which I have never  
(2-354)visited though I have been on the opposite mainland. I  
(2-354)hardly know whether to expect much or not but I strongly  
(2-354)suspect the best parts of Highland scenery are those which  
(2-354)lie upon the main-But my friend Ronald Macdonald of  
(2-354)Staffa promises me a good barge six rowers a piper and  
(2-354)his own company for pilot which is a strong temptation.  
(2-354)Had your Ladyship remained in Ireland and been adventurously  
(2-354)disposed you might have sailed from the Irish

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(2-355)coast and in five hours or not much more visited the  
(2-355)famous cavern of Fingal. I will let you know on my  
(2-355)return whether it be worth seeing or no.

(2-355)I am truly happy Lord Hamilton's health is likely to  
(2-355)be re-established and that his lady meets your maternal  
(2-355)hopes. I hear high accounts of her from every quarter  
(2-355)and I am sure he deserves domestic happiness which her  
(2-355)temper and dispositions are I understand likely to secure  
(2-355)to him.

(2-355)I am grieved about Lady Castlereagh's letters which  
(2-355)would have been of great consequence to me but I hope  
(2-355)her Ladyship will publish them according to her present  
(2-355)intention and I will be happy to have an opportunity of  
(2-355)seeing them.

(2-355)We expect Lord Melville here immediately and I think  
(2-355)I may have some chance of finding him at Dunira on my  
(2-355)return from the West Highlands. We have had a great  
(2-355)change in my official situation our perquisites being  
(2-355)exchanged for salaries of 1100,, with a chance of  
(2-355)getting a hundred or two more by application to  
(2-355)Exchequer-no bad prospect when the decease of my senior  
(2-355)shall put me in possession.

(2-355)I suppose Sir Francis Burdett's extravagancies have  
(2-355)been of considerable service to ministers as they must  
(2-355)have the necessary effect of compelling everybody to rally  
(2-355)about the King and the Government. Pray what is  
(2-355)supposed to be the real motive of Sir Francis's rejecting  
(2-355)the civic triumph which his friends had so kindly prepared  
(2-355)for him. Was he afraid that his guards and escort might  
(2-355)not prove so orderly as to do credit to their general or did  
(2-355)he feel reluctance, like Sir John Falstaff to " march  
(2-355)through Coventry " at the head of his ragged regiment ?

(2-355)Adieu my dear friend-if I am not drowned in the  
(2-355)whirlpool of Corrievrekin or knocked against the basaltic  
(2-355)columns of Staffa or carried off by some of the spectre  
(2-355)Abbots of Iona or eaten up by the wild Macraus whose  
(2-355)appearance struck Johnson with some apprehensions of

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(2-356)the kind your Ladyship shall hear from me with some  
(2-356)accounts of my wanderings. I beg to be respectfully  
(2-356)remembered to the Marquis (by whose kind letter I was  
(2-356)much gratified) to Lord Hamilton and the Ladies and  
(2-356)ever am your Ladyship's very faithful and respectful  
(2-356)humble servant,    W. SCOTT

(2-356)Excuse a wafer as I write from the Court where we are

(2-356)allowed no lighted tapers.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO THOMAS SCOTT

[Extract]

(2-356)[July 1810]

(2-356)LORD HOLLAND has been in Edinburgh, and we met  
(2-356)accidentally at a public party.<sup>1</sup> He made up to me, but  
(2-356)I remembered his part in your affair, and cut him with as  
(2-356)little remorse as an old pen.

[Lockhart]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON 2

(2-356)EDINBURGH, 3rd July 1810

(2-356)MY DEAR RICHARDSON,-I ought before now to have  
(2-356)written you my particular thanks for your kind attention  
(2-356)to the interest which I came so strangely and unexpectedly

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(2-357)to have in the passing of the Judicature Bill. The only  
(2-357)purpose which I suppose Lord Lauderdale had in view  
(2-357)was to state charges which could neither be understood  
(2-357)nor refuted, and to give me a little pain by dragging my  
(2-357)brother's misfortunes into public notice. If the last was  
(2-357)his aim, I am happy to say it has most absolutely  
(2-357)miscarried, for I have too much contempt for the motive  
(2-357)which dictated his Lordship's eloquence, to feel much  
(2-357)for its thunders. My brother loses by the bill from    150

(2-357)to 200, which no power short of an act of Parliament  
(2-357)could have taken from him ; and far from having a view  
(2-357)to the compensation, he is a considerable loser by its  
(2-357)being substituted for the actual receipts of his office.  
(2-357)I assure you I am very sensible of your kind and friendly  
(2-357)activity and zeal in my brother's behalf.

(2-357)I received the Guerras 1 safe ; it is a fine copy, and I  
(2-357)think very cheap, considering how difficult it is now to  
(2-357)procure foreign books. I shall be delighted to have the  
(2-357)*Traite des Tournois*. 2 I propose, on the 12th, setting  
(2-357)forth for the West Highlands, with the desperate purpose  
(2-357)of investigating the caves of Staffa, Egg, and Skye.  
(2-357)There was a time when this was a heroic undertaking,  
(2-357)and when the return of Samuel Johnson from achieving  
(2-357)it was hailed by the Edinburgh literati with " *per varies*  
(2-357)*casus*," and other scraps of classical gratulation equally  
(2-357)new and elegant. But the harvest of glory has been  
(2-357)entirely reaped by the early discoverers ; and in an age  
(2-357)when every London citizen makes Loch Lomond his  
(2-357)washpot, and throws his shoe over Ben-Nevis, a man may  
(2-357)endure every hardship, and expose himself to every danger  
(2-357)of the Highland seas, from sea-sickness to the jaws of the  
(2-357)great sea-snake, without gaining a single leaf of laurel  
(2-357)for his pains.

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(2-358)The best apology for bestowing all this tediousness  
(2-358)upon you is, that John Burnet is dinning into the ears  
(2-358)of the Court a botheration about the politics of the  
(2-358)magnificent city of Culross. But I will release you sooner  
(2-358)than I fear I shall escape myself, with the assurance that  
(2-358)I am ever yours most truly,                      WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-358)ULVA HOUSE,1 July 19, 1810

(2-358)I CANNOT, my dear Miss Baillie resist the temptation  
(2-358)of writing to you from scenes which you have rendered  
(2-358)classical as well as immortal. We-which in the present  
(2-358)case means my wife, my eldest girl, and myself-are thus  
(2-358)far in fortunate accomplishment of a pilgrimage to the  
(2-358)Hebrides. The day before yesterday we passed the  
(2-358)Lady's Rock in the Sound of Mull so near that I could  
(2-358)have almost touched it. This is, you know, the rock  
(2-358)of your Family Legend. The boat by my desire went as  
(2-358)near as prudence permitted and I wished to have  
(2-358)picked a relique from it were it but a cockle shell or a  
(2-358)muscel to have sent to you but a spring-tide was running  
(2-358)with such force and velocity as to make the thing  
(2-358)impossible. About two miles farther we passed under  
(2-358)the Castle of Duart the seat of Maclean consisting of  
(2-358)one huge (indeed immense) square tower in ruins, and  
(2-358)additional turrets and castellated buildings (the work,  
(2-358)doubtless, of Benlora's guardianship), on which the roof  
(2-358)still moulders. It overhands [sic] the strait channel from  
(2-358)a lofty rock without a single tree in the vicinity and is  
(2-358)surrounded by high and barren mountains forming altogether  
(2-358)as wild and dreary a scene as I ever beheld. Duart is  
(2-358)confronted by the opposite castles of Dunstaffnage,

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(2-359)Dunally Ardtornish Elair Stalker and others all once the  
(2-359)abodes of grim feudal chiefs who warred incessantly with  
(2-359)each other. I think I counted seven of these fortresses is  
(2-359)sight .at once and heard seven times seven legends of  
(2-359)war and wonder connected with them. We landed late

(2-359)wet and cold on the Island of Mull near another old  
 (2-359)castle called Aros,-separated, too, from our cloaths  
 (2-359)which were in a large wherry which could not keep pace  
 (2-359)with our row-boat. Mr. Macdonald of Staffa my kind  
 (2-359)friend and guide had sent his piper (a constant attendant  
 (2-359)-mark that!) to rouse a highland gentleman's family in  
 (2-359)the neighbourhood where we were received with a  
 (2-359)profusion of kindness and hospitality. Why should I  
 (2-359)appal you with a description of our difficulties and  
 (2-359)distresses-how Charlotte lost her shoes and little Sophia  
 (2-359)her whole collection of pebbles-how I was divorced from  
 (2-359)my razors, and our whole party looked like a Jewish  
 (2-359)Sanhedrim! By this time we were accumulated as  
 (2-359)follows-Sir George Paul<sup>1</sup> the great philanthropist-Mrs.  
 (2-359)Apreece a distant relation of mine and Hannah Mackenzie,  
 (2-359)a daughter of our friend Henry,<sup>2</sup> Mackinnon of Mackinnon  
 (2-359)a young gentleman born and bred in England but nevertheless  
 (2-359)a Highland chief.<sup>3</sup> It seems his father had acquired  
 (2-359)wealth and this young man who now visits the Highlands  
 (2-359)for the first time is anxious to buy back some of the  
 (2-359)family property which was sold long since. Some twenty  
 (2-359)McKinnons who happened to live within hearing of our  
 (2-359)arrival; (that is, I suppose, within ten miles of Aros) came  
 (2-359)posting to see their young chief, who behaved with great  
 (2-359)kindness and propriety and liberality. Next day we rode  
 (2-359)across the isle on highland ponies attended by a numerous  
 (2-359)retinue of Gillies and arrived at the head of the salt-water  
 (2-359)loch called Loch-an-Gaoil where Staffa's boats awaited us

(2-360)with colours flying and pipes playing. We proceeded in  
 (2-360)state to this lonely isle where our honoured Landlord has  
 (2-360)a very comfortable residence and were received by a  
 (2-360)discharge of swivels and musquetry from his people.  
 (2-360)Yesterday we visited Staffa and Iona. The former is

(2-360)one of the most extraordinary places I ever beheld. It  
 (2-360)exceeded in my mind every description I had heard of  
 (2-360)it or rather, the appearance of the cavern composed  
 (2-360)entirely of basaltic pillars as high as the roof of a cathedral  
 (2-360)and running deep into the rock, eternally swept by a  
 (2-360)deep and swelling sea, and paved as it were with ruddy  
 (2-360)marble baffles all description. You can walk along the  
 (2-360)broken pillars, with some difficulty and in one place  
 (2-360)with a little danger as far as the furthest extremity.  
 (2-360)Boats also can come in below when the sea is placid  
 (2-360)which is seldom the case. I had become a sort of  
 (2-360)favourite with the Hebridean boatmen I suppose from  
 (2-360)my anxiety about their old customs and they were much  
 (2-360)pleased to see me get over the obstacles which stop'd  
 (2-360)some of the party. So they took the whim of solemnly  
 (2-360)christening a great stone seat at the mouth of the cavern  
 (2-360)Clachan-an-Bairdh or the poet's stone. It was consecrated  
 (2-360)with a pibroch which the echoes rendered tremendous  
 (2-360)and a glass of whisky not pourd forth in the ancient  
 (2-360)mode of libation but turned over the throats of the  
 (2-360)Assistants. The Head boatman whose father had been  
 (2-360)himself a bard made me a speech on the occasion but as  
 (2-360)it was in Gaelic I could only receive it as a silly beauty  
 (2-360)does a fine-spun compliment-bow and say nothing.  
 (2-360)When this fun was over (in which, strange as it may seem,  
 (2-360)the men were quite serious) we went to Iona where there  
 (2-360)are some ancient and curious monuments. From this  
 (2-360)rude and remote island the light of Christianity shone  
 (2-360)forth on Scotland and Ireland. The ruins are of a rude  
 (2-360)architecture but curious to the Antiquary. Our return  
 (2-360)hither was less comfortable ; we had to row twenty miles  
 (2-360)against an Atlantic tide and some wind besides the

(2-361)pleasure of seeing occasional squalls gathering to wind-

(2-361)ward. The ladies were sick especially poor Hannah  
(2-361)McKenzie and none of the gentlemen escaped except  
(2-361)Staffa and myself. The men however cheered by the  
(2-361)pipes and by their own interesting boat-songs which  
(2-361)are uncommonly wild and beautiful, one man leading  
(2-361)and the others answering in chorus, kept pulling away  
(2-361)without apparently the least sense of fatigue and we  
(2-361)reached Ulva at ten at night tolerably wet and well  
(2-361)disposed for bed.

(2-361)Our friend Staffa is himself an excellent specimen of  
(2-361)Highland chieftainship ; he is a cadet of Clan Ranald, and  
(2-361)Lord of a cluster of isles on the western side of Mull and a  
(2-361)large estate (in extent at least) on that island. By dint  
(2-361)of minute attention to this property and particularly to the  
(2-361)management of his kelp-shores [he] has at once trebled  
(2-361)his income and doubled his population while emigration  
(2-361)is going on all around him. But he is very attentive to  
(2-361)his people who are distractedly fond of him and has  
(2-361)them under such regulations as conduce both to his own  
(2-361)benefit and their profit and keeps a certain sort of rude  
(2-361)state and hospitality in which they can take much pride.  
(2-361)I am quite satisfied that nothing under the personal  
(2-361)attention of the landlord himself will satisfy a highland  
(2-361)tenantry and that the substitution of factors which is  
(2-361)now becoming general is one great cause of emigration.  
(2-361)This mode of life has, however, its evils and I can see  
(2-361)them in this excellent and enthusiastic young man. The  
(2-361)habit of solitary power is dangerous even to the best  
(2-361)regulated minds and this ardent and enthusiastic young  
(2-361)man has not escaped the prejudices incident to his  
(2-361)situation. He beards the Duke of Argyle the Lord  
(2-361)Lieutenant and hates with a perfect hatred the wicked  
(2-361)Macleans on the other side of Mull who fought with his  
(2-361)ancestors two hundred years ago.

(2-361)But I think I have bestowed enough of my tediousness  
(2-361)upon you and so to ballast my letter I put in one of

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(2-362)the hallowd green pebbles from the shore of St Columbus  
(2-362)(sic)-put it into your work-basket until we meet, when  
(2-362)you will give me some account of its virtues. Don't  
(2-362)suppose the lapidaries can give you any information  
(2-362)about it for in their profane eyes it is good for  
(2-362)nothing.

(2-362)But the piper is sounding to breakfast so no more  
(2-362)(excepting love to Miss Agnes, Dr. and Mrs. Baillie) from  
(2-362)your truly affectionate

(2-362)WALTER SCOTT

(2-362)P.S.-I am told by the learned the pebble will wear  
(2-362)its way out of the letter so I will keep it till I get to  
(2-362)Edinburgh.

(2-362)I must not omit to mention, that all through these  
(2-362)islands I have found every person familiarly acquainted  
(2-362)with the Family Legend, and great admirers.<sup>1</sup>

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO GEORGE ELLIS

(2-362)[P.M. July 29, 1810]

(2-362)MY DEAR ELLIS,-I am just returning from a most  
(2-362)delightful Highland tour in which we have scarcely  
(2-362)encountered a single shower of rain. The night before  
(2-362)we set forth the Lady Juliana Berners arrived in custody

(2-362)of a skillful skipper (or schip-fere) who had taken the

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(2-363)greatest care of her during her voyage.<sup>1</sup> She is a great  
(2-363)beauty and promises to be the envy of all our forest Lairds.  
(2-363)I hope to tell you next year that she has won the silver  
(2-363)collar which we contend for annually. If her action  
(2-363)answers her appearance of which I have no doubt she  
(2-363)will be quite invaluable to me as my present favourites  
(2-363)are arrived at that time when the prioress of St. Albans  
(2-363)says a greyhound should be

(2-363)-- a stale

(2-363)Gret biches to assaille.

(2-363)So ten thousand thanks for having put me in the way of  
(2-363)not being outrun upon Cotswould.

(2-363)The morning after July's arrival we set forth on our  
(2-363)pilgrimage, in the course of which I have wishd for you  
(2-363)at least a thousand times. My wife and daughter were  
(2-363)of the party and equally delighted. The number of  
(2-363)English travellers have of late years made the Highland  
(2-363)tours tolerable which they were not in my former  
(2-363)visits to the mountains-so that we have no tale of  
(2-363)hardships or even of privation to tell you. Our voyage  
(2-363)down the Sound of Mull was very grand. I counted  
(2-363)seven old castles, all the abodes of doughty chiefs of  
(2-363)ancient days in sight at the same moment. Our friend  
(2-363)and guide was Ranald McDonald the proprietor of  
(2-363)Staffa, from which he takes his petit titre, and of many a  
(2-363)dark isle islet creek and bay, around that celebrated  
(2-363)spot. With a very good education he retains much of  
(2-363)the Highland manners and enthusiasm, and is almost  
(2-363)worshipped by his followers. We landed that night at

(2-363)Aros in the isle of Mull very late, and as we were

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(2-364)augmented to a numerous party we were quartered by our  
(2-364)leader among the hospitable inhabitants, and on the  
(2-364)morning resumed our march on foot and poney back  
(2-364)with such a train as might have graced a chieftain of old.  
(2-364)None however were around except Staffa's piper who  
(2-364)wore broadsword dirk and pistol although I could read  
(2-364)in the eyes of some of the Southern who accompanied  
(2-364)us that they considered his pipes as the most formidable  
(2-364)part of his accoutrements. If you think it worth while  
(2-364)to look at the map you will see that Mull is indented by  
(2-364)a deep salt water lake running into the land from the  
(2-364)westward. There we embarked in two gallant boats  
(2-364)which Staffa had waiting for us and proceeded to the  
(2-364)isle of Ulva in the mouth of the lake where he has his  
(2-364)residence. We entered the sound of Ulva with pipes  
(2-364)playing and banners displayed, and were received by  
(2-364)Staffa's people, who were all under arms, with a discharge  
(2-364)of artillery. The next day we were escorted to Staffa  
(2-364)and Iona. The cavern well deserves its renown and is  
(2-364)in fact one of the few places of which I have heard a  
(2-364)great deal that retains its high character after being  
(2-364)visited. I penetrated over the broken columns to the  
(2-364)very extremity but some of our party took fright. The  
(2-364)Hebridean boatmen who are great admirers of poetry  
(2-364)and music and still hold the character of the Vates in  
(2-364)ancient respect, did me the honor to christen a stone at  
(2-364)the mouth of the cavern by the sounding title of Clachan  
(2-364)an Bhaird Sassenach more or the Stone of the great Saxon  
(2-364)poet. One of them made me a long oration on the  
(2-364)subject with much gesture and emphasis, but I was  
(2-364)obliged to take the contents as he did my poetical talents,  
(2-364)upon trust. Only, I learned he praised me for " burnishing

(2-364)the armour of the mighty dead," and for being the  
(2-364)friend of the chieftain Staffa--Iona is a very singular  
(2-364)place-the remains of the church though not beautiful  
(2-364)are very curious, and nothing can be more wonderful  
(2-364)than to see the numbers of sculptured monuments of

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(2-365)priests and warriors in a place so extremely desolate and  
(2-365)miserable. The inhabitants are in the last state of  
(2-365)poverty and wretchedness. Fisheries might reli[e]ve them  
(2-365)but I see no other resource, for the island though fertile,  
(2-365)considering all things, does not produce food for the  
(2-365)inhabitants, and they have neither money nor commodities  
(2-365)to induce importation of provisions. We did not  
(2-365)stay so long as I could have wishd, being threatend  
(2-365)with a gale of wind-no pleasant prospect in an open  
(2-365)boat on the Atlantic. Our hardy boatmen however  
(2-365)kept pulling against wind and tide for more than five  
(2-365)hours during which time they rowed twenty miles  
(2-365)singing all the while to their oars their old ditties of  
(2-365)clan-battles and gatherings-But my paper cuts me  
(2-365)short-God bless you, and love to Mrs. Ellis in which  
(2-365)Charlotte cordially joins. Ever yours

(2-365)W. SCOTT

(2-365)THE ROSS ON LOCH LOMOND Friday

[Sir Alfred J. Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(2-365)My DEAR JAMES,-I am very sorry for the state of your  
(2-365)health and should be still more so were I not certain that  
(2-365)I can prescribe for you as well as any phisician in Edinburgh.  
(2-365)You have naturally an athletic constitution and

(2-365)a hearty stomach and these agree very ill with a sedentary  
(2-365)life and the habits of indolence which it brings on. Your  
(2-365)stomach thus gets weak & from those complaints of all  
(2-365)others arise most certainly flatulence hypochondria & all  
(2-365)the train of unpleasant feelings connected with indigestion.  
(2-365)We all know the horrible sensation of the night-mare  
(2-365)arises from the same cause which gives those waking  
(2-365)night-mares commonly call'd the blue-devils. You must  
(2-365)positively put yourself on a regimen as to eating not for  
(2-365)a month or two but for a year at least and take regular

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(2-366)exercise and my life for yours. I know this by myself for  
(2-366)if I were to eat and drink in town as I do here it would  
(2-366)soon finish me, and yet I am sensible I live too genially in  
(2-366)Edinburgh as it is.

(2-366)I am glad to hear you intend to give yourself a little  
(2-366)respite which is the wisest thing you can do provided you  
(2-366)resist the hospitality of your Kelso cronies. I am desirous  
(2-366)to meet Terry at Melrose where I conclude you will make  
(2-366)a short halt on thursday. I conclude you will be there  
(2-366)about twelve or one o'clock if the day be favourable & I  
(2-366)am not otherwise detain'd you will find me at Charles  
(2-366)Erskines or about the Abbey. Yours very truly

(2-366)ASHESTIEL 7 Augt. [1810]

W. SCOTT

[Glen]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

(2-366)ASHESTIEL, SELKIRK, Aug. 9 1810

(2-366)MY DEAR MRS. CLEPHANE,-We are just returned from

(2-366)Mull delighted with our excursion and with everything  
(2-366)but the absence of the family from Torloisk, for the  
(2-366)house was smiling so pleasantly in the sun-shine when it  
(2-366)was pointed out to us as if [it] knew it was looking upon  
(2-366)the friends of its inhabitants-I will not tell a word about  
(2-366)Staffa or Iona, or the tombs of all the gallant chief [s] and  
(2-366)pious Abbots, who are there interd, nor how Sir George  
(2-366)Paul wished himself in the worst of the wards of his own  
(2-366)prison at Gloucester, (internally as I guest) rather than  
(2-366)in some of the places we visited-nor how all the  
(2-366)McKinnons came from various quarters, to worship a  
(2-366)young English Scotchman who is their chief and who now  
(2-366)visited the country of his ancestors for the first time  
(2-366)All these, with other more astonishing incidents are to  
(2-366)remain in store for evening chat, when we have the  
(2-366)honor which we anxiously expect, to see the young ladies  
(2-366)and you at this shelling. We are very anxious to know  
(2-366)your motions. Our own [are] at length fixed. I must

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(2-367)leave this place for Edinr. on Monday, to take my turn  
(2-367)of official duty, which will I fear, detain me till near the  
(2-367)end of the week following-We shall return on the 24th  
(2-367)at farthest, and shall then be stationary for the season.  
(2-367)If in the meantime you should go on to Edinburgh, it  
(2-367)must be with the intention of coming out with us again.  
(2-367)But I rather suspect the hospitality of the North of  
(2-367)England, will detain you for a fortnight and that you will  
(2-367)Come straight here.

(2-367)My kind remembrances attend the young ladies, and  
(2-367)Mrs. Scott begs hers both to you and them. I have the  
(2-367)honour to be Dear Madam, Your most faithful and obt.  
(2-367)servant

(2-367)WALTER SCOTT

(2-367)Pray direct to Edinr. and let me know your motions.

[Northampton]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

(2-367)MY DEAR MORRITT,-Your kind letter reachd me in the  
(2-367)very centre of the Isle of Mull from which circumstance  
(2-367)you will perceive how vain it was for me even to attempt  
(2-367)availing myself of your kind invitation to Rokeby which  
(2-367)would otherwise have given us so much pleasure. We  
(2-367)deeply regretted the absence of our kind and accomplishd  
(2-367)friends the Clephanes yet entre nous as we were upon a  
(2-367)visit to a family of the Capulets I do not know but we  
(2-367)may pay our respects to them more pleasantly at another  
(2-367)time. There subsist some aching scars of the old wounds  
(2-367)which were in former times inflicted upon each other by  
(2-367)the rival tribes of McLean and McDonald and my very  
(2-367)good friends the Laird of Staffa and Mrs. McLean Clephane  
(2-367)are both too keen highlanders to be without the characteristic  
(2-367)prejudices of their clans which in their case divide  
(2-367)two highly accomplishd and most estimable families  
(2-367)living almost within sight of each other and on an island

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(2-368)where polishd conversation cannot be supposed to  
(2-368)abound. I was delighted upon the whole with my excursion.  
(2-368)The weather was most excellent during the whole  
(2-368)time of our wanderings and I need not tell you of Highland  
(2-368)hospitality. The cavern at Staffa and indeed the island  
(2-368)itself dont on parle en histoire is one of the few lions which  
(2-368)completely maintain an extended reputation. I do not  
(2-368)know whether its extreme resemblance to a work of art  
(2-368)from the perfect regularity of the columns or the grandeur

(2-368)of its dimensions far exceeding the works of human  
(2-368)industry joined to a certain ruggedness and magnificent  
(2-368)irregularity by which Nature vindicates her handywork  
(2-368)are most forcibly impressed upon my memory. We also  
(2-368)saw the far famed island of Columbus where there are  
(2-368)many monuments of singular curiosity forming a strange  
(2-368)contrast to the squalid and dejected poverty of the  
(2-368)present inhabitants of the isle. We accomplished both  
(2-368)these objects in one day but our return though we had  
(2-368)no alarms to boast of was fatiguing to the ladies and the  
(2-368)sea not affording us quite such a smooth passage as we  
(2-368)had upon the Thames (that morning we heard the voice  
(2-368)of Lyson yelling forth the contents of the records in the  
(2-368)white tower) did as one may say excite a combustion  
(2-368)in the stomachs of some of our party. Mine being a  
(2-368)staunch Anti revolutionist was no otherwise troublesome  
(2-368)than by demanding frequent supplies of cold beef and  
(2-368)biscuit. Mrs. Apreece a fashionable little woman but  
(2-368)who travels rather to say she has seen than to see was of  
(2-368)our party-Also

(2-368)Sir George Paul for prison-house renowned  
(2-368)A wandering knight on high adventures bound.

(2-368)We left this celebrated philanthropist in a plight not  
(2-368)unlike some of the misadventures of him of the woeful  
(2-368)Figure.1 The worthy Bart. was mounted on a

(2-369)quadruped which the owners called a poney with his  
(2-369)woeful valet on another and travelling slowly along the  
(2-369)coast of Mull in [or]der to detect the point which  
(2-369)approachd nearest to the continent protesting he  
(2-369)would not again put foot in a boat till he had discovered  
(2-369)the shortest possible trajet. Our separation reminded

(2-369)me of the disastrous incident in Byrons shipwreck 1 when  
(2-369)they were forced to abandon two of their crew on an  
(2-369)unknown coast and beheld them at a distance commencing  
(2-369)their solitary peregrination along the cliffs.

(2-369)I must not omit to tell you that Gillows table has  
(2-369)arrived and gives great satisfaction. Every one that sees  
(2-369)it likes it so much that I dare say I shall have some  
(2-369)commissions to send him. His Bill did not much exceed  
(2-369)yours being about 30,, ready money.

(2-369)We are now here for a few days but I must be in  
(2-369)Edinburgh next week on official duty. I trust however  
(2-369)to return about the 20th when we shall be here for the  
(2-369)season. I expect this will suit our Hebridean syrens &  
(2-369)their Lady Mother ; for we count upon a visit from them  
(2-369)& that a comfortable one as I have much to show her.  
(2-369)Why should you not accompany them ? It is but a step  
(2-369)after all as I will convince you next summer when I have  
(2-369)my seven leagued boots on. Charlotte joins in best and  
(2-369)kindest compliments to Mrs. Morritt and I ever am My  
(2-369)dear Morritt sincerely yours

(2-369)WALTER SCOTT

(2-369)ASHESTIEL, SELKIRK 9th August [1810]

(2-369)I inclose a note to Mrs. Clephane hoping it will find  
(2-369)her at Rokeby.

[Law]

1810            370            LETTERS   OF  
  
TO ROBERT LEYDEN

(2-370)[12th August 1810]

(2-370)SIR,-In answer to your letter I have only to state that  
(2-370)I never mentioned your Brothers name in my life without  
(2-370)kindness & respect nor did I ever make any private affairs  
(2-370)which might be between him & me the subject of  
(2-370)conversation with any one, far less give an exaggerated &  
(2-370)ridiculous account of them as I am convinced Mr.  
(2-370)Dickinson whom I have not seen this very long time did  
(2-370)not & could not mention me as his authority I conclude  
(2-370)the whole to be an idle report with which I beg to be no  
(2-370)more troubled as I think my regard for your brother has  
(2-370)been sufficiently manifested to put it beyond question. I  
(2-370)am Sir Your Servant [WALTER SCOTT]  
[Walpole Collection-Copy]

TO LADY DALKEITH 2

(2-370)DEAR LADY DALKEITH,-The Ettrick Bard who compiled  
(2-370)the enclosed collection which I observe is inscribed

SIR WALTER SCOTT 371 1810

(2-371)to your Ladyship has made it his request that I would  
(2-371)transmit a copy for your acceptance. I fear your  
(2-371)Ladyship will find but little amusement in it for the poor  
(2-371)fellow has just talent sufficient to spoil him for his  
(2-371)own trade without having enough to support him by  
(2-371)literature.

(2-371)But I embraced the more readily an opportunity of  
(2-371)intruding upon your Ladyships leisure that I might  
(2-371)thank you for the very kind & affecting letter with which  
(2-371)you honoured me some time ago. You do me justice in  
(2-371)believing that I was deeply concerned at the irreparable  
(2-371)loss you sustained in the dear & hopeful boy to whom all  
(2-371)the friends of the Buccleuch family looked forward with

(2-371)so much confidence. I can safely say that since that  
(2-371)inexpressible misfortune I almost felt as if the presence  
(2-371)of one with whom the recollection of past happiness  
(2-371)might in some degree be associated must have awakend  
(2-371)and added to your Ladyships distress from a feeling that  
(2-371)scenes of which we were not to speak were necessarily  
(2-371)uppermost in the recollection of both. But your Ladyship  
(2-371)knows better than I can teach that where all  
(2-371)common topics of consolation would be inapplicable  
(2-371)Heaven provides for us the best and most effectual  
(2-371)curative in the progress of time and in the constant  
(2-371)and unremitting discharge of the duties incumbent on  
(2-371)the station in which we are placed. Those of your  
(2-371)Ladyship are important in proportion to the elevation of  
(2-371)your rank and the promising qualities of the young  
(2-371)minds which I have with so much pleasure seen you  
(2-371)forming and instructing to be comforts I trust to yourself  
(2-371)& an honour to society.

(2-371)Poor Lady Roslin 1 is gone with all the various talent  
(2-371)and vivacity that renderd her society so delightful.  
(2-371)I regret her loss the more as she died without ever

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(2-372)making up some unkindness she had towards me for  
(2-372)these foolish politics. It is another example of the great  
(2-372)truth that life is too short for the indulgence of  
(2-372)animosity.

(2-372)There will I fear be no chance of your Ladyship being  
(2-372)at Bowhill this year though I suppose Lord Dalkeith  
(2-372)will be there for a short time in the course of the autumn.  
(2-372)I beg my kindest respects to him & Mrs. Scott offers hers  
(2-372)to your Ladyship. I have the honour to be with the  
(2-372)greatest respect Your Ladyships obliged & very humble

(2-372)Servant

(2-372)WALTER SCOTT

(2-372)ASHESTIEL 14 August 1811 [1810]

[Buccleuch]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-372)DEAR SIR,-I am favoured with your letter and am quite  
(2-372)satisfied that the printing of Swift will proceed most speedily  
(2-372)and easily in the house of Messrs. Ramsay & Co. With  
(2-372)respect to the inclosed letters they seem to lie out of my  
(2-372)department. I will send Messrs. Ramsay vol: XIII at  
(2-372)least a considerable part of it in the course of two days  
(2-372)with directions about proofs &c. It will give me great  
(2-372)pleasure if the change of printing house prove the means  
(2-372)of expediting the work which on all acco [MS. torn here]  
(2-372)I am anxious to get forwards. I am Dear Sir Your very  
(2-372)obedt. Servant

(2-372)WALTER SCOTT

(2-372)ASHESTIEL 29 Augt. [1810]

(2-372)The letters shall be returned with the copy to save  
(2-372)postage

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

1810                SIR WALTER SCOTT                373

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-373)ASHESTIEL, Thursday [Sept. 19-20, 1810]

(2-373)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-Your letter,1 this morning received,  
(2-373)released me from the very painful feeling, that a  
(2-373)man of Mr. Coleridge's high talents, which I had always  
(2-373)been among the first to appreciate as they deserve, had  
(2-373)thought me worthy of the sort of public attack which  
(2-373)appeared in the Courier of the 15th. The initials are so  
(2-373)remarkable, and the trick so very impudent, that I was  
(2-373)likely to be fairly duped by it, for which I have to request  
(2-373)Mr. Coleridge's forgiveness. I believe attacks of any sort  
(2-373)sit as light upon me as they can on any one. If I have  
(2-373)had my share of them, it is one point, at least, in which  
(2-373)I resemble greater poets-but I should not like to have  
(2-373)them come from the hand of contemporary genius. A  
(2-373)man, though he does not " wear his heart upon his sleeve  
(2-373)for daws to peck at," would not willingly be stooped upon  
(2-373)by a falcon. I am truly obliged to your friendship for  
(2-373)so speedily relieving me from so painful a feeling. The  
(2-373)hoax was probably designed to set two followers of  
(2-373)literature by the ears, and I daresay will be followed up  
(2-373)by something equally impudent. As for the imitations,  
(2-373)I have not the least hesitation in saying to you, that I  
(2-373)was unconscious at the time of appropriating the goods  
(2-373)of others, although I have not the least doubt that several  
(2-373)of the passages must have been running in my head.  
(2-373)Had I meant to steal, I would have been more cautious

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(2-374)to disfigure the stolen goods. In one or two instances the  
(2-374)resemblance seems general and casual, and in one, I  
(2-374)think, it was impossible I could practise plagiarism, as  
(2-374)Ethwald, one of the poems quoted, was published after  
(2-374)the Lay of the Last Minstrel. A witty rogue, the other  
(2-374)day, who sent me a letter subscribed Detector, proved  
(2-374)me guilty of stealing a passage from one of Vida's Latin

(2-374)poems, which I had never seen or heard of; yet there was  
(2-374)so strong a general resemblance, as fairly to authorize  
(2-374)Detector's suspicion.<sup>1</sup>

(2-374)I renounced my Greta excursion in consequence of  
(2-374)having made instead a tour to the Highlands, particularly  
(2-374)to the Isles. I wished for Wordsworth and you a hundred  
(2-374)times. The scenery is quite different from that on the  
(2-374)mainland-dark, savage, and horrid, but occasionally  
(2-374)magnificent in the highest degree. Staffa, in particular,  
(2-374)merits well its far-famed reputation; it is a cathedral arch,  
(2-374)scooped by the hand of nature, equal in dimensions and  
(2-374)in regularity to the most magnificent aisle of a gothic  
(2-374)cathedral. The sea rolls up to the extremity in most  
(2-374)tremendous majesty, and with a voice like ten thousand  
(2-374)giants shouting at once. I visited Icolmkill also, where  
(2-374)there are some curious monuments, mouldering among  
(2-374)the poorest and most naked wretches that I ever beheld.  
(2-374)Affectionately yours,

(2-374)W. SCOTT  
[Lockhart]

1810            SIR WALTER SCOTT            375

TO CLARKE WHITFELD

(2-375)ASHESTIEL BY SELKIRK 24 Sept. 1810

(2-375)MY DEAR SIR,-I am honoured with your valuable  
(2-375)packet, containing the music which you have thought it  
(2-375)worth your while to compose for the Lady of the Lake,  
(2-375)& the kind letter which accompanied it. So far as I (the  
(2-375)most inadequate judge of Music in the world) can form  
(2-375)any idea of your compositions from a single voice, for in  
(2-375)this remote corner we barely command that, I hope you

(2-375)will lose no reputation, and I am sure the author of the  
(2-375)words will gain a great deal. I had some idea at the  
(2-375)time of publication of sending you the book with one or  
(2-375)two Gaelic airs which floated through my head at  
(2-375)writing the songs, but a various pressure of business made  
(2-375)me leave my poetry as the Ostrich her eggs in the sand,  
(2-375)The original air of the Coronach for which you have  
(2-375)found one so beautiful was M'Gregor a ruagh ruagh  
(2-375)(pronounced O roro).<sup>1</sup> It is a beautiful & pathetic Celtic  
(2-375)melody. I wish you had been with me in a late tour  
(2-375)through the Isles, when I heard many wild Hebridean  
(2-375)airs sung by our boatmen to their oars, which appeared  
(2-375)to deserve both embellishment & preservation.

(2-375)I should be delighted to furnish you with an unpublished  
(2-375)tale for your own exclusive adaptation, but-  
(2-375)as the Neapolitan beggar said to the stranger who  
(2-375)exhorted him to industry-" Did you but know how lazy  
(2-375)I am." My winter months are employed in official  
(2-375)attendance and in the present golden hours of vacation,  
(2-375)what with coursing hares by day, and spearing salmon  
(2-375)by night I have an extreme disinclination to anything  
(2-375)like labour whether in prose or rhyme. When I am once  
(2-375)set agoing, I roll like a stone down hill, but the first two  
(2-375)or three turns are incredibly unpleasant. I am glad  
(2-375)however you like Alice Brand,<sup>2</sup> because I like it myself,

(2-376)and perhaps because the Critics have not given it much  
(2-376)of their applause. I like it better than any thing of the  
(2-376)kind I ever attempted except Lochinvar. If I can feel  
(2-376)or flog myself into the humour of making it a tolerable  
(2-376)companion you shall have it for Miss Whitfeld who does  
(2-376)my minstrelsy so much honour. Indeed did I need a  
(2-376)flapper I should be powerfully reminded of my obligations

(2-376)to you by Mrs. Scott, who desires me to make her grateful  
(2-376)acknowledgements for the inscription to Alice Brand, of  
(2-376)which she feels herself very proud. Lastly let me thank  
(2-376)you for your elegant verses, which I heartily wish had a  
(2-376)better subject, though I cannot desire they should have a  
(2-376)different one. Believe me Dear Sir Yours truly

(2-376)W. SCOTT  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-376)ASHESTIEL, BY SELKIRK, 30th September 1810

(2-376)I HAVE not my dear friend had much to say since I  
(2-376)returned from my Highland excursion. The isles in many  
(2-376)particulars more than answered my expectation. The  
(2-376)cavern in the uninhabited island of Staffa in particular is  
(2-376)the most wonderful place of the kind that imagination  
(2-376)can conceive. The sides are composed of basaltic columns  
(2-376)exactly like those of the Giant's Causeway in Ireland with  
(2-376)which you are doubtless well acquainted. The angles of  
(2-376)those pillars are as it were cemented to each other by a  
(2-376)sort of yellow concretion resembling spar or marble which  
(2-376)forms a striking and curious contrast to the sable colour  
(2-376)of the granite columns themselves. The arch is as high  
(2-376)as that of a cathedral and has nearly the same regularity  
(2-376)of shape the ribbed pillars bending towards each other as  
(2-376)if to meet at the top. They have however at the roof a  
(2-376)sort of ceiling formed of the ends of other pillars which  
(2-376)have been broken off in the course of the natural convulsion  
(2-376)by which the cavern was formed. This immense

SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1810                      377

(2-377)and magnificent cavern opens full upon the Atlantic

(2-377)ocean whose billows roll up to the extremity of the cave  
(2-377)with a noise which even in the calmest day would deafen  
(2-377)thunder. When the weather is extremely calm you can  
(2-377)enter the cavern in a boat but the least swell renders the  
(2-377)attempt very dangerous. You can also reach the extremity  
(2-377)by scrambling along a line of broken pillars of  
(2-377)unequal height which extends along the righthand side  
(2-377)of the cave. We did both-The proprietor of the isle  
(2-377)Macdonald of Staffa a fine high-spirited young Chieftain  
(2-377)was our pilot and guide through the Hebrides. He is  
(2-377)much loved by his people whose prosperity he studies  
(2-377)very much. I wish I could say so of the Duke of Argyle  
(2-377)but his isles are in a wretched state. That of Iona in  
(2-377)particular where it is said Christianity was first planted  
(2-377)in Scotland and which still exhibits many curious and  
(2-377)even splendid remains of monastic grandeur, is now in a  
(2-377)most deplorable condition. The inhabitants are so  
(2-377)numerous in proportion to the size of the island that  
(2-377)(although it is a fertile spot comparing it with the other  
(2-377)isles around it) it is barely sufficient to support them in  
(2-377)the most wretched state possible in ordinary years-in  
(2-377)those of scarcity they must starve for they have nothing  
(2-377)to pay for imported corn-Much of this misery might  
(2-377)I apprehend be remedied by a well regulated encouragement  
(2-377)to fishermen for the sea abounds with fish of every  
(2-377)description. But such a system to prevent peculation  
(2-377)and abuse must be carried on under the countenance of  
(2-377)an active benevolent, and at the same time a resolute  
(2-377)Landlord. We were surrounded on the beach by boys  
(2-377)and girls almost naked all begging for charity and some  
(2-377)offering pebbles for sale. My wife bought some which  
(2-377)have been since transformed into a very pretty necklace.

(2-377)In the Isle of Ulva where the Laird of Staffa has his  
(2-377)house we were treated with something like feudal splendour.  
(2-377)His people received us under arms and with a

(2-377)discharge of musketry and artillery. His piper was a

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(2-378)constant attendant on our parties and wakened us in  
(2-378)the morning with his music. The people are a wild and  
(2-378)hardy race very fond of music and poetry which they  
(2-378)chant perpetually to their oars. While we were at  
(2-378)Staffa one of the Boatmen who could not speak a word  
(2-378)of English came forward and made me a speech in which  
(2-378)there was a great deal of compliment on account of my  
(2-378)being " the great bard of the lowland border" and  
(2-378)" burnishing the shields of ancient chieftains," with  
(2-378)much more figurative eulogy of which I regretted I could  
(2-378)not get an accurate translation. It concluded with  
(2-378)acquainting me with their determination to name a  
(2-378)remarkable pillar of the cavern after me to be called  
(2-378)" Clachan an Bhaird Sassenach mhor " or the stone  
(2-378)of the great Lowland bard. The ceremony was concluded  
(2-378)by a solemn dram of whiskey by way of  
(2-378)libation. So you see my dear Lady Abercorn that poetry  
(2-378)retains its honours even where it is not understood-  
(2-378)Perhaps it is owing to the same indulgence that your  
(2-378)protegee the Lady of the Lake has met with even more popular  
(2-378)favour than any of her predecessors. When the edition  
(2-378)now in the press has issued forth it will make the number  
(2-378)of copies published within about six months amount to  
(2-378)seventeen thousand a success I believe unexampled in  
(2-378)bookselling when the work was not of a political nature.

(2-378)I hear the Priory is greatly enlarged. It is not likely  
(2-378)I shall see it soon a London journey being always attended  
(2-378)with a certain expense and I want to save my money to  
(2-378)buy a corner among my native hills and build a cottage  
(2-378)a mon gre. I beg my most respectful compliments to the  
(2-378)Ladies and to the Marquis not forgetting Lord Hamilton

(2-378)whose health I hope is confirmed. Believe me dear Lady  
(2-378)Abercorn with great respect your much obliged and most  
(2-378)respectful humble servant,

(2-378)WALTER SCOTT  
[Pierpont Morgan]

379            SIR WALTER SCOTT            1816

TO MISS CLEPHANE

(2-379)[October 1810]

(2-379)MY DEAR Miss GLEPHANE,-We have been in town for  
(2-379)a few days and leave it on Saturday to enjoy a few days  
(2-379)more of this propitious weather by Tweedside. I regret  
(2-379)to learn by report from Lady Clerk as Mrs. Scott did from  
(2-379)personal enquiry at Porto Bello that your arm is not quite  
(2-379)reestablished which is a matter of sincere regret to all who  
(2-379)know the many excellent purposes to which you put it.  
(2-379)I shall be happy to hear that you are gaining strength  
(2-379)though slowly. When you happen to be in Edinburgh  
(2-379)will you call at Sandersons and have a look at a harp  
(2-379)set with Iona pebbles which he is making for Miss Baillie.  
(2-379)You promised me a Gaelic mottoe in the old character-  
(2-379)it should not exceed two or three words as " The Harp  
(2-379)of Albin " or " Let me be heard again " or in short  
(2-379)anything you please that can be twind concisely into  
(2-379)Gaelic. If you will furnish Sanderson with a copy of  
(2-379)the characters he will have them carefully engraved.  
(2-379)I understand we are getting a Gaelic professor and I  
(2-379)intend to study the language this winter if he can afford  
(2-379)me a private hour for I am too old a boy to go to a  
(2-379)public class.

(2-379)No late news from Ashestiel but the last despatches hear

(2-379)that Charles has suddenly clapped a spoonful of hot  
(2-379)porridge on his sister's head in imitation as he was pleased  
(2-379)to maintain of Minnie's Bannison. So you see Mrs.  
(2-379)Clephane's legendary lore is not forgotten but brought  
(2-379)into practical use in my nursery.

(2-379)Mrs. Scott joins in offering kindest and best respects to  
(2-379)Mrs. Clephane and Miss Anne Jane at your Carron<sup>1</sup>  
(2-379)unknown and I am very truly dear Miss Clephane your  
(2-379)obliged and humble servant W. SCOTT

(2-379)CASTLE STREET Thursday

(2-379)There is not the least hurry in my commission.  
[Northampton]

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TO J. B. S. MORRITT

(2-380)MY DEAR MORRITT,-I do not long delay answering  
(2-380)your kind letter and assuring you of my sincere sympathy  
(2-380)in the distressing events<sup>1</sup> to which you have lately been  
(2-380)exposed. The beautiful and feeling verses by Dr.  
(2-380)Johnson to the memory of his humble friend Levett and  
(2-380)which with me though a tolerably ardent Scotchman  
(2-380)attune for a thousand of his prejudices open with a  
(2-380)sentiment which every years acquaintance with this  
(2-380)Vanitas Vanitatum presses more fully on our conviction.

(2-380)Condemned to Hopes delusive mine  
(2-380)As on we toil from day to day  
(2-380)By sudden blast or slow decline  
(2-380)Our social comforts melt away.

(2-380)I am sure Mrs. Morritt must have deeply felt these

(2-380)repeated strokes of misfortune. Let me hope that the  
(2-380)Mrs Cholmly you regret was not the mother of my  
(2-380)interesting and accomplishd young acquaintance who  
(2-380)accompanied us upon our Steeple-hunting expedition  
(2-380)and of the young gentleman I knew formerly in Edinr.  
(2-380)From the expressions you use I rather fear it was  
(2-380)the same and must regret your loss the more as I had the  
(2-380)pleasure of knowing her and her family. But what can  
(2-380)we say-unless by referring to the oft repeated and trite  
(2-380)topic of consolation-it is the lot of humanity and the  
(2-380)charter we live by.

(2-380)We have been more than once tantalized by the  
(2-380)reports of freinds who were going to Rokeby or coming  
(2-380)from Rokeby but your late melancholy avocations have  
(2-380)prevented their designs. The Clephanes arrived here  
(2-380)from Carron Hall or some such named place in Yorkshire  
(2-380)but without taking you as they intended in their  
(2-380)progress hitherward. The eldest girl had a fall at  
(2-380)Melrose & came here with a disabled arm owing as she  
(2-380)imagined to a bad sprain but I was a little alarmd at its

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1810                      381

(2-381)totally unmanageable state and on a surgeons being sent  
(2-381)for it proved a bad dislocation of two days standing.  
(2-381)She behaved quite like a highland heroine upon the  
(2-381)occasion and neither shriekd nor groand nor winced  
(2-381)though the operation of adjusting the joint must have  
(2-381)been terribly painful. I hear she has since nearly  
(2-381)altogether recoverd the use of the limb. Next we had  
(2-381)Mrs. Apreece returning to England after having been  
(2-381)during the last winter at Edinburgh a lioness of the first  
(2-381)magnitude & reputation and she also proposed being at  
(2-381)Rokeby but was apprized of the state of your family.

(2-381)I have little to complain of the Edinr. Review.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-381)Jeffrey sent me the sheets with a kind and for him an  
(2-381)apologetic letter saying he was sensible that there was  
(2-381)some needless asperity in his Review of Marmion etc. and  
(2-381)that he had studied in delivering his sincere opinion to  
(2-381)the public to do it in a way that should not be  
(2-381)unnecessarily harsh to me or my freinds. And indeed his  
(2-381)general tone is much more civil and respectful than is  
(2-381)usual for the Review when an author is neither a  
(2-381)philosopher nor a Foxite. But after all and among freinds  
(2-381)I think it would puzzle him to make a popular pudding  
(2-381)after the receipt which he has given as mine and I protest  
(2-381)to you that I have been (like the poor Lady who studied  
(2-381)anatomy) ignorant till this moment how many pretty  
(2-381)things went to the making of me.

(2-381)I will take care to enter your claim for the 2d Volume  
(2-381)Of Clarkes travels.<sup>2</sup> The first is reviewd in the Quarterly

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(2-382)by our freind Geo: Ellis. He was long intimate with the  
(2-382)Russian court and has probably determined to screen  
(2-382)our freind the Bear a little. I have not seen the Review  
(2-382)though it is I think out & probably shall not till I get  
(2-382)to Edinburgh. But I have no doubt the said Bear will  
(2-382)prove a very filthy monster upon the whole.

(2-382)The weather till these few days has been delightful  
(2-382)beyond what the memory of the oldest persons can retain  
(2-382)any trace of and fortunate it was so for the harvest was  
(2-382)so late that under less favourable auspices than this  
(2-382)astonishing track of fair weather it could never have been  
(2-382)put into the Barnyard.

(2-382)I have very little prospect indeed of getting to London

(2-382)next year. My Commission is ended and sooth to say  
(2-382)the expences of a London journey do not suit a poets  
(2-382)purse altogether so well as God willing I would desire  
(2-382)they did. But we must meet and Mrs. M. and you  
(2-382)being the more loco-motive persons will I trust take  
(2-382)another peep of Scotland where you have still so much  
(2-382)to see and I will promise if you do to see you safely back  
(2-382)into the West Riding. Have you read the Edinr Register ?  
(2-382)If not do get it-the history is written by Southey and  
(2-382)though with some tinge of opinions which neither you  
(2-382)nor I approve yet there is much eloquence and a  
(2-382)great deal of what every body must admire. The  
(2-382)principles respecting france are particularly excellent  
(2-382)the general tone of political impartiality gives them great  
(2-382)weight and to my knowlege they are beginning to tell  
(2-382)among those who would have calld them party clamour  
(2-382)through any medium. I am informd by the Ballantynes  
(2-382)the second Volume is still better-it has not yet appeared.

(2-382)It is needless to say how much our kindest and best  
(2-382)wishes attend Mrs. Morritt. Believe me ever yours truly

(2-382)ASHESTIEL 3d October [1810]                      WALTER SCOTT  
[Law]

SIR WALTER SCOTT              1810              383

TO MISS SMITH

(2-383)[ASHESTIEL 4 October 1810]

(2-383)LEST I should relapse my dear Miss Smith into my  
(2-383)unfriendly and ungracious silence I hasten to express the  
(2-383)remorse I have experienced at your kind letter which I  
(2-383)have so little deserved. But the truth is and I wish I had  
(2-383)a better apology that the spirit of procrastination sometimes

(2-383)quite overcomes me till an answer so long delayed  
(2-383)has neither grace nor good manners and I am finally  
(2-383)terrified from setting about it at all. I might indeed  
(2-383)sometimes plead and with truth the weariness of fingers  
(2-383)whose daily bread depends in some degree on their daily  
(2-383)exercise but I should be ashamed to state to you such an  
(2-383)apology in a stronger light than the fact admits of: for  
(2-383)the truth is that there are weeks and months in which  
(2-383)I do not only not use pen and ink but have a sort of  
(2-383)horror at the very sight of them. This is more especially  
(2-383)the case in this retreat which we are just about to leave  
(2-383)for the winter after having enjoyed an uninterrupted  
(2-383)track of the most delightful and settled good weather  
(2-383)which our northern and unstable climate has ever  
(2-383)afforded us in my remembrance. I hope you have  
(2-383)enjoyed the same in the beautiful scenery where you have  
(2-383)been conversant and that as your climate was more  
(2-383)genial it has been equally uniform and serene. Mrs.  
(2-383)Scott and I employed the early part of the vacation in a  
(2-383)tour to the Hebrides which I had never visited although  
(2-383)I was in early youth acquainted with the mainland  
(2-383)opposite to them. My eldest little girl accompanied us  
(2-383)and being quite a little doll whom we could fling to sleep  
(2-383)in any corner she was no inconvenience to us while I hope  
(2-383)she acquired some degree of taste for the beauties of  
(2-383)nature which as it is one of the most attainable is also  
(2-383)one of the most certain sources of enjoyment which life  
(2-383)offers us. The grandeur of the scenes which the islands  
(2-383)afford is a little qualified by the sombre and savage state

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(2-384)in which it is expressed. Few or no trees, huge barren  
(2-384)hills wrap'd in endless mist torn by unceasing cataracts  
(2-384)where the waters bear no more proportion to the excavations  
(2-384)and ravines which they tear out of the bosom of the

(2-384)hills than human passions do to the consequences of  
(2-384)their indulgence-such are many of the aspects of nature  
(2-384)we viewed. These however do not apply to the Highland  
(2-384)mainland where the lochs are usually clothed with the  
(2-384)most beautiful birch wood. Nor are the isles without  
(2-384)their charms although they consist rather as far as I saw  
(2-384)in the eccentricities than in the ordinary productions of  
(2-384)nature. The caverns of Staffa struck me more than any  
(2-384)thing I ever looked on in my life and the ever changing  
(2-384)ocean with all its endless varieties affords to those who  
(2-384)live on its margin studies sufficient to compensate for the  
(2-384)want of the usual clothing of wood and verdure.

(2-384)I have heard so much of the wonders of Killarney that  
(2-384)I hope I shall one day pay them a visit and believe me  
(2-384)I should be proud to profit by the hope you give me of  
(2-384)being made known to Lady Kingston. I am much  
(2-384)honoured by the good opinion of the Irish nation whose  
(2-384)praise must be always most valuable to a poet because they  
(2-384)are not only a people of infinite genius but of a warmth  
(2-384)of heart and feeling not perhaps generally appreciated  
(2-384)either by your countrymen or mine. The English  
(2-384)gentleman in a new poem (which we shall suppose dated  
(2-384)from Ashestiel) asks something that awakes him during  
(2-384)the perusal from an habitual contempt of that which goes  
(2-384)on around him ; a Scotchman likes and praises the  
(2-384)work of a countryman for the same reason that in London  
(2-384)he would walk half a mile further to purchase his ounce of  
(2-384)snuff where the sign of the Highlander announces a  
(2-384)North Briton. But an Irishman's praise is that of feeling  
(2-384)and though a Scotchman must always be a Scotchman  
(2-384)and like his own countrymen better than those of the  
(2-384)other allied kingdoms yet in doing justice to all three he  
(2-384)must allow the praise of spirit and sentiment to the Irish.

(2-385)As I have been long trammel'd with an edition of  
(2-385)Swift's works which I should be anxious to render  
(2-385)respectable I hope to visit Ireland to endeavour to gain  
(2-385)additional light on his history. But whether this will  
(2-385)happen next year or no depends upon many trifling  
(2-385)contingencies. Mrs. Scott joins me in kindest compliments.  
(2-385)We will be both most happy when we can see  
(2-385)you here. Miss Car. Douglas,<sup>1</sup> but that you doubtless  
(2-385)have heard has married into her mother's Clan to Capt.  
(2-385)Scott of the R. Navy of the family of Gala in this county.  
(2-385)Lady Douglas was well when I heard. Yours my dear  
(2-385)Miss Smith very sincerely & respectfully

(2-385)WALTER SCOTT

(2-385)I am glad you intend to play Helen in the Family  
(2-385)Legend and I wish I was near enough to give you my  
(2-385)instructions about the proper dress.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO THE REV. E. BERWICK

(2-385)MY DEAR SIR,-Since I had the pleasure of writing to  
(2-385)you last 2 I have been wandering among our Western  
(2-385)Islands in a constant change of place and of course have  
(2-385)been very ill situated for regular correspondence. I have  
(2-385)now two of your highly valued letters to answer and I  
(2-385)am heartily ashamed that it should be so considering  
(2-385)how much the balance of obligation is in every respect  
(2-385)against me- Swift has suffered somewhat from my  
(2-385)rambling but still more from interruptions occasioned by

(2-386)some change of printers. I cannot possibly do more than  
(2-386)sketch the life until I obtain access to a very extensive  
(2-386)and curious collection of original Letters in the hands of  
(2-386)Lady Castlereagh containing the correspondence of  
(2-386)Swift, Pope, Gay &c with Mrs. Howard afterwards Lady  
(2-386)Suffolk. If this collection really contains many  
(2-386)unpublished letters it will be the most curious source of  
(2-386)information to which I have been as yet able to procure  
(2-386)access. Lady Castlereagh has kindly promised that I  
(2-386)shall see them & I believe I shall go to London on  
(2-386)purpose in Spring next. Meanwhile I get on as well as  
(2-386)I can with the Works themselves- As this will probably  
(2-386)be the last work I shall engage in as Editor I am desirous  
(2-386)it should have novelty and I feel how much it will owe  
(2-386)to your friendship. Poor Cooper Walker<sup>1</sup> whose kind  
(2-386)interest in its progress was equal to your own has been  
(2-386)snatched from his friends, and his studies, so that the  
(2-386)burden which he supported jointly with you is now like  
(2-386)to descend upon you alone.

(2-386)I must not lose myself in my own pursuits without  
(2-386)thanking you kindly and sincerely for the pleasure yours  
(2-386)have afforded me. Appollonius is an extremely curious  
(2-386)and interesting book exhibiting in a strong & impressive  
(2-386)point of view the force and the weakness of human wisdom  
(2-386)and heathen philosophy. You have made us a most  
(2-386)acceptable present and I am happy to think our Northern  
(2-386)Critics are likely to be of the same opinion. At least  
(2-386)Jeffery speaks of the work very handsomely as I am  
(2-386)informed. I never enquire into the Secrets of their  
(2-386)prison house though the Arch-Critic and I are great  
(2-386)private friends but if I find an opportunity I will  
(2-386)endeavour to spur him into carrying his good opinion into  
(2-386)activity. I remember the passage you allude to in the  
(2-386)conclusion of the Quarterly 2 which is to say the least both

(2-387)unhandsomely said and unjust in itself and very difficult  
(2-387)of reconciliation to the previous matter. How Gifford  
(2-387)came to let it stand I know not; for it is different from  
(2-387)what he promised me.

(2-387)You are very good for interesting yourself so much in  
(2-387)the Lady of the Lake. It was hastily written, more so  
(2-387)perhaps than any of my former attempts, but has  
(2-387)succeeded uncommonly well, the edition now in the press  
(2-387)will make up 20,000 Copies-a pretty good number  
(2-387)considering that only the first canto was in existence last  
(2-387)year at this time and that it only came forth a few months  
(2-387)ago. I should like before I hang my harp on the willows  
(2-387)for ever to try an Irish tale mixed with something of our  
(2-387)own Hebrides. But this is only a flitting wish which  
(2-387)always comes across me when I think of your warm-  
(2-387)hearted and highly endowed countrymen.

(2-387)Depend on my bringing forward Appolonius in every  
(2-387)way in my power. I wish I had seen him before I sent  
(2-387)forth the Lady of the Lake as I could easily have made a  
(2-387)niche. That in the life of Swift will be as graceful and  
(2-387)appropriate as possible for the quotation you sent me  
(2-387)in your favour of the and is very interesting. I have not  
(2-387)seen the British Review of your work. I have a great  
(2-387)mind to try to review it for the Annual Review despite  
(2-387)my want of lore if I can make interest for the introduction  
(2-387)of such a Critique as I am likely to make. Believe me  
(2-387)Ever my dear Sir your truly obliged & very faithful  
(2-387)humble servant

(2-387)WALTER SCOTT

(2-387)ASHESTEHL SELKIRKSHIRE 8th October 1810

[Abbotsford Copies]

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LETTERS OF

1810

(2-388)TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE, MOLESWORTH  
(2-388)STREET, DUBLIN

(2-388)SIR,-I am honoured with your flattering letter and  
(2-388)the elegant verses 1 enclosed and however much I may be  
(2-388)sensible that your praises exceed my deserts, it can hardly  
(2-388)be expected I should have the self denial to refuse my  
(2-388)consent to their being made public in the way you have  
(2-388)been pleased to choose. I should be extremely happy if  
(2-388)the services of my publishers the Ballantynes of Edinburgh  
(2-388)could be at all useful in giving celebrity and circulation to  
(2-388)your intended publication-any little interest I have with  
(2-388)the Booksellers is all I have to offer in Requital or rather  
(2-388)acknowledgement of the honor you design me. I have the  
(2-388)honor to be Your obliged humble servt W. S.

(2-388)ASHESTIEL SELKIRKSHIRE 10th Oct 1810.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO REV. R. POLWHELE

(2-388)EDINBURGH, 11 Oct. 1810

(2-388)MY DEAR SIR,-This accompanies a set of poor Miss  
(2-388)Seward's Poems, which I hope you will have the kindness  
(2-388)to accept. Another cover will convey to you my three  
(2-388)poems, which I regret to find have not reached you.  
(2-388)Miss Seward left the greater part of her correspondence  
(2-388)to Mr. Constable, of Edinburgh, who is I believe taking  
(2-388)measures to publish them. It is very extensive, occupying

(2-388)many folio MSS., for she kept a copy of almost every letter  
(2-388)which she wrote.

(2-388)I will be much obliged to you to send your valued  
(2-388)publications under cover to Mr. Freeling, or to John Wilson  
(2-388)Croker, Esq. either of whom will forward them in safety.

1810      SIR WALTER SCOTT      389

(2-389)As I know you are a great master of northern lore, and  
(2-389)interested in all that belongs to it, I am anxious to bespeak  
(2-389)your interest in favour of a publication intended to  
(2-389)illustrate these studies. It is a quarto volume entitled  
(2-389)Northern Antiquities, to be published by the Ballantynes  
(2-389)of Edinburgh, for Messrs. Weber and Robert Jameson.  
(2-389)May I hope that you will, either for this or the next  
(2-389)volume, favour us with a communication ? The subject  
(2-389)(provided it be connected with antiquities) is entirely at  
(2-389)your choice. I wished to add to the packet I transmit for  
(2-389)your acceptance, a copy of Sir Tristrem, in whom as a  
(2-389)hero of Cornwall you must doubtless be interested ; but  
(2-389)the edition is entirely out of print.

(2-389)I am very glad indeed you like the Lady of the Lake ;  
(2-389)but, if you knew how much I admire your poem on Local  
(2-389)Attachment, you would not have threatened me with so  
(2-389)terrible a compliment as that of laying down your own  
(2-389)harp.<sup>1</sup> Believe me, my dear Sir, very truly, your much  
(2-389)obliged,

(2-389)WALTER SCOTT

(2-389)P.S. Some time ago (several years now) I met with two  
(2-389)very pleasant young men from Cornwall, Mr. Carlyon  
(2-389)and Mr. Collins ; to the former of whom I was indebted  
(2-389)for the honour of being introduced to your notice. When

(2-389)you favour me with a line, I should like much to know  
(2-389)how they have fared in life, which they were then about  
(2-389)to enter upon.

[Letters of Sir Walter Scott, 1832]

390            LETTERS   OF            1810

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-390)MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I send a packet addressed  
(2-390)to Mr. Arbuthnot containing a copy of the much honoured  
(2-390)Lady to wait upon her kindest and best patroness. The  
(2-390)quartos have long vanished nor can I even guess what is  
(2-390)become of yours, since you did not find it at the Priory  
(2-390)where I desired it might be sent. I add the little collection  
(2-390)which I hope your Ladyship will approve of.

(2-390)The treatises on the Fiorin are very interesting and if  
(2-390)they are found to be grounded on practical experience  
(2-390)cannot fail to be of the last consequence to Scotland. I  
(2-390)observe Dr. Richardson<sup>1</sup> speaks a good deal about the Duke  
(2-390)of Buccleuch's water-meadows. With these I am something  
(2-390)acquainted-What they may do with Fiorin I know  
(2-390)not, but they are not very productive in their present  
(2-390)state. The engineer laid the blame on the quality of the  
(2-390)water of the Yarrow which being a run from a large lake  
(2-390)is remarkably pure and limpid very fit for poetry in  
(2-390)which it has been often celebrated but not so well adapted  
(2-390)it would seem for water-meadows. After abusing it a  
(2-390)great deal the fellow closed his charges against it by  
(2-390)comparing it to what I suppose he thought the basest  
(2-390)liquor in the world. " It has no more heart" quoth  
(2-390)he swearing to his assertion " than as much small-beer."  
(2-390)A very odd simile for the classical Yarrow thought  
(2-390)your minstrel. I daresay the Duke will try the Fiorin

(2-390)which if it succeed will render his extensive system of  
(2-390)irrigation much more valuable than it will ever be  
(2-390)otherwise.

(2-390)I would willingly make you my kind and partial friend  
(2-390)the promise you request respecting my future literary  
(2-390)engagements. But the Public with many other properties  
(2-390)of spoiled children has all their eagerness after novelty

1810                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      391

(2-391)and were I to dedicate my time entirely to poetry they  
(2-391)would soon tire of me. I must therefore I fear continue  
(2-391)to edit a little till circumstances set me more above the  
(2-391)necessity of depending upon my pen for an important  
(2-391)part of my income. Whenever the time comes that I can  
(2-391)with due attention to my own family lay aside my prose-  
(2-391)pen I assure you my dear friend I shall do it with great  
(2-391)pleasure-for as the Neapolitan beggar says, " You don't  
(2-391)know how lazy I am."

(2-391)I fear all our farmers would laugh at me were I to  
(2-391)attempt the Fiorinn. For although they might pay me  
(2-391)some deference as a lawyer or a poet or even for finding  
(2-391)a hare or spearing a salmon I fear my agricultural  
(2-391)reputation stands too low among them to give [the]  
(2-391)experiment fair play. But I have an excellent cool-  
(2-391)headed practical farmer for my neighbour whom I will  
(2-391)put upon the experiment.<sup>1</sup>

(2-391)I heard of Leyden some time ago. He is doing  
(2-391)excellently well in India, has a good office (something of  
(2-391)a judicial situation I think) & a large income, & is  
(2-391)acquiring knowledge & saving money. He is supposed  
(2-391)to have exceeded the limits of Sir W. Jones's researches.

(2-391)I am happy to hear Lady Hamilton is to be confined  
(2-391)& trust your wishes will be accomplished in the sex. But  
(2-391)should it prove a little girl it promises boys hereafter as  
(2-391)Shakespeare tells us.

392                      LETTERS OF                      1810

(2-392)I am quite idle just now as to poetry and have no idea  
(2-392)of writing anything serious in that way for a year or two  
(2-392)at least. But whether I keep my resolution or not is  
(2-392)uncertain for the Lady of the Lake was a very sudden  
(2-392)thought and begun only twelve months ago. I will let  
(2-392)you my dear Lady Marchioness know so soon as I engage  
(2-392)in anything likely to interest you. Have you seen a  
(2-392)periodical work called the Edinr. Annual Register-if  
(2-392)not pray get it-the history is written with great spirit  
(2-392)though in some parts I dislike its political tone & some  
(2-392)of the detached articles that on the changes intended  
(2-392)in Scotland by the last Administration is given to me by  
(2-392)the public-falsely however-it is a paper of great merit.  
(2-392)I wish the Marquis would look at it. There is a good  
(2-392)smart review of modern poetry in which I come in for a  
(2-392)sugar plumb [sic] & a buffet but to say truth I am grown  
(2-392)a little insensible both to the one & the other.<sup>1</sup>

(2-392)Believe me dear Lady Abercorn Ever your honoured  
(2-392)and [hole in paper]                                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-392)EDINR. 15 October 1810  
[Pierpont Morgan]

TO REV. R. POLWHELE

(2-392)EDINBURGH, 15 Oct. 1810

(2-392)MY DEAR SIR,-I had the pleasure to write to you



(2-393)MY DEAR SIR,-Though the above by no means pleases  
(2-393)me it is simpler and better than anything which after  
(2-393)several attempts I have been able to achieve. Having  
(2-393)left your letter describing the design of the monument in  
(2-393)Edinburgh I am not sure that the lines alluding to it are  
(2-393)correct but if you think the verses tolerable in point of  
(2-393)general effect they can easily be altered so as to make them  
(2-393)applicable with due accuracy to the emblems of the  
(2-393)sculptor. Trifling as the lines are I hope you will at  
(2-393)least accept the attempt as a small mark of my anxious  
(2-393)wish to do all I can to shew my respect for Miss Seward's  
(2-393)memory and my regard for your wishes. I could have

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(2-394)easily thrown more eulogy into the epitaph but it seemed  
(2-394)better taste to leave it to be inferred from the propriety  
(2-394)of the emblems, the regret of her friends and the value  
(2-394)of her literary remains.

(2-394)I hope the books have at length reached you. If not  
(2-394)be kind enough to write to Longman and Company  
(2-394)Booksellers Paternoster Row directing how they should  
(2-394)be sent. I beg my kind compliments to Mr. White and  
(2-394)am with best respects to your family Dear Sir Your faithful  
(2-394)humble Servant    WALTER SCOTT

(2-394)ASHESTIEL SELKIRKSHIRE 25 October 1810

(2-394)I dont like my first attempt well enough to send it to  
(2-394)you although the enclosed might appear to more  
(2-394)advantage by shewing you that a worse is possible.

[Owen D. Young]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-394)EDINBURGH, 24th October 1810

(2-394)IT would be very difficult for me to express how much  
(2-394)I am indebted to your Ladyship for your kind interference  
(2-394)in my behalf with the possessors of the precious letters of  
(2-394)Dryden which is the more flattering as Malone was refused  
(2-394)access to them when he undertook his Life of Dryden. I  
(2-394)will be extremely happy to have the honour of being  
(2-394)introduced to Lord Malmesbury and by his means to  
(2-394)Lord Whitworth and I hope to be in town in spring to  
(2-394)avail myself of their liberal and kind permission to copy  
(2-394)these letters, as well as to return my personal thanks to my  
(2-394)kind intercessor.

(2-394)I wish from my heart I could transport myself to the  
(2-394)priory just now for I am here on some official duty  
(2-394)without a soul to speak to having left my whole family at  
(2-394)my farm. The common phrase of Nobody in town is  
(2-394)metaphorical with the Great in London, and only means  
(2-394)there is nobody one knows ; but here it is almost literal at

1810

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-395)this season-the grass grows in the streets and you would  
(2-395)absolutely think that the place had been visited by the  
(2-395)plague. The few natives that are left are run mad with  
(2-395)politics and bite and scratch each other's eyes out. To  
(2-395)complete the whole I went yesterday to visit a person  
(2-395)who has just taken possession of a little old pigeon-house  
(2-395)kind of a castle near this town, and entertains his guests  
(2-395)according to the ancient Caledonian fashion with the  
(2-395)martial music of the great war-bagpipe played by a  
(2-395)Highlander in complete array who strutted up and down  
(2-395)the little hall in which we dined during the whole time  
(2-395)of dinner ; so that if there were a single being left to

(2-395)speak one sentence of common sense I have not an ear  
(2-395)left to listen to him my whole head being yet ringing with  
(2-395)the tremendous music of yesterday. I will now proceed  
(2-395)to copy some of the Ballads, lest my packet be too weighty  
(2-395)for the cover. The first refers to the Massacre of the  
(2-395)Monks of Bangor who about 610 marched in procession  
(2-395)to Chester then besieged by the heathen king of  
(2-395)Northumberland and were cut to pieces by his soldiers.

(2-395)When the heathen trumpets clang  
(2-395)Round beleaguered Chester rang  
(2-395)Veiled nun and friar grey  
(2-395)Marched from Bangors fair Abbaye  
(2-395)High their holy anthem sounds  
(2-395)Cestria's vale the note rebounds  
(2-395)Floating down the silvan Dee  
(2-395)O miserere Domine !

(2-395)[The burden of a Monkish hymn,  
(2-395)" Have mercy, O Lord!"]

(2-395)On the long procession goes  
(2-395)Glory round their crosses glows  
(2-395)And the Maiden-mother mild  
(2-395)In their peaceful banners smiled  
(2-395)Who might think such holy band  
(2-395)Doomed to feel unhallowed hand  
(2-395)Such was the divine decree  
(2-395)O miserere Domine!

(2-396)Woe to Brocmael's feeble hand  
(2-396)Woe to Olfrid's bloody brand  
(2-396)Hands that censers only swung  
(2-396)Bands that anthems only sung

(2-396)Met the Northern bow and bill  
(2-396)Heard the war-cry wild and shrill  
(2-396)Woe to Saxon cruelty  
(2-396)O miserere Domine!

(2-396)Weltering amid warriors slain  
(2-396)Spurned by steeds with bloody main  
(2-396)Slaughtered down by impious blade  
(2-396)Bangors peaceful monks are laid  
(2-396)Word of parting rest unspoken  
(2-396)Mass unsung & bread unbroken  
(2-396)For their souls for charity  
(2-396)Sing miserere Domine!

(2-396)Bangor o'er their murder wail  
(2-396)Long thy ruins told the tale.  
(2-396)Shattered tower & broken arch  
(2-396)Long recalled the woeful march  
(2-396)On thy shrine no tapers burn  
(2-396)Never shall thy priests return  
(2-396)The pilgrim sighs & sings for thee  
(2-396)O miserere Domine!

(2-396)I have other four little tales or singsong kind of verses  
(2-396)to add to this dismal ditty but I will not copy them at  
(2-396)present because I should disappoint my little wife, who  
(2-396)insists that notwithstanding the munificence of Lady  
(2-396)Abercorn in equipping me with eternal pens I am not the  
(2-396)most legible writer in the world and she therefore claims  
(2-396)the task of being Clerk upon the occasion were it only to  
(2-396)show though in so trifling a matter how much she is as  
(2-396)well as I ever your Ladyship's most respectful and most  
(2-396)faithful servant,

W. S.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO JOHN MURRAY 1

(2-397)DEAR SIR,-After carefully looking over the series of  
(2-397)novels which I reinclose I find I can make nothing of  
(2-397)them. The canvas is in fact too narrow for so extensive  
(2-397)a subject. I have written to Mr. Gifford wishing to  
(2-397)review Polwhele's works or the theatrical Row. The last  
(2-397)has never I think been attempted at least in a general  
(2-397)point of view and might I think be made a pleasing and  
(2-397)original article. Should Mr. G. approve you will be so  
(2-397)good as send me such of the trashy publications concerning  
(2-397)it as may be most current. I must have a text though the  
(2-397)sermon will rather refer to the thing itself than the  
(2-397)publications concerning it. I will be happy to look over  
(2-397)the article on Crabbe should W. G. wish it, but it is always  
(2-397)difficult (I find it so at least) to do much in the way of  
(2-397)addition or emendation unless the general colouring and  
(2-397)style should agree more than is likely.

(2-397)I have written a long letter to Gifford on all these  
(2-397)matters. I am greatly obliged to you for settling with my  
(2-397)Newspaper man which I suppose will about square  
(2-397)accots between us for my two little articles in last  
(2-397)number. I am Dear Sir Yours very truly

(2-397)W. SCOTT

(2-397)ASHESTIEL 26 October [1810]

[Sir Alfred J. Law]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

(2-398)I SHOULD be very ungrateful my dear Miss Clephane  
(2-398)did I omit to thank you for your kind letter and excellently  
(2-398)appropriate mottoe. Sanderson sent home the harp the  
(2-398)evening we were about to leave Edinburgh and I thought  
(2-398)it as well to keep it in my own possession until I should  
(2-398)have an opportunity of consulting with you. The limb  
(2-398)of the trinket which must bear the inscription is not above  
(2-398)three inches long but I conceive that as the Gaelic  
(2-398)character like that of the Runic is somewhat angular your  
(2-398)very pretty device can be engraved within that space.  
(2-398)Of this you will judge better when you see the little harp.  
(2-398)It looks pretty enough and nothing can suit it better than  
(2-398)your Buail tend a myhean Albain nam ferrn-we can  
(2-398)omit the two last words should there not be room which  
(2-398)however I shall regret.

(2-398)I should be delighted with an opportunity to see Steel  
(2-398)hand which I should venerate highly. Should you ever  
(2-398)venture to transport it to Edinburgh I will have a drawing  
(2-398)and an accurate account drawn up of it for the Northern  
(2-398)Antiquities a work in which I take some interest from  
(2-398)regard to two very worthy and ingenious men for whose  
(2-398)emolument it is published.<sup>1</sup> I think of giving them my  
(2-398)song of the Clans which I will most willingly attempt to  
(2-398)enlarge by Saxonising those you are so good as to recommend  
(2-398)to me. I have I believe three already Macleans

399            1810            SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-399)Warsong and the Coronach over Sir Lachlan and the  
(2-399)farewell to MacKenneth 1-I have not been able to ride  
(2-399)for this week past owing to a foolish cold so I have been  
(2-399)busy brushing the jackets of some old Swiss ditties upon  
(2-399)the Battles of Sempach, Morat and other encounters with  
(2-399)the Knights of Austria and Burgundy. They were not

(2-399)good as poetry but curious notwithstanding. I think I  
(2-399)promised your sister and you a curious collection of Swiss  
(2-399)music which my friend Skene knowing my predilection  
(2-399)for national song picked up for me at Berne. The words  
(2-399)are of course what I value the collection chiefly for, but  
(2-399)I should be delighted to find that you could select any  
(2-399)of the tunes as worthy of your notice.

(2-399)The weather seems now breaking in sad earnest and the  
(2-399)wind comes down the Vale of Tweed with fury fit to  
(2-399)sweep forests before it, if there were any in its path. I  
(2-399)have rarely heard a higher tempest than is roaring round  
(2-399)our solitary dwelling at this moment. All these things  
(2-399)make us think of Castle Street with less reluctance and it  
(2-399)will be an inducement the more that I hope to see you  
(2-399)well and the arm in its wonted state of active exertion.  
(2-399)Pray take care of it however. An iron hand might have  
(2-399)suited the rough work of the old Knight of Carslogie or  
(2-399)Goetz of Berliching[en] a famous German freebooting noble  
(2-399)distinguished by a similar accommodation but it would  
(2-399)be a wretched substitute for your own either upon the  
(2-399)harp or with the pencil. Adieu my dear Miss Clephane  
(2-399)remember Mrs. Scott and me kindly to Mrs. M. Clephane  
(2-399)and Miss Anne Jane. We shall be in town on the 12 Novr.  
(2-399)and hope soon to meet. Meanwhile I remain yours very  
(2-399)truly and respectfully.

(2-399)W. S.

(2-399)ASHESTIEL, 27 October 1810.

[Northampton]

(2-400)SIR,-So soon as I was honoured with your packet I  
(2-400)transmitted it to Messrs. Ballantyne my publishers and  
(2-400)am sorry to find that they cannot engage in the publication  
(2-400)at present for reasons they assign in the enclosed  
(2-400)letter which I yesterday received. I know indeed that  
(2-400)their hands are fully occupied considering the restraint  
(2-400)which the present state of Credit imposes upon trade of all  
(2-400)kinds.-I assure you Sir I should have had pleasure in  
(2-400)being useful to you on this occasion and regret that my  
(2-400)wishes have been beyond my power. I shall keep the  
(2-400)Manuscript safely until you are pleased to advise me how  
(2-400)I can return it with safety. I should suppose you will find  
(2-400)some London bookseller very willing to engage in the  
(2-400)publication. I have the honor to be Sir Your obliged  
(2-400)humble servt. W. S.

(2-400)ASHESTIEL, 1st NOV. 1810

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO ALEXANDER PRINGLE, OF WHITEBANK, YAIR,  
SELKIRK

(2-400)My DEAR SIR,-I have not the least objection to pay  
(2-400) 105 (One hundred guineas) for my present possessions  
(2-400)at Ashestiel as I am quite satisfied that if you did not  
(2-400)think such a rise of rent reasonable in the-circumstances  
(2-400)you would not propose it; and I agree with you that it  
(2-400)will be better to go on from year to year than to enter into  
(2-400)a new lease. I would only put you in mind that I wish  
(2-400)the fishing to be entirely at my disposal as a cross-graind  
(2-400)tenant might be troublesome upon that point. I think

(2-401)also that the Landlord out of the additional rent might  
(2-401)spare the wood for the new gates when he cuts any that  
(2-401)fit; I paying workmanship &c. But on this point I come  
(2-401)as they say in your will.

(2-401)Mrs. Scott joins me in kind compliments to Mrs.  
(2-401)Pringle and I am with great regard My dear Sir Very  
(2-401)truly your faithful Servant                      WALTER SCOTT

(2-401)EDINR. 20 November. 1810

(2-401)The water will not I think be an object to a tenant  
(2-401)though it is a sine qua non with me.

[Miss Mary Lockhart]

TO [NAMES OF ADDRESSEES NOT GIVEN]

(2-401)GENTLEMEN,-I beg the favour of you to transmit to  
(2-401)Sir J. Stevenson and Mr. Cooke my best thanks for the  
(2-401)music which they have so obligingly transmitted to me &  
(2-401)have the goodness to add that I am much flatterd by  
(2-401)their finding so many passages in the Lady of the Lake  
(2-401)worthy of their attention. I am obliged to you gentlemen  
(2-401)likewise for the trouble you have taken in my behalf &  
(2-401)remain Your mo: obedient Servant

(2-401)EDINR. 27 Novr. 1810                      WALTER SCOTT

No address.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-401)I SHOULD not have been so long your debtor my dear  
(2-401)Miss Baillie for your kind and valued letters had not the

(2-401)fake knave at whose magic touch the Iona pebbles were  
(2-401)to assume a shape in some degree appropriate to the  
(2-401)person to whom they are destined, delayd finishing his  
(2-401)task. I hope you will set some value upon this little  
(2-401)trumpery brooch because it is a harp and a Scotch harp  
(2-401)and set with Iona stones. The last circumstance is more

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LETTERS OF

1810

(2-402)valuable if ancient tales be true than can be ascertaind  
(2-402)from the reports of dull modem lapidaries. These green  
(2-402)stones blessd of St Columbus have a virtue saith old  
(2-402)Martin to gratify each of them a single wish of the wearer.  
(2-402)I believe that which is most frequently formd by those  
(2-402)who gather them upon the shores of the Saint is for a fair  
(2-402)wind to transport them from his domains. Now after  
(2-402)this you must suppose every thing respecting this said  
(2-402)harp mystic and hallowd. The very inscription is you  
(2-402)will please to observe in the ancient Celtic language and  
(2-402)character and has a very talismanic look. I hope that  
(2-402)upon you it will have all the effect of a conjuration for  
(2-402)the words BHUAIL TEND signify Strike the String. And  
(2-402)thus having like the pedlars who deal in like matters of  
(2-402)value exhausted all my eloquence upon setting forth the  
(2-402)excellent outward qualities and mysterious virtues of my  
(2-402)little keepsake I have only to add in homely phrase God  
(2-402)give you joy to wear it.

(2-402)I am delighted with the account of your sylvan empire  
(2-402)in Glostershire. The planting and cultivation of trees  
(2-402)always seemd to me the most interesting occupation of  
(2-402)the country. I cannot enter into the spirit of common  
(2-402)vulgar farming though I am doomd to carry on in a small  
(2-402)extent that losing trade. It never occurd to me to be a  
(2-402)bit more happy because my turnips were better than my  
(2-402)neighbours and as for grieving my sharers [?] as we very

(2-402)emphatically term it in Scotland I am always too happy  
(2-402)to get out of the way that I may hear them laughing at a  
(2-402)distance when on the twist rigg.

(2-402)So every servant takes his course  
(2-402)And bad at first they all grow worse.

(2-402)I mean for the purposes of agriculture for my hind shall  
(2-402)kill a salmon and my plough-boy find a hare sitting with  
(2-402)any man in the forest. But planting and pruning trees  
(2-402)I could work at from morning till night and if my poetical  
(2-402)revenues enable me to, have a few acres of my own that  
(2-402)is one of the principal pleasures I look forward to. There

403                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1810

(2-403)is too a sort of self-congratulation a little tickling self-flattery  
(2-403)in the idea that while you are pleasing and amusing yourself  
(2-403)you are really seriously contributing to the future welfare  
(2-403)of the country and that your very acorn may send its ribs  
(2-403)of oak [sic] to future victories like Trafalgar.

(2-403)You have now by my calculation abandond your  
(2-403)extensive domains and retired to your Hampstead villa  
(2-403)which at this season of the year though the lesser will  
(2-403)prove from your neighbourhood to good society the more  
(2-403)comfortable habitation of the two.

(2-403)Dr. Baillies cares are transferd (I fear for some time)  
(2-403)to a charge still more important than the poor princess.  
(2-403)I trust in God his skill and that of his brethren may be of  
(2-403)advantage to the poor King, for a regency from its  
(2-403)unsettled and uncertain tenure must in every country  
(2-403)but especially where parties run so high be a lamentable  
(2-403)business. I wonder that the consequences which have  
(2-403)taken place had not occurd sooner during the long and

(2-403)trying state of suspense in which his mind must have been  
(2-403)held by the protracted lingering state of a beloved child.

(2-403)Your country neighbours interest me excessively. I  
(2-403)was delighted with the man that rememberd me though  
(2-403)he had forgot Sancho Panza I am afraid my predominance  
(2-403)in his memory will not remain much longer than the  
(2-403)worthy squires government at Barataria. Meanwhile  
(2-403)the lady of the lake is likely to come to preferment in an  
(2-403)unexpected manner for two persons of no less eminence  
(2-403)than Messrs. Morton and Reynolds play-carpenters in  
(2-403)ordinary to Covent Garden are employd in scrubbing  
(2-403)carmining [?] and cutting her down into one of those  
(2-403)new fashiond sloops calld a Melo drama to be launchd  
(2-403)at the theatre and my friend Mr. H. Siddons emulous of  
(2-403)such a noble design is at work on the same job here. It  
(2-403)puts me in mind of the observation with which our parish  
(2-403)smith accompanied his answer to an enquiry whom he  
(2-403)had heard preach on Sunday-" Mr. such a one- O Sir  
(2-403)he made a neat work " thinking doubtless of turning off

404        LETTERS        OF                1810

(2-404)a horse-shoe handsomely. I think my worthy artizans  
(2-404)will make neat work too before they have done with my  
(2-404)unlucky materials. But as Durandarte says in the  
(2-404)cavern [?] of Montesinos " Patience cousin and shuffle [sic]  
(2-404)the cards "-I was obliged to express my satisfaction and  
(2-404)so forth for our friend N. Longman wrote me a civil letter  
(2-404)and what could I say. Not but entre nous I wishd them  
(2-404)at the bottom of Loch Katrine with all my heart.

(2-404)Jeffrey was the author of the critique in the Edinburgh.  
(2-404)He sent it to me in the sheet with an apology for some  
(2-404)things in that of Marmion which he said containd needless  
(2-404)asperities. And indeed whatever I may think of the

(2-404)justice of some part of his criticism I think his general  
(2-404)tone is much softened in my behalf.

(2-404)You say nothing about the Drama on Fear for which  
(2-404)you have chosen so admirable a subject and which I think  
(2-404)will be in your own most powerful manner. I hope  
(2-404)you will have an eye to its being actually represented.  
(2-404)Perhaps of all passions it is the most universally interesting  
(2-404)for although most part of an audience may have been in  
(2-404)love once in their lives and many engaged in the pursuits  
(2-404)of ambition and some perhaps have fostered deadly Hate  
(2-404)yet there will always be many in each case who cannot  
(2-404)judge of the operations of these motives from personal  
(2-404)experience whereas I will bet my life there is not a soul  
(2-404)of them but has felt the impulse of Fear were it but as the  
(2-404)old tale goes at snuffing a candle with his fingers. I  
(2-404)believe I should have been able to communicate some  
(2-404)personal anecdotes on the subject had I been able to  
(2-404)accomplish a plan I have had much at heart this summer  
(2-404)namely to take a peep at Lord Wellington and his merry  
(2-404)men in Portugal. But I found the idea gave Mrs. Scott  
(2-404)more distress than I was entitled to do for the mere  
(2-404)gratification of my own curiosity. Not that there would  
(2-404)have been any great danger for I could easily as a  
(2-404)Noncombattant have kept out of the way of the "grinning  
(2-404)honour of my namesake Sir Walter Blunt" and I

SIR WALTER SCOTT

1810

405

(2-405)think I should have been overpaid for a little hardship  
(2-405)and risque by the novelty of the scene. I could have  
(2-405)got very good recommendation to Lord Wellington and  
(2-405)I dare say I should have picked up some very curious  
(2-405)materials for battle scenery. A friend of mine made this  
(2-405)very expedition and arrived at Oporto when our army  
(2-405)was in retreat from the frontier. He was told of the

(2-405)difficulty and danger he might encounter in crossing the  
(2-405)country to the Southward so as to join them on their  
(2-405)march nevertheless he travelld on through a country  
(2-405)totally deserted unless when he met bands of fugitive  
(2-405)peasantry flying they scarce knew whither or the yet  
(2-405)wilder groups of the Ordenanza or (levy en mass [sic])  
(2-405)who fired with revenge or desire of plunder had armd  
(2-405)themselves to harass the French detachd parties. At  
(2-405)length in a low glen he heard with feelings that may be  
(2-405)easily conceived the distant sound of the Highland  
(2-405)bagpipe playing the Garb of old Gaul and fell into the  
(2-405)quarters of a Scotch regim. where he was most courteously  
(2-405)received by his countryman who assured " his honour he  
(2-405)was just come in time to see the pattle." Accordingly  
(2-405)being a young man of spirit and a Volunterer Sharp-  
(2-405)shooter he got a rifle joind the light corps and next day  
(2-405)witnessd the Battle of Busaco ; of which he describes the  
(2-405)carnage as being terrible. His narrative was very simply  
(2-405)told and conveyd better than any I have seen the  
(2-405)impressions which such scenes are likely to make where  
(2-405)they have the effect (I had almost said the charm) of  
(2-405)novelty. I dont know why it is I never found a soldier  
(2-405)could give me an idea of a battle. I believe their mind is  
(2-405)too much upon the tactique to regard the picturesque ;  
(2-405)just as we lawyers care very little for an eloquent speech  
(2-405)at the bar if it does not shew good doctrine. The  
(2-405)technical phrases of the military art too are unfavourable  
(2-405)to convey a description of the concomitant terror and  
(2-405)desolation that attends an engagement. But enough of  
(2-405)this bald disjointed chat.

406            LETTERS    OF            1810

(2-406)I have slender hope of getting to London this spring  
(2-406)having no business there and finding the expence heavy  
(2-406)unless that were the case. Assuredly one of the highest

(2-406)pleasures I should propose to myself would be that of  
(2-406)visiting Hampstead frequently, and if possible spurring  
(2-406)you on to the discharge of your bounden duty to the  
(2-406)public.

(2-406)Neither Mr. Ballantyne nor I have heard of Mr.  
(2-406)Henderson which causes much speculation. Charlotte  
(2-406)joins me in kindest compliments to Miss A. Baillie to the  
(2-406)Doctor and his Lady and to Mnr Hunter when you meet.  
(2-406)I fancy you see Dr. Baillie but seldom at present; his  
(2-406)occupation is a truly melancholy one.<sup>1</sup> Remember me  
(2-406)very kindly to your neighbour Mr. Coxe and believe me  
(2-406)my dear Miss Baillie Ever your faithful and obliged friend  
(2-406)WALTER SCOTT

(2-406)EDINR. 23 Novr 1810

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

(2-406)DEAR SIR,-I should be very ungrateful did I delay to  
(2-406)acquaint you that your Manuscript is safe in my hands.  
(2-406)I sent it to Edinburgh upon receiving it after a very  
(2-406)slight glance at its contents, & it remained with the  
(2-406)Messrs Ballantynes until I came here with my family for  
(2-406)the winter a very short while ago. Since I have recovered  
(2-406)it, I have gone through it more attentively, and am  
(2-406)certainly of opinion it contains a great deal which does  
(2-406)much honor to its author. At the same time your verses  
(2-406)are like all others obnoxious to some criticism, a sound  
(2-406)more appalling to an unpractised author than to a  
(2-406)Veteran who has stood the fire of at least forty reviews-  
(2-406)The Vol appears to me (generally speaking) to exhibit

(2-407)much feeling sensibility and power of expression and is  
(2-407)perhaps deficient in some of the more gaudy and dashing  
(2-407)requisites which at present attract immediate and extensive  
(2-407)popularity. I should be particularly happy to have  
(2-407)the pleasure of seeing you in Scotland of which your  
(2-407)letter gives me some hopes and make it my study to shew  
(2-407)myself in some degree grateful for the kind and flattering  
(2-407)opinion you entertain of me. The slender judgement,  
(2-407)or rather feeling with regard to poetical effect which I  
(2-407)can pretend to, shall at least be at your service with a  
(2-407)sincerity which may compensate for its want of more  
(2-407)valuable qualities. I do really think that altho' the  
(2-407)publication of your Manuscript should be postponed for  
(2-407)a season, it would not be an unfavourable circumstance,  
(2-407)for the present momentous state of public affairs is  
(2-407)arresting the attention of every one, and I have seldom  
(2-407)seen a more dull publishing season. Would you have  
(2-407)any objection to the selection of a small piece for the  
(2-407)Edinburgh Annual Register a work of uncommon merit  
(2-407)which I take a great interest in, as I make sufficiently  
(2-407)obvious by hazarding such a request? It is often of  
(2-407)importance to have ones name a little known before  
(2-407)publishing miscellaneous poetry. The first things I  
(2-407)published went to paper bandboxes. My best thanks  
(2-407)attend you for the trouble you have taken in behalf of  
(2-407)Swift my Swift I mean. The corrected copy of his letter  
(2-407)to Dean Brandreth is a great treasure. Poor Lady Betty  
(2-407)Germain ! I am sorry she was one of the wicked as she  
(2-407)seems to have been one of the most sensible of Swifts  
(2-407)correspondents and always gives her opinion manfully  
(2-407)(if that is a fair expression) when she deemed him under  
(2-407)guidance of prejudice. I should have long since en-  
(2-407)deavoured to make my way to Mr. Theophilus Swift l the  
(2-407)respected descendant of my mighty theme but I was  
(2-407)given to understand (perhaps incorrectly) that he

(2-408)intended a publication himself upon the subject of the  
(2-408)Deans life and I could not be so indelicate as to ask him  
(2-408)for materials if that were the case as he will doubtless  
(2-408)chuse to reserve them for his own use. Mr. Nichols in  
(2-408)a passage which has been deservedly exposed by Mr.  
(2-408)Monk Berkely 1 in his literary Reliques has adopted a  
(2-408)strange absurd tale of Swift having been obliged to leave  
(2-408)his living at Kilroot on account of his having attempted  
(2-408)a rape on a farmers daughter: that he was examined  
(2-408)before a Justice Dobbs of that neighbourhood and that  
(2-408)the descendants of the worthy Magistrate were said to be  
(2-408)of the examinations-what could possibly give rise to  
(2-408)this strange hallucination ? Rapes were not at all in the  
(2-408)Deans way at any time of his life when it was better  
(2-408)known and Mr. Berkely very satisfactorily Confutes the  
(2-408)report by opposing to it Swifts noted ballad on a rape 2  
(2-408)said to have been attempted by the Dean of Ferns, which  
(2-408)he would hardly have indited had he himself been under  
(2-408)a similar stigma-any assistance which you can favour  
(2-408)me with on the part of Swift, will be acknowledged with  
(2-408)sincere gratitude. The worthy and revd Mr. B- has  
(2-408)been very kind and liberal in his communications, so I  
(2-408)hope thus befriended to make somewhat of a very daring  
(2-408)attempt. Your kind letter craved a much earlier  
(2-408)acknowledgement but it could only have been a line to say I  
(2-408)would secure the manuscript on getting to Edinburgh and I  
(2-408)wished to burthen you with all my [? word dropped in copy] at  
(2-408)once. I am dear Sir Your much obliged and humble servt

(2-408)EDINBURGH 1st Dec 1810.

W. S.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(2-409)DEAR SIR,-I have returnd your packet with Cromeks  
(2-409)additional sweepings In his Nithsdale &c sketches he  
(2-409)has I think had the assistance of a Mr. Mounsey Cunningham  
(2-409)that used to correspond with Mr. Constables Scottish  
(2-409)Magazine under the signature T. M. C.1 I wish you would  
(2-409)learn how this stands for he is a man of some genius and  
(2-409)I would like to treat him civilly whereas Cromek is a  
(2-409)perfect Brain-sucker living upon the labours of others-  
(2-409)I have just got Kehama & I hope to have it ready for  
(2-409)the Review 2 so I wish you would keep a corner. I shall  
(2-409)be puzzled to do justice to the review in noticing its great  
(2-409)blemishes & to the author in pointing out its numerous  
(2-409)brilliancies but I must do the best I can. I had Webers  
(2-409)Romances in hand but I have laid them aside for this  
(2-409)more pressing & more interesting matter-I think I will  
(2-409)certainly make a small article of Cromek perhaps with  
(2-409)the assistance of a friend.-Gifford remitted me in his  
(2-409)last letter two notes of yours which had I see from the  
(2-409)dates lain with him some time. This led me into the  
(2-409)mistake of drawing on you for the newspapers accompt,  
(2-409)not that I would not have used the same freedom at any  
(2-409)rate. But I beg you will keep my remittances till the end

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(2-410)of the year & shall write so to Mr. Gifford. It is sometimes  
(2-410)convenient to have credit for a few guineas in  
(2-410)London. Believe me that as I have not had any cause  
(2-410)whatever so I have not had the least intention to slacken  
(2-410)our correspondence but the dullness of the literary world  
(2-410)at least in these articles of lighter calibre in which I deal  
(2-410)gave me but little to say. I have sent Gifford the  
(2-410)Petrarch but with an earnest request it may not be used

(2-410)without much modification. It would I find be very  
(2-410)disagreeable in its present shape to Lord W. I will  
(2-410)undertake to fill the gap in the course of this week by a  
(2-410)neat thing on Kehama. Pray let Mr. G. know my  
(2-410)change of intention for I wrote to him I understood  
(2-410)Kehama was not published-but I have since procured  
(2-410)a copy. I remain Dear Sir yours very truly

(2-410)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-410)EDINR. 3 Dec. 1810

(2-410)Mr. John Murray, Bookseller  
(2-410)Fleet Street London

[John Murray]

To MISS SMITH

(2-410)EDINBURGH, 18th December 1810  
(2-410)I HASTEN, my dear Miss Smith, to your inquiries  
(2-410)about the Lady of the Lake in its dramatised form. That  
(2-410)Mr. Siddons is bringing it out is very certain, but it  
(2-410)is equally so that I have not seen and do not intend to  
(2-410)see a line of it, because I would not willingly have the  
(2-410)public of this place suppose that I was in any degree  
(2-410)responsible for the success of the piece ; it would be like  
(2-410)submitting to be twice tried for the same offence. My  
(2-410)utmost knowledge has been derived from chatting with  
(2-410)Mr. Siddons and Mrs. Young in the green-room, where  
(2-410)I have been an occasional lounge since our company  
(2-410)has been put on a respectable footing. They have got  
(2-410)some clever scenery, from studies taken at Loch Katrine

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(2-411)by Williams, their painter, who is a very good artist and

(2-411)went there on purpose. But whether the dialogue is in  
(2-411)verse or prose I really do not know. There is a third  
(2-411)Lady of the Lake on the tapis at Covent Garden, dramatised  
(2-411)by no less genius than the united force of Reynolds and  
(2-411)Morton. But though I have three theatrical grand-  
(2-411)children as I may call them, I have seen none of them.  
(2-411)I shall go to the Edinburgh piece when it is rehearsed  
(2-411)with lights and scenes, and if I see anything that I think  
(2-411)worth your adoption I will write to you. The strength  
(2-411)will probably lie in the dumb-show, music, and decorations,  
(2-411)for I have no idea that the language can be rendered  
(2-411)very dramatic.<sup>1</sup> If any person can make aught of it, I  
(2-411)am sure you will. The mad Lowland captive if well  
(2-411)played should I think answer. I wish I could give you  
(2-411)an idea of the original, whom I really saw in the Pass  
(2-411)of Glencoe many years ago. It is one of the wildest and  
(2-411)most tremendous passes in the Highlands, winding  
(2-411)through huge masses of rock without a pile of verdure,  
(2-411)and between mountains that seem rent asunder by an  
(2-411)earthquake. This poor woman had placed herself in  
(2-411)the wildest attitude imaginable upon the very top of  
(2-411)one of these huge fragments ; she had scarce any covering  
(2-411)but a tattered plaid, which left her arms, legs, and neck  
(2-411)bare to the weather. Her long shaggy black hair was  
(2-411)streaming backwards in the wind, and exposed a face  
(2-411)rather wild and wasted than ugly, and bearing a very  
(2-411)peculiar expression of frenzy. She had a handful of  
(2-411)eagles' feathers in her hand. As she spoke no English,

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(2-412)I no Gaelic, we could have no communication, but I  
(2-412)learned at the next resting-place that she used to wander  
(2-412)among the rocks for whole weeks during the summer,  
(2-412)and was only driven back to society by the inclemency  
(2-412)of the weather ; of her story, which might be sad enough,

(2-412)I could learn nothing. The lady who plays this part  
(2-412)should beware of singing with too stiff regularity ; even  
(2-412)her music or rather her style of singing it, should be a  
(2-412)little mad.

(2-412)Joanna Baillie (for who ever heard of Miss Sappho)  
(2-412)wrote to me that some of her friends had seen the Surrey  
(2-412)piece and censured severely the following circumstance :  
(2-412)the King led Ellen the whole length of the stage and took  
(2-412)his place upon a throne at the bottom in the discovery  
(2-412)scene. This she said was discourteous, and therefore out  
(2-412)of character. If you think so too, it can be easily corrected.

(2-412)I wish I could direct you about the plaid ; but you had  
(2-412)better take the prettiest according to your own taste, for  
(2-412)the Douglasses being a Lowland family had no particular  
(2-412)colour of tartan. I rather wish I could show you how to  
(2-412)put it on, for it is a great art, and when done prettily is  
(2-412)very becoming. I can only describe it by negatives.  
(2-412)It is not like a Highland serjeant's, nor is it scarf-wise like  
(2-412)a shepherdess in an opera ; but as I have no opportunity  
(2-412)of "rowing you in your plaidie " I shall only puzzle  
(2-412)you by an attempt to describe it. The plaid is fastened  
(2-412)by a brooch, which should be large and showy. The  
(2-412)chaussure should be buskins of deer-skin ; this applies  
(2-412)to the Highland men also. Douglas, the King, and other  
(2-412)personages should be dressed in the old English fashion  
(2-412)from which the Scottish dress differed but little. All  
(2-412)caps or bonnets, no hats. The bonnet should not be  
(2-412)overlaid with feathers, a single plume distinguished the  
(2-412)Dunnie-wassell or gentleman, when I first remember  
(2-412)the Highlands, from the peasant.

(2-412)These little trumpery notices are all that occur to me.  
(2-412)Doubtless were I with you, I would, in my anxiety that

(2-413)you should shine where I am at all concerned, plague you  
(2-413)enough about costume. If anything should occur in  
(2-413)which I can be useful, pray, my dear Miss Smith, command,  
(2-413)and show as much of this letter to Mr. C. as you  
(2-413)think can be of use to him. A good Christmas and all  
(2-413)kinds of success to you, WALTER SCOTT

(2-413)P.S.-I shall be anxious to hear how you succeed.  
[Familiar Letters and Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-413)22nd December 1810

(2-413)MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-We are dying here for  
(2-413)political news even like shell-fish at the ebb of the tide  
(2-413)and you my dear friend who soar above us like an osprey  
(2-413)and see all the changes of the atmosphere at a distance  
(2-413)have not the charity to drop me a single line to make me  
(2-413)wiser than my fellows. I am however in the happy state  
(2-413)of one who has nothing either to hope or fear from the  
(2-413)change I apprehend unless as far as it affects my friends  
(2-413)or the country at large. An administration who may  
(2-413)dislike me can fortunately take nothing from me and my  
(2-413)friends who are now in power have never seemed much  
(2-413)disposed to befriend me effectually. I only hope I shall  
(2-413)not go out poorer than when I came in for my accompts  
(2-413)in the business of the Scottish judicature commission  
(2-413)have not been passed in the treasury for want of the sign  
(2-413>manual of the king. There is a balance of nearly 1000,,  
(2-413)due to me chiefly money out of my own pocket-however  
(2-413)as all my accompts have been carefully examined &  
(2-413)passed by the Commissioners under whom I acted I  
(2-413)imagine no Administration will decline a settlement

(2-413)though an unfriendly one may postpone payment of the  
(2-413)balance. I trust to Robert Dundas's tried friendship for  
(2-413)getting me out of the scrape so soon as possible.

(2-413)We have a report here that our Marquis is to be Lord

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(2-414)Chamberlain at which I should greatly rejoice if I could  
(2-414)hope that there was foundation for it. I am sure they  
(2-414)will be much obliged to him if he shall be disposed to take  
(2-414)such a troublesome office. Should this fortunately be  
(2-414)the case I shall have a suit to his Lordship on the score  
(2-414)of the Edinr theatre ; having been foolish enough to  
(2-414)consent to be a trustee for the public along with my Lord  
(2-414)Chief Baron the Ld. Advocate Solicitor and some other  
(2-414)of our first people here. A dispute has unfortunately  
(2-414)arisen about the patent which has involved Messrs, the  
(2-414)Trustees who had no other interest in the matter than the  
(2-414)pleasure of serving the public in great plague and vexation.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-414)-If such an appointment should take place it would be  
(2-414)very kind in you my dear Lady to let me know early that  
(2-414)I may solicit an audience on this troublesome business  
(2-414)with which if I had known as much of theatrical matters  
(2-414)two years ago as I do now I would never have troubled  
(2-414)myself upon any account.

(2-414)I am afraid you would scold me if I told you how idle  
(2-414)I have been since writing to your Ladyship and therefore  
(2-414)I will keep my secret. They are busy dramatizing the  
(2-414)Lady of the Lake here and in Dublin and in Covent  
(2-414)Garden. I carefully avoid making inquiries lest it  
(2-414)should be expected that I should give any assistance and I  
(2-414)would not willingly give the public a pretext for supposing  
(2-414)that I intended introducing [intruding ?] myself on them  
(2-414)in another shape-it would be like being twice tried for

(2-414)the same offence ; so I content myself with instructing  
(2-414)Mrs. Henry Siddons who is a very pleasant as well as a  
(2-414)very amiable person how she should put on or as we may  
(2-414)say busk her highland plaid. Her husband a very worthy  
(2-414)and honourable man but with very little of his mother's  
(2-414)genius is our manager here and I fear likely to be hurt  
(2-414)with this foolish embroilment of the patent which makes  
(2-414)me more anxious about it than I should otherwise be.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-415)I hope you got your own copy of the Lady of the Lake  
(2-415)safe in, perhaps like other Ladies she was so late in paying  
(2-415)her respects that she did not deserve to have her call  
(2-415)acknowledged.

(2-415)We are going to set forward in the middle of a snow-  
(2-415)storm I fear to keep an old hereditary engagement of  
(2-415)eating our turkey and cheese with my friend and chief  
(2-415)Mr. Scott of Harden on Xmas Day. Two days ago we  
(2-415)had a dreadful accident on the coast-two frigates lost by  
(2-415)bad pilotage. They mistook the light of a lime-kiln  
(2-415)for the beacon of the Isle of May and ran straight ashore  
(2-415)fortunately almost all the crews were saved.-Yours ever  
(2-415)truly and respectfully,

W. S.

(2-415)All good wishes of the season attend you the M. & the  
(2-415)Ladies. I beg to be remembered to Ld. Hamilton if with  
(2-415)you just now.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-415)MERTOUN HOUSE 29th December [1810]

(2-415)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-I was favoured with your kind  
(2-415)letter during my residence here where by an old hereditary  
(2-415)engagement I always spend my Xmas. I have not got  
(2-415)my own Kehama : I had not received it when I left  
(2-415)Edinr. but I had borrowed one from Jo: Ballantyne for  
(2-415)behooof of the Quarterly and run off a critique at full  
(2-415)speed to overtake this No: I have not had a word from  
(2-415)Gifford on the subject and unless that I had set my heart  
(2-415)on out-stripping the Edinr. I should be glad to find I  
(2-415)had another opportunity of revising my paper as I sent  
(2-415)off the sheets by post as fast as I could write them. In  
(2-415)some points we may disagree of course but I trust you  
(2-415)will give me credit for the good will with which I have  
(2-415)set myself to battle the cant which is commonly used in  
(2-415)criticizing a poem of an uncommon and original plan.  
(2-415)I hope Gifford will spare my quotations which are

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(2-416)essentially necessary to vindicate the opinions I have  
(2-416)expressed.

(2-416)Much of Kehama is I think quite unequall'd since the  
(2-416)days of Milton, nor does your Indian Hall fall at all  
(2-416)short of his grand dungeon of fire. In some respects I  
(2-416)think you have followed your mythology a little too  
(2-416)closely into its more fantastic recesses, but if there be any  
(2-416)excess in this, it is completely atoned by the numerous  
(2-416)sublime & interesting scenes which you have derived  
(2-416)from it. But I will say no more on this subject because  
(2-416)I have thrown my notions together without fear or  
(2-416)favour just as they arose in my mind under the vivid  
(2-416)impression of a third perusal. I have written to Ballantyne  
(2-416)to make enquiry about the missing volumes of  
(2-416)Somers which must lay somewhere between the Coach  
(2-416)proprietors & him. With respect to Mr. Dubois of

(2-416)whom I never heard before & his Monthly Mirror which  
(2-416)I only know by name, why if he be capable of playing  
(2-416)such a dirty trick he is a dirty rascal and there let him  
(2-416)stick in a mire of his own making. When I resigned a  
(2-416)profession in which I had some chance of preferment to  
(2-416)adopt a life more favourable for literature I did not put  
(2-416)my hand to the plough without seriously examining  
(2-416)whether I felt strength of mind to avoid the two shoals  
(2-416)on which literary men have frequently wreck'd their  
(2-416)peace and even their character. Envy of superior talents  
(2-416)I thank God is unknown to my disposition and truly to  
(2-416)vex oneself on account of those who chuse to plant  
(2-416)themselves a mon regard in the scorners chair would  
(2-416)argue little philosophy & less common sense. I beg you  
(2-416)will make my thanks acceptable to Mr. Coleridge for his  
(2-416)very handsome & gentlemanlike conduct upon the  
(2-416)occasion & I shall be particularly happy when I can  
(2-416)proffer them in person.<sup>1</sup>

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(2-417)Respecting the Morte Arthur I will be delighted to have  
(2-417)the benefit of your notes which will be of the last service  
(2-417)to me. The only thing which delays my motions is that  
(2-417)I am desirous to collate the ordinary edition Stansby  
(2-417)with the only Caxton known to exist and which belongs to  
(2-417)Lady Jersey.<sup>1</sup> If I go to town in Spring it will be chiefly  
(2-417)with a view to get this job accomplished & to look at some  
(2-417)letters of Swift said to be in Lady Castlereagh's possession.

(2-417)I dread the unfortunate scuffle which this melancholy  
(2-417)interregnum is likely to cause among our politicians.  
(2-417)It is precisely of a kind to put the worst & most mischievous  
(2-417)effects of party spirit into motion on all sides.  
(2-417)Without some miserable blunder or more miserable

(2-417)inactivity the flame which we have so effectually seen  
(2-417)kindled in Portugal will extend itself far & wide. Bonaparte  
(2-417)can no longer pay his armies with the plunder of  
(2-417)his victims & his frantic antipathy to commerce leaves  
(2-417)him no resources of revenue except direct taxation which  
(2-417)is not unlikely to precipitate his downfall. I understand  
(2-417)Lord Wellesley is fortifying the Southern Bank of the

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(2-418)Tagus to cover Lisbon from any attempt on that hand &  
(2-418)as he, supposing the French force divided on both sides  
(2-418)of the river, will have the power of uniting his forces to  
(2-418)attack either, they must I think be sure of an immense  
(2-418)superiority before they attempt to invest him in that  
(2-418)fashion.

(2-418)James Ballantync speaks in the highest possible terms  
(2-418)of the history of the Register.<sup>1</sup> I have promised him some  
(2-418)trifles. I wish he could get something poetical from Mr.  
(2-418)Coleridge's pen.

(2-418)Mrs. Scott sends love to Mrs. Southey & I am ever  
(2-418)Yours truly

(2-418)WALTER SCOTT

(2-418)Many happy new years to you-

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-418)[MERTOUN, December 31st, 1810]

(2-418)NOTHING my dear Miss Baillie could have given me

(2-418)more pleasure than your setting some value on the  
(2-418)trinket which accompanied my last and not a little proud  
(2-418)shall I be of its occupying a place in the new gown  
(2-418)Charlotte puts in for her share of merit and is not a little  
(2-418)delighted that you should have assigned it to her. But  
(2-418)when will our mourning be over and our splendour shine  
(2-418)forth ? Alas I fear not till we have mourned for our  
(2-418)poor old King, whose frame I should fear is gradually  
(2-418)giving way under this terrible malady. Yet if his  
(2-418)recovery should not be speedy and permanent I scarce  
(2-418)know how to wish it either for his own sake or that of  
(2-418)the country for the unsettled and feeble domination  
(2-418)of a Regency will not fail to have its usual effects in  
(2-418)setting the worst principles of faction afloat and dividing  
(2-418)the country between those who profess to stand up for the

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(2-419)father and those who adhere to the son and that at a  
(2-419)moment when all the united talents of our best politicians  
(2-419)and the continued and unanimous efforts of our whole  
(2-419)nation would not be more than enough to ensure the  
(2-419)safety of the commonwealth. I am truly happy that the  
(2-419)prince has behaved with decorum and moderation. Any  
(2-419)appearance of pressing forward into power at such a  
(2-419)juncture would imply a great unworthiness to possess it.  
(2-419)Even amid these tragic considerations it is impossible  
(2-419)to preserve gravity at the frisks and frolics of our northern  
(2-419)Mecenas Sir John Sinclair Bart. It is actually like the  
(2-419)Punch of the puppetshow who intrudes himself into  
(2-419)every scene grave or tragic whether it represents King  
(2-419)Solomon in all his glory or the Universal Deluge. To  
(2-419)show you how essentially necessary this wise-acre thinks  
(2-419)it that he should have a finger in every man's pie, he  
(2-419)wrote me the other day a long letter laying down rules  
(2-419)for a poem to be called the Lady of the Sea and which was

(2-419)to turn upon the adventures and intrigues of a Caithness  
(2-419)Mermaiden with whom he almost promised me an  
(2-419)interview. I parried the undertaking by reminding him  
(2-419)that he had brought the sea-nymphs so much into the  
(2-419)province of natural History that they could no longer be  
(2-419)considerd as fictitious beings and had therefore ceased  
(2-419)to have any title to poetic commemoration.<sup>1</sup> This wise

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(2-420)epistle reminded me of the tragic plan which he was kind  
(2-420)enough to lay down for you and which, hard-hearted as  
(2-420)you are, you faild to avail yourself of. And that celebrated  
(2-420)projet of Darius conducted me to a much more pleasing  
(2-420)subject, the Family Legend ; so before I left town for the  
(2-420)holidays I made John Ballantyne furnish me with the  
(2-420)enclosed copy of a letter to Mr. Henderson which is the  
(2-420)second he tells me he has written to him about the Copy  
(2-420)money-it will apprize you how that matter stands and  
(2-420)you have only to

(2-420)speak your wishes speak your will  
(2-420)Swift obedience meets them still.

(2-420)As for the Metamorphosis of the Lady of the Lake into  
(2-420)Drama or rather into three Dramas for the same adventure  
(2-420)is to be tried at Dublin London and Edinburgh I would  
(2-420)not willingly have you believe either that I affect or  
(2-420)possess stoicism enough to be insensible to the applauses  
(2-420)of a crouded theatre. On the contrary I think that of all  
(2-420)kinds of popular plaudits this is the manner in which an  
(2-420)author has his most ample satisfactory and perhaps  
(2-420)intoxicating draught of success. But I shall have no more  
(2-420)honour supposing any of these attempts successful than  
(2-420)the cook who roasted a turkey yesterday has for the  
(2-420)capo-rotta (I think house-wives call it so) which a sister

(2-420)of the trade has presented us with to-day out of the  
(2-420)reliques of the feast. Besides I cannot think with much  
(2-420)patience on such persons as Reynolds and Morton garbling  
(2-420)my unfortunate verses and turning that into dramatic  
(2-420)dialogue which is but well enough as it stands in minstrel  
(2-420)verse-and therefore once more do I wish the whole  
(2-420)affair at the bottom of Loch Katrine nor do I care if they

1810      SIR WALTER SCOTT      421

(2-421)carried the whole race of Melo-drama along with them  
(2-421)provided the stage were left open for the tragedies of a  
(2-421)certain fair lady who does not know her own merit or  
(2-421)believe what her friends tell her on that point.

(2-421)I certainly agree with you on the general point that  
(2-421)there is a better chance of plays succeeding after action  
(2-421)than after their first appearance in print. The theatrical  
(2-421)effect has in the latter case that fair play which it cannot  
(2-421)have in the former [sic].<sup>1</sup> But I still think your pieces  
(2-421)must and will obtain possession of the stage while you can  
(2-421)yet watch their progress and observe the impression they  
(2-421)make upon the audience. The present wretched taste  
(2-421)for dramatic composition is indeed so interwoven with  
(2-421)the miserable monopoly granted to the two theatres that  
(2-421)many obstacles must arise to the revival of true tragic  
(2-421)taste. When a theatre is built on a scale large enough to  
(2-421)hold one half of the common play-going folks it must of  
(2-421)course be too large either for expression or action and I  
(2-421)suppose the large boots and masques of the ancient stage  
(2-421)must speedily be resorted to. But this is too artificial and  
(2-421)absurd an order of things to subsist for ever and depend  
(2-421)upon it that whenever small theatres (I mean moderate  
(2-421)sized theatres) are again in request the taste for legitimate  
(2-421)tragedy will revive on its proper field and I shall live to  
(2-421)hold up your tragic pall by an Epilogue or clear the way

(2-421)for you by a prologue. Meantime I shall wait with  
(2-421)anxiety the promised volume-perhaps I may have a  
(2-421)Pisgah sight of it when I come to Hampstead in spring  
(2-421)which in the event of my coming to London is one of the  
(2-421)most pleasant objects I have in view.

(2-421)If there be anything incoherent in this letter pray  
(2-421)ascribe it to my writing in the neighbourhood of a ball,  
(2-421)for all the little Scotts of Harden with the greater part of  
(2-421)my own are dancing in the new year in ...  
[The letter breaks off here-evidently a second sheet is missing]

[Familiar Letters and Royal College of Surgeons, London]

422            LETTERS OF            1810

TO REV. R. POLWHELE, KENWYN

(2-422)MERTOUN HOUSE, 30 Dec. 1810

(2-422)MY DEAR SIR,-It was very late this season before I got  
(2-422)to Edinburgh, and consequently before I had the pleasure  
(2-422)of receiving your valued present, on which I have been  
(2-422)making my Christmas cheer ever since, until an ancient  
(2-422)and hereditary engagement brought me here to spend  
(2-422)the holidays with my chief, the Laird of Harden. I  
(2-422)should be very ungrateful indeed, if I longer delayed the  
(2-422)acknowledgment of the pleasure I have received from  
(2-422)the re-perusal of the " Local Attachment," and the " Old  
(2-422)English Gentleman ; " which, I take great credit to my  
(2-422)taste in boasting, have been long favourites of mine, as  
(2-422)well as from reading the other curious and interesting  
(2-422)volumes with which I had yet to form an acquaintance.  
(2-422)I have never had the good fortune to see topographical  
(2-422)labours conducted at once with the accuracy of the  
(2-422)antiquary and the elegance of the man of general literature,

(2-422)until you were so kind as to send me your county  
(2-422)histories ; which, under a title not very inviting beyond  
(2-422)the bounds of the provinces described, contain so much  
(2-422)interesting to the general reader, and essential to the  
(2-422)purpose of the English historian. You have furnished  
(2-422)a folio and an octavo shelf in my little bookroom, with  
(2-422)treasures which I shall often resort to with double  
(2-422)pleasure, as pledges of the kindness of the ingenious  
(2-422)author.<sup>1</sup>

(2-422)I wrote to Gifford about three weeks ago, mentioning  
(2-422)my wish to take up the " Local Attachment." But he  
(2-422)answers me that the present number is filled up ; and in  
(2-422)case he does not make room for me in the next, I must  
(2-422)seek another comer for my critique, and I have cast my

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(2-423)eyes upon the Edinburgh Annual Register, but I will  
(2-423)wait to see what our Generalissimo says about his next  
(2-423)number. I shall not be sorry if he still declines my  
(2-423)criticism, because I think I can weave it into a tolerably  
(2-423)independent article, for the Register aforesaid.

(2-423)Our " Northern Antiquities,"<sup>1</sup> as we have ventured to  
(2-423)christen a quarto undertaken by Mr. Weber and Mr. R.  
(2-423)Jamieson, both friends of mine, are to contain a great deal  
(2-423)of Teutonic lore. Much of the first volume is occupied  
(2-423)by an account, rather protracted I fear, of the Heldenbuch,  
(2-423)a series of romances, referring to the history of  
(2-423)Attila and Theodoric, and therefore very curious.  
(2-423)Theodoric was to the Germans what King Arthur was  
(2-423)to the English, and Charlemagne to the French  
(2-423)Romancers-a leading King and champion, who  
(2-423)assembled at his court a body of chivalrous Knights,  
(2-423)whose various adventures furnish the theme of the various

(2-423)cantos of this very curious work.

(2-423)This is executed by Henry Weber, who is chin-deep 2 in  
(2-423)all that respects Teutonic poetry, and it is perfectly new  
(2-423)to the English Antiquary. Jamieson gives some translations  
(2-423)from the Kiempe Viser, a collection of Heroic  
(2-423)Ballads, published in Denmark, about the end of the  
(2-423)sixteenth century. Their curiosity consists in a great  
(2-423)measure in the curious relation they bear to the popular  
(2-423)ballads of England and Scotland. Then I have promised  
(2-423)to translate some Swiss war songs and other scraps of  
(2-423)poetry. In short our plan is entirely miscellaneous, and  
(2-423)embraces anything curious that is allied to the study of  
(2-423)history, or more particularly to that of poetry. This is

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(2-424)our plan, my good friend, and if you have any thing lying  
(2-424)by you which you would intrust to this motley caravan,  
(2-424)we will be much honoured. But I hope soon to send you  
(2-424)the first volume, when you will judge how far we deserve  
(2-424)your countenance. I will take care you have it so soon  
(2-424)as published, and perhaps you may like to review it for  
(2-424)the Quarterly. I have little share in it, excepting my  
(2-424)wish to promote the interest of the prime conductors,  
(2-424)whose knowledge is rather more extensive than their  
(2-424)financial resources.

(2-424)I am very glad to hear that Drs. Collins and Carlyon  
(2-424)are well, and settled in their native country. Though I  
(2-424)have little chance of ever meeting them again, I cannot  
(2-424)easily forget the agreeable hours their society afforded  
(2-424)me at our chance meeting on the hills of Selkirkshire.

(2-424)Believe me, my dear Sir, with the best wishes of this  
(2-424)season, your obliged and grateful humble servant,

(2-424)WALTER SCOTT

[Letters of Sir Walter Scott, 1832]

1811                      Letters                      425

TO ROBERT SURTEES OF MAINSFORTH

(2-425)MY DEAR SURTEES,-If I were not the most ungrateful  
(2-425)creature on earth I should have jogged your memory  
(2-425)long ago only I really had some salve for my conscience  
(2-425)by supposing you were in my debt: but not to waste  
(2-425)further time in trifling apologies I proceed to business  
(2-425)methodically.

(2-425)Ten thousand thanks for the beautiful invocation.1  
(2-425)Will you permit it for my honour & glory as well as your  
(2-425)own to see the light in the Edinr. Annual Register which  
(2-425)we are trying with good success to make a crack thing of.  
(2-425)The verses will be very much admired here, & they speak  
(2-425)flattery to too many of my prejudices for me (if it rested  
(2-425)with me) to suffer them to remain entombed in MS.  
(2-425)You must grant me this & you would grant it if you knew  
(2-425)it is a request wh: I wd not make to many people where  
(2-425)my own useless name was concerned. But I shd. like  
(2-425)to be pricked on to say something about poor Charley.

(2-425)My friend Weber does not publish by subscriptn. but

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(2-426)perhaps he may have a copy of the Romances to dispose  
(2-426)of. I will learn before this letter goes off.

(2-426)I can fortunately send you a neat Edition of Godscroft 1  
(2-426)Ex dono. It now rarely occurs & as I have the original

(2-426)folio Edition it does not in any way rob my shelves.  
(2-426)There is as far as I can judge no difference except in  
(2-426)rarity between the Editns. 1644 & 1743. I think I can  
(2-426)pick up a Pittscottie for about 10s or at 15 shillings.  
(2-426)It used to sell (the last Edition) for 4s or 5s. It was  
(2-426)miserably edited from a MS in our library & cruelly  
(2-426)modernized. When you want any nice quotation you  
(2-426)shall have it ex fonte if you will let me know.

(2-426)As to St. Cuthbert I must have a little time to look  
(2-426)after my authorities. Ritson always insisted that Bp  
(2-426)Thurstan was not at the battle but lying sick at York  
(2-426)while it was fought. I will endeavour to detect his  
(2-426)authority. The great historian of the war as you doubtless  
(2-426)well know is Ailred de Bello Standardi. I always  
(2-426)thought it an unkind trick of St. Cuthbert to bestir himself  
(2-426)so lustily against his countrymen & I shall be rejoiced  
(2-426)to find he was incapable of it. There is a rude draught  
(2-426)of the Standard in Ailred (apud Twisden) but that you  
(2-426)have of course consulted. After all I shall not be at all  
(2-426)surprised to find that the passage in Marmion has been  
(2-426)hastily expressed from some general recollection of the  
(2-426)story connected with the place where the battle was  
(2-426)fought.-I am delighted to hear that you are proceeding  
(2-426)with the County history from which I expect great  
(2-426)pleasure.

(2-426)I have been giving the Register aforesaid a few words  
(2-426)descriptive of a small MS. book of poems 2 in my possession  
(2-426)written out very neatly " in obedience to Mrs Tomkins  
(2-426)commands " by the Author Patr: Carey in 1651. The

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(2-427)poems are amatory religious & political & are really far  
(2-427)from wanting merit. Have you ever heard of such a

(2-427)person ? There is a shield on the title page with a cross  
(2-427)anchoree or as I think the English Heralds call it a cross  
(2-427)moline. Beneath the motto is a red rose & a date of  
(2-427)time & place Warnifurd 1651.

(2-427)To interest you in my friend Patrick Carey you are  
(2-427)to understand that he was a suffering loyalist a gallant  
(2-427)Cavalier in short a second Colonel Lovelace. So perhaps  
(2-427)your knowledge of heraldry can help me to a probable  
(2-427)guess at his family. There is no colouring on the shield.

(2-427)I wish we could get up a few anecdotes of poor Ritson  
(2-427)for I saw some that were intended for publication neither  
(2-427)creditable nor correct & a fellow called [name torn out of  
(2-427)copy]1 has published an unfeeling acct. of the last  
(2-427)melancholy scenes of the poor antiquary's life.

(2-427)I send Godscroft by this day's mail to be left at Rushyford.  
(2-427)I hope you duly receive Somers. The IV Vol:  
(2-427)my friend Jo: Ballantyne says was duly forwarded by the  
(2-427)mail; but they are sometimes incorrect in delivering  
(2-427)parcels on the road. Mrs. Scott joins in kind remembrances  
(2-427)& all good new-year wishes to Mrs. Surtees. Do  
(2-427)you never think of making our Northern Athens a visit  
(2-427)during this bleak season ? We should be rejoiced to see  
(2-427)you. Your truly obliged W. SCOTT.

(2-427)EDINR. 4th Janry. 1811.

(2-427)I find Mr. Weber has no copy of the Romances for  
(2-427)himself. Pray what has become of your Pensioner for  
(2-427)whom I subscribed & how shall I pay the money ?

(2-427)I never heard exactly your story of the Dean & Chapter  
(2-427)but it somewhat resembles a feat of the late mad Earl of  
(2-427)Roseberry who invited the presbytery of Mid Lothian to

(2-427)dine with him-set down an excellent dinner wh: he told  
(2-427)them was an emblem of their good qualities as individuals  
(2-427)-he then flung the contents of every dish upon the table

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(2-428)into a large tub & commanded them to feed out of it the  
(2-428)mass thus formed being he said a just emblem of them as  
(2-428)a collective church court.

[Abbotsford Copies and Surtees Memoir]

TO MRS. SCOTT, MERTOUN HOUSE, ST. BOSWELLS

(2-428)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-Amidst the confusion of  
(2-428)preparation for Twelfth night Charlotte deputed me to  
(2-428)answer your kind enquiries after our journey which was  
(2-428)very tolerable snow & sickness considered. Anne was  
(2-428)sick the whole way but caught no cold and was very well  
(2-428)next morning The snow was a means of delay but no  
(2-428)serious obstacle excepting at the top of Soutra where it  
(2-428)was drifted for a little way. Our little people return the  
(2-428)warmest recollection of the hospitalities of Mertoun and  
(2-428)of the kindness of their young friends. We too are  
(2-428)delighted to find that even a long visit (so trying in many  
(2-428)respects) has not been too much for the patience of our  
(2-428)valued friends.

(2-428)We cannot find that we have left a music book &  
(2-428)suspect some mistake in that matter.

(2-428)I have detected Sir John Sinclairs piracy and I add a  
(2-428)few lines of the poem in which it occurs as they contain a  
(2-428)benediction which may suit Mertoun as well as Mountoun  
(2-428)for which they were written. The said Sir John gets a  
(2-428)most unmerciful pounding in the Quarterly 1 -the whips of

(2-429)the Edinburgh Review seem to have become scorpions  
(2-429)in the hands of their rivals.

(2-429)Charlotte joins in kindest and best remembrances to  
(2-429)Mr. Scott & to the little folks to whom Anne & Sophia  
(2-429)send as many greetings as the paper will hold. Believe  
(2-429)me dear Mrs. Scott your ever faithful & respectful  
(2-429)humble servant

(2-429)WALTER SCOTT

(2-429)EDINBURGH 5 January 1811

(2-429)Mountown thou sweet retreat from Dublin cares  
(2-429)Be famous for thy apples & thy pears  
(2-429)For turnips carrots lettuce beans & pease  
(2-429)For Peggys butter & for Peggy's cheese  
(2-429)May clouds of pigeons round about thee fly  
(2-429)But condescend sometimes to make a pye  
(2-429)May fat geese gaggle with melodious voice  
(2-429)And ne'er want gooseberry or apple sauce  
(2-429)Ducks in thy pond & chickens in thy pens  
(2-429)And be thy turkeys numerous as thy hens  
(2-429)May thy black pigs lie warm in little sty  
(2-429)And have no thought to grieve them till they die  
(2-429)Mountown the Muses most delicious theme  
(2-429)O may thy codlins ever swim in cream  
(2-429)Thy rasp and strawberries in Bourdeaux drown  
(2-429)To add a redder tincture to their own  
(2-429)Thy white-wine, sugar, milk, together club  
(2-429)To marke that gentle viand syllabub  
(2-429)Thy tarts to tarts, cheese-cakes to cheese-cakes join  
(2-429)To spoil the relish of the flowing wine

(2-429)But to the fading palate bring relief  
(2-429)By thy westphalian ham & Belgic beef  
(2-429)And to complete thy blessings in a word  
(2-429)Still be thy soil as friendly as thy lord.

(2-429)The lines are from a poem in 1704 written by the witty  
(2-429)Dr. Kingl calld the Mully of Mountown. With a few

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(2-430)allusions to Dr. Douglas the mince pies and the black  
(2-430)teapot I could if my conscience had been as large as Sir  
(2-430)Johns have adapted it very neatly to our last weeks  
(2-430)festivities.

(2-430)I think My dear Mrs. Scott you should let our friend  
(2-430)Dr. Douglas read the above lines it will give him so much  
(2-430)pleasure by reminding him of the good cheer we all  
(2-430)enjoyed at Mertoun.<sup>1</sup>

[Polwarth]

1811            SIR WALTER SCOTT            431

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-431)EDINR., 11th January 1811  
(2-431)I MUST not my dear Lady Abercorn allow you to  
(2-431)remain under your airy delusions as to my good faith.<sup>1</sup>  
(2-431)Assuredly your informers have been under the influence  
(2-431)of the pneumatic system so ingeniously described by the  
(2-431)sapient Mr. Matthews & which for aught I know is the  
(2-431)most curious & satisfactory account of the workings of  
(2-431)the human mind that the world has been yet favoured  
(2-431)with by any metaphysical philosopher. The first hundred  
(2-431)lines of the Lady of the Lake were written I think in October

(2-431)1809 and the first canto was sent to your Ladyship in  
(2-431)Ireland so soon as it was complete and you were the first  
(2-431)who saw them excepting one friend and the printer Mr.  
(2-431)Ballantyne who is a great critic as well as an excellent  
(2-431)printer. I have been always God help me too poor  
(2-431)and too impatient to let my poems lie by me for years  
(2-431)or for months either:2 on the contrary they have hitherto  
(2-431)been always sent to the press before they were a third  
(2-431)part finished. This is to be sure a very reprehensible  
(2-431)practice in many respects and I hope I shall get the better  
(2-431)of it the next time. I assure you seriously my dear friend  
(2-431)that I am not about any new poem and it is needless to  
(2-431)add that nobody can have seen that which has no  
(2-431)existence. Whenever I do begin any work you shall know  
(2-431)it but I hope we shall meet first. When the idea of a  
(2-431)new poem has at any time crossed my imagination I  
(2-431)foresee great difficulty in the choice of a subject. I have  
(2-431)sometimes thought of laying the scene during the great

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(2-432)civil war in 1643. This would have the advantage of  
(2-432)some novelty and the characters of the period might be  
(2-432)rendered highly poetical. The only thing I have rhymed  
(2-432)since The Lady of the Lake is translations from some very  
(2-432)old Swiss battlesongs for a work called Northern Antiquities 1  
(2-432)which is undertaken by two friends of mine who are very  
(2-432)learned and very indigent and to whom therefore I am  
(2-432)glad to give a little assistance.

(2-432)I was quite delighted with Mr. Perceval's speech, and  
(2-432)indeed with his conduct through all this most unhappy  
(2-432)business.2 He has risen greatly in the opinion of the  
(2-432)Country and with all who stand by the good old distressed  
(2-432)Monarch at this crisis will have a more noble reward  
(2-432)in his own conscience and in the applause of all good

(2-432)men than any continuation of power could have bestowed.  
(2-432)I beg of your friendship dear Lady A to let me know  
(2-432)when there is any probability of a favourable change in  
(2-432)the King's malady-ill news will come soon enough.  
(2-432)The Whig interest here are solemnizing their approaching  
(2-432)power by giving parties, etc. somewhat indecent this-  
(2-432)the D. of Argyle's marriage was a nine days' wonder  
(2-432)and is already forgotten. I saw Lady Charlotte for an  
(2-432)hour one evening as she passed through Edinburgh. She  
(2-432)is still looking beautiful. We hear she is or was on the  
(2-432)eve of marrying Lord Petersham. Don't you think that  
(2-432)might be as well let alone ?-She has I should think left  
(2-432)Scotland now having passed through Edinburgh while  
(2-432)I was at Mertoun.

(2-432)I have sometimes serious thoughts of going to Portugal  
(2-432)that is if the war lasts and Lord Wellington is to be  
(2-432)supported there. I have described so many battles that  
(2-432)I would compound for a moderate degree of risque to see  
(2-432)one and I suppose a Non-combatant would be in no great  
(2-432)danger and that I could easily get letters to headquarters  
(2-432)-But all this is is rather a vision than a scheme.

1811      433      SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-433)Mr. Knight's idea of a poem is an admirable one-  
(2-433)Pray have the goodness to remember me to him and  
(2-433)believe me, with all respectful remembrances to the  
(2-433)Marquis and the family your honoured and obliged,

W. S.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-433)MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I am delighted to hear of  
(2-433)the addition to your family in the person of a young Lord

(2-433)Strabane or whatever his title is to be. The Marquis  
(2-433)is I take it for granted more delighted with his new dignity  
(2-433)as a Grandfather than any that a court could confer.  
(2-433)It is really an important event & I beg you to believe  
(2-433)that I share most sincerely in the prolonged view which  
(2-433)it opens to all the House of Abercorn. I had the pleasure  
(2-433)yesterday to congratulate Miss Alice Gordon, Lord  
(2-433)Aberdeen's sister 1 on the happy arrival of the little  
(2-433)stranger. She dined with us in company with Lord  
(2-433)Chief Baron & Mr. Dundas ; & from the little chat I had  
(2-433)with her I think she has a share of her brothers good  
(2-433)sense & talent.

(2-433)Our theatrical matters have been settled by an agreement  
(2-433)between the parties principally interested : so  
(2-433)thank Heaven there is an end to labour & solicitation on  
(2-433)that subject. If any one catches me in the situation of a  
(2-433)trustee for the public or a theatrical patentee again  
(2-433)I will give them leave to make me candle-snuffer to the  
(2-433)play-house for life. Your Lady-ship will also be pleased  
(2-433)to-hear that the official body I belong to have been very  
(2-433)successful in a suit in Exchequer for estimating the  
(2-433)compensation to be paid to us. This is now fixed at  
(2-433)allowances of 1300,, a year to each which considerably  
(2-433)increases my reversionary prospects, as the Crown

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(2-434)Lawyers wished to put us off with 1000-This comes  
(2-434)in place of our old system of official fees which though  
(2-434)nominally large fell very short from the difficulty of  
(2-434)collecting them.

(2-434)My prospects of getting to town in Spring grow rather  
(2-434)more uncertain. I have no prospect of being called up on  
(2-434)public business & the expense is serious in any other way.

(2-434)Neither do I think I have much chance of getting to  
(2-434)Ireland which I should be so delighted to visit when your  
(2-434)Ladyship returns there. But I will endeavour to see  
(2-434)you as you pass through Scotland if it be but for a day.

(2-434)I would willingly hope the P. may have the prudence  
(2-434)your Ladyship is disposed to give him credit for.1 Mais  
(2-434)je m'en doute beaucoup. He has a set of very interested  
(2-434)persons about him & they must needs go where the  
(2-434)D-- drives.

(2-434)A thousand thanks for your kind remembrance of me  
(2-434)among your friends upon this joyful occasion. I assure  
(2-434)you it is not thrown away upon me & that I am your  
(2-434)honoured & obliged W. S.

(2-434)EDINR. 2 february 1811

(2-434)Just as I finished my letter I have one from my colleague  
(2-434)in office resigning ^200 of the appointments in my favour  
(2-434)so I am just so much the richer.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO LORD DALKEITH

(2-434)MY DEAR LORD,-I received the enclosed some days  
(2-434)ago and have been prevented by the stormy weather  
(2-434)from calling with it at Bowhill. It refers to a subject we  
(2-434)formerly discussd being nothing less than the Root of

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-435)all Evil moral & political. I can without any personal  
(2-435)inconvenience remove any temporary embarrassment but  
(2-435)I fear it will be necessary that his Grace or Mr. Don take

(2-435)some opportunity to announce their purpose and wishes  
(2-435)upon this matter.

(2-435)Upon Monday we leave this place with some regret on  
(2-435)my part though the migration is not more violent than  
(2-435)that of the Vicar of Wakefield & his good wife from the  
(2-435)green bed to the brown.

(2-435)I wishd much to have consulted Lady Dalkeiths taste  
(2-435)on a very pretty plan for my cottage but that must now  
(2-435)be for Edinburgh or Dalkeith leisure-Ever my dear Lord  
(2-435)Your truly faithful & obliged W. SCOTT

(2-435)ASHESTIEL Thursday [1811]1  
[Buccleuch]

TO LADY ABERCORN 2

(2-435)My DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-A matter has occured  
(2-435)since I wrote to you in which my future fortunes are so  
(2-435)deeply implicated that I think you yourself would blame  
(2-435)me did I not confide it to your friendly ear & invoke  
(2-435)your powerful assistance. It is in short the only opportunity  
(2-435)that my friends may ever have to shew me that  
(2-435)they really are so ; it is an object reasonable in itself

436            LETTERS OF            1811

(2-436)& apparently dictated by the very nature of the case ;  
(2-436)it is I may venture to say pointed out by the general voice  
(2-436)of the public here & warmly seconded by my Lord  
(2-436)Melville. The following is a state of the case with part  
(2-436)of which you are already familiar from the uniform &  
(2-436)land interest you have always taken in my affairs. In  
(2-436)Spring 1806 when the death of Mr. Pitt dissolved the then  
(2-436)administration he left my preferment, (which he had

(2-436)generously thought of, a distinction which as I was not  
(2-436)personally known to him I shall cherish as my proudest  
(2-436)recollection) a sort of legacy to Lord Mellville thro'  
(2-436)his nephew William Dundas. The Dundas family were  
(2-436)sufficiently disposed to oblige me from long &  
(2-436)uninterrupted friendship which I had enjoyed upon a footing  
(2-436)of intimacy with Lord Mellville Lord Chief Baron  
(2-436)Robert Dundas & in short their whole family. But the  
(2-436)administration was on the point of dissolution & as  
(2-436)everyone was glad to swim ashore on a piece of the wreck  
(2-436)I was fain to ally myself with Mr. George Home a Clerk  
(2-436)of Session who then wished to retire being after thirty  
(2-436)years service rendered incapable by Deafness of the most  
(2-436)obdurate kind from discharging the duties of his office.  
(2-436)Accordingly a Commission was executed to us of the  
(2-436)office upon condition that I should do all the duty & Mr.  
(2-436)Home draw all the salary during his life. This was in  
(2-436)some respects a hard bargain for me but what could I do ?  
(2-436)the Whigs would have caressed me if I would apostatize  
(2-436)from my political principles & made very flattering  
(2-436)advances. But that was out of the question while I had  
(2-436)a shilling to buy a crust & a sheeps head for my family.  
(2-436)So I e'en resolved to live on expectancy in the mean time  
(2-436)& I have laboured in many departments of literature  
(2-436)which I confess I think rather beneath me to maintain  
(2-436)my family in some of the comforts & elegancies of life.  
(2-436)In this way-with the advantage of a Sherifffdom of 300  
(2-436)& the interest of the little fortune I have had left by my  
(2-436)father & uncle I have fought my way living within rather

(2-437)than up to my income & sacrificing both my health &  
(2-437)literary reputation to the unremitting & irksome labours  
(2-437)of an Editor-while I have the united testimony of all  
(2-437)my brethren in office (who would do almost anything

(2-437)for me) that I have conducted myself with more than  
(2-437)regular attention to the duties of my unproductive situation.  
(2-437)But although in this way I have kept matters even,  
(2-437)it is impossible to look forward with hope to so cheerless  
(2-437)a prospect & really my spirits though naturally very equal  
(2-437)are apt to sink when I look at my little people & think  
(2-437)that with my utmost oeconomy I can add but little or  
(2-437)nothing to the fortune they have derived from others  
(2-437)which is very small & that I am on the hope of outliving  
(2-437)a man who may outlive me educating them for a rank  
(2-437)in society which I may not leave enough to maintain  
(2-437)them in-And this while folks are in power on whose  
(2-437)account I have incurd [sic] a hatred which will never leave  
(2-437)me till I am where hatred & favour are equally indifferent.  
(2-437)All this my dear Lady Abercorn I think you know  
(2-437)already but the recapitulation is at least as necessary  
(2-437)as that of the Clergyman from his last Sundays discourse.  
(2-437)Now to the application.

(2-437)Yesterday Mr. Pringle the eldest of our body (exclusive  
(2-437)of my immortal friend) was gathered to his fathers, (I had  
(2-437)done his business by the way as well as my own for this  
(2-437)year past). Now I really think it would be a hardship  
(2-437)if they were to nominate anyone to the appointment  
(2-437)over my head who have been transacting the business  
(2-437)of the court with general & very flattering approbation  
(2-437)from the judges for no less than five years without ever  
(2-437)receiving a guinea. The only difficulty that occurred  
(2-437)to me would be the difficulty of placing any person in  
(2-437)the same situation that I am with my venerable friend  
(2-437)who sticks to me like Sinbads old man of the Sea. Many  
(2-437)people would be willing to take the burden off him &  
(2-437)people too whom Lord Mellville would like to oblige.  
(2-437)But the reversion Act may I fear stand in the way of any

(2-438)new appointment in the terms of our joint commission.  
(2-438)And though I do not care to be quite throttled by my  
(2-438)rider yet I would not throw him off in the mire neither  
(2-438)but rather dwell in my necessity than do anything that  
(2-438)could be construed as shabby especially as he resigned  
(2-438)about a fortnight ago 3<sup>200</sup> a year granted in Exchequer  
(2-438)in my favour.

(2-438)But surely a man who has served the state like Mr. H.  
(2-438)for forty years may now be entitled to retire on 2/3rd  
(2-438)of his pension as is the rule with other officers. My  
(2-438)having acted under this unreasonable bargain for five  
(2-438)years is no reason for continuing [?] it upon or rather  
(2-438)the contrary. The difference I could easily settle by  
(2-438)private arrangement so that the old gentleman should  
(2-438)be no loser. He is himself wealthy & when he succeeds  
(2-438)to a maiden aunt who keeps his house will be worth at  
(2-438)least fifteen thousand a year without a relation to leave  
(2-438)it to. But your Ladyships knowledge of human nature  
(2-438)will lead you to judge that this circumstance is of little  
(2-438)consequence in the business since our wishes for riches  
(2-438)are seldom satisfied by possessing more than we can use  
(2-438)enjoy or bequeath. I may be mistaken in my own case  
(2-438)but I have always taught myself to bound my worldly  
(2-438)prospect by possession of my official emoluments which  
(2-438)would add 1000,, or 1300,, a year to my income  
(2-438)without adding 50 to my expenses.

(2-438)Lord Mellville is I think very serious in wishing some  
(2-438)arrangement to be made [in] my favour & has  
(2-438)written strongly to his son on my behalf; & I am sure  
(2-438)R. Dundas will exert himself. Still however I do not  
(2-438)care altogether to trust a thing of this nature to those who  
(2-438)though they love me well have many others who have  
(2-438)claims upon them of a personal & political nature :1 to

(2-438)your prudence delicacy & kindness my dear Lady  
(2-438)Marchioness I trust any thing additional that can be  
(2-438)done especially in the way of propitiating Mr. Percival.

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(2-439)Will you acquaint me if [all very blotted and confused] you  
(2-439)can do anything or if you advise me to trouble the  
(2-439)Marquis on the subject. I have not applied either to  
(2-439)his Lordship or the D. of Buccleugh being willing to see  
(2-439)the issue of Lord Mellvilles application.

(2-439)The Duke has always been my good friend nor have I  
(2-439)been ungrateful for I have fortunately been able to assist  
(2-439)his candidate materially in the impending contest for the  
(2-439)County of Roxburgh. On the Marquis I have no claims  
(2-439)except those of an importunate solicitor who acquires  
(2-439)by prescription the right of being troublesome. But I  
(2-439)never before solicited for myself.

(2-439)On the whole if your Ladyship expects any more  
(2-439)harmony from me you must take my case into your  
(2-439)kind consideration recollecting always that I am only  
(2-439)craving to be promoted to the emoluments of situation  
(2-439)[sic] of which I have held the rank & discharged the  
(2-439)duty gratis for five years compleat, & which I believe  
(2-439)no one will say is much disproportioned to my birth  
(2-439)expectations or standing in Society. I will not mix  
(2-439)anything poetical in this long epistle that it may have  
(2-439)power as it were by its native weight to sink into your  
(2-439)heart. You remember the warning of Friar Bacons  
(2-439)brazen head " Time is " that is the case with me just  
(2-439)now & I fear if neglected we shall have the mournful  
(2-439)sequel "Time was" & "Time shall be no more."  
(2-439)Believe me Dear Lady Abercorn for once in my life your  
(2-439)anxious But always your obliged & respectful

(2-439)W. S.

(2-439)EDINR. 15 february 1811.

[Pierpont Morgan]

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1811

LETTERS

TO VISCOUNT MELVILLE

(2-440)MY LORD,-The inclosed letter was put into my hands  
(2-440)by Mr. Ferriar who had communicated to Mr. George  
(2-440)Home the death of Mr. Pringle & whom I had requested  
(2-440)to say generally to Mr. Home that whatever views of  
(2-440)amending my situation this opening might hold out I  
(2-440)should in pursuing them hold myself obliged in honor to  
(2-440)attend to his interest. Your Lordship will observe that  
(2-440)the view he takes of the subject is somewhat different from  
(2-440)what occurd either to your Lordship or to myself. It is  
(2-440)not for me to be my own carver but I have only to say  
(2-440)that if the mode suggested by Mr. Home should be deemd  
(2-440)eligible the business of the table will be easily & cheerfully  
(2-440)discharged by my colleagues & myself. Or if any  
(2-440)gentleman from the bar should take my situation with  
(2-440)Mr. Home, there could be no difficulty whatever in  
(2-440)indemnifying him for the resignation of a Sherifffdom or  
(2-440)any other preferment of the kind. Mr. Home would  
(2-440)probably continue to him the allowance of 200 which  
(2-440)he lately proposed to resign to me and I would readily  
(2-440)make up the difference.

(2-440)I leave this matter to me probably the most important  
(2-440)I shall ever have to discuss to that kind and friendly  
(2-440)consideration with which your Lordship has always  
(2-440)regarded my private concerns. The best part of my life  
(2-440)is fast wasting in my present dispiriting situation and the

(2-440)favour of the public which has proved occasionally an  
(2-440)important resource cannot be expected to be more  
(2-440)permanent with me than with men of greater talents  
(2-440)who have experienced its mutability. I am My Lord  
(2-440)with a deep sense of all your Lordships kindness Your  
(2-440)much obliged & honoured humble Servant

(2-440)WALTER SCOTT

(2-440)EDINR. 20 February [1811]

441                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1811

(2-441)P.S.-The Roxburghshire campaign advances pretty  
(2-441)well.

(2-441)The right honble Lord Viscount Mellville  
(2-441)etc etc etc Mellville Castle.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO DR. LEYDEN, CALCUTTA

(2-441)MY DEAR LEYDEN,-Your letter of the 10th January  
(2-441)1810, reached me about ten days since, and was most  
(2-441)truly wellcome, as containing an assurance of that which,  
(2-441)however, I never doubted-the continuation of your  
(2-441)unabated friendship, and affectionate remembrance.1 I  
(2-441)assure you Charlotte and I think and speak of you very  
(2-441)often, with all the warmth due to the recollection of our  
(2-441)early days, when life and hope were young with all of us.  
(2-441)You have, I hope, long ere now, received my third poem,  
(2-441)"The Lady of the Lake," which I think you will like  
(2-441)for auld long syne, if not for its intrinsic merit. It have [sic]  
(2-441)been much more successful than its predecessors, for no  
(2-441)less than 25,000 copies have disappeared in eight months  
(2-441)and the demand is so far from being abated, that another

(2-441)edition of 3000 is now at press. I send you a copy of the  
(2-441)4to by a son of Mr. Pringle of Whitebank ; and his third  
(2-441)son, William Pringle, being now on the same voyage to  
(2-441)your shores, I beg to introduce him. He is one of the  
(2-441)younkers mentioned in the Introduction to Marmion  
(2-441)as a companion of my field Sports. I take the opportunity  
(2-441)to send you a little print 2 which I think you will set some

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LETTERS

(2-442)value upon. It has just come out in London, and is  
(2-442)reckoned very cleverly engraved. Poor old Camp,  
(2-442)whom you will readily recognise, died about two years  
(2-442)ago of old age, rather prematurely accelerated by good  
(2-442)living. His place is supplied in some sort by a very  
(2-442)sensible Scotch terrier ; but to have a dog whom I can  
(2-442)love as much as Camp I must bring back all that were  
(2-442)with me, and you, my dear Leyden, among the foremost,  
(2-442)in our woodland walks by Eskes romantic shore . . .

(2-442)I have not yet received the Chinese affair, though Helen  
(2-442)has forwarded the letter which accompanied it. I have  
(2-442)no other connexion with the Quarterly Review than as I  
(2-442)am, with Ellis, Heber, and most of your old acquaintance,  
(2-442)more partial to its politics than to those of your old friend  
(2-442)Brougham in the Edinburgh Review. But I will recommend  
(2-442)the work to the conductor, and if Southey will take it in  
(2-442)hand (to whom the Missionaries have been obliged for  
(2-442)the countenance they have hitherto received in the  
(2-442)Quarterly), I have no doubts your friends will be satisfied  
(2-442)with the manner in which they are treated . . .

(2-442)You will expect news of European friends ; Heber is  
(2-442)in excellent health, and amassing books, and discussing  
(2-442)magnums as usual. Ellis has quite recovered, that is,  
(2-442)he is in the state of health in which you knew him, never

(2-442)a very robust one. James Ballantyne is increasing in  
(2-442)fortune and bulk; his brother is now a bookseller here  
(2-442)men auspice. You must know that repeated favours on my  
(2-442)part had the same effect upon [Constable?] that those from  
(2-442)a higher quarter produced on Jeshurun-he wax'd fat  
(2-442)and kicked. But he is aware by this time that he had  
(2-442)done better to have kept his [temper] to himself for he  
(2-442)may place 5000 minus in his books to the breach of our  
(2-442)connexion occasioned by his own folly and his partner's  
(2-442)insolence.

1811                SIR WALTER SCOTT                443

(2-443)I expect this boy to call every moment, so I must close  
(2-443)my letter. Mrs. Scott joins in sending you all the wishes  
(2-443)of affectionate friendship. Pray take care of your health,  
(2-443)and come home to us soon. We will find an ingleside  
(2-443)and a corner of our hearts as warm for you as ever. My  
(2-443)children are all well; and now I hear the door-bell,  
(2-443)vale et nos ama.                                        WALTER SCOTT

(2-443)EDINBURGH, 20th February 1811.1  
[1871 Exhibition Catalogue]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-443)MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,-In farther explanation  
(2-443)of my letter & the business it contains I enclose a letter  
(2-443)from the gentleman of whose office I have the duty in  
(2-443)possession & the income in expectancy. Mr. R. Dundas  
(2-443)objects to his fathers proposal of the new Clerk taking  
(2-443)a share of my burden as being contrary to the late  
(2-443)Act of Parliament-Of course I cannot wish you press  
(2-443)such an arrangement. But Mr. George Home points at  
(2-443)one which would be equally advantageous to me & to  
(2-443)which no objection can possibly apply except the wishes

(2-443)of his Majesties Ministers to prefer the interests of another  
(2-443)gentleman to mine. Mr. Home in short proposes that  
(2-443)I shall be named to the vacancy leaving him to discharge  
(2-443)as much of the duty of his own office as he can which all  
(2-443)my brethren are anxious to make quite easy to him. As  
(2-443)he has made this very handsome proposal it would be  
(2-443)my business to take care that any burden he might have  
(2-443)to discharge should be a very light one & I have no doubt  
(2-443)Mr. Dundas would soon give him another associate. Lord  
(2-443)Mellville has written transmitting this proposal to his son,  
(2-443)but I am not sanguine in my hopes of altering his opinion.

(2-443)The gentleman who will probable [sic] be preferred to me  
(2-443)is so little anxious on the subject that he offered to resign

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(2-444)[bis] his pretensions in my favour & actually did so-But  
(2-444)I could not with justice to my own feelings accept of this  
(2-444)sort of personal sacrifice or owe that to the disinterestedness  
(2-444)of a gentleman on whom I had no claims, which I  
(2-444)think after five years gratuitous labour in the office I have  
(2-444)at least some claim to expect from my services backed by  
(2-444)the Interest of those who may have the inclination &  
(2-444)power to back them by their intercession. But from  
(2-444)the enclosed extract of a letter from Mr. Dundas to  
(2-444)Ld. Mellville I believe it will require very powerful  
(2-444)weight indeed to do me any good.

(2-444)At the same time I will not be wanting to myself  
(2-444)nor leave my friends unacquainted with the circumstances  
(2-444)in which I am placed. Mr. David Hume mentioned  
(2-444)as the preferable candidate is unconnected with Mr.  
(2-444)Geo: Home my colleague. He is a most worthy &  
(2-444)respectable man & has repeatedly refused a situation  
(2-444)of a judge. But I cannot quite admit that his merits

(2-444)are of a nature very superior to mine considering the  
(2-444)vacancy has occurred in the department where I have  
(2-444)been labouring so long & fruitlessly.

(2-444)Excuse my dear friend all this trouble for to whom can  
(2-444)I look so readily as to you in this important conjuncture.  
(2-444)I have the honour to be Your Ladyships Most obedient  
(2-444)& much obliged WALTER SCOTT

(2-444)EDINR. 22 February [1811]  
[Pierpont Morgan]

TO CHARLES ARBUTHNOT 1

(2-444)SIR,-I am honoured by your letter & am inexpressably  
(2-444)obliged by the interest you have been pleased to take in  
(2-444)my affairs at the request of my kind & never failing friend

SIR WALTER SCOTT      1811      445

(2-445)the Marchioness of Abercorn. You may rely upon my  
(2-445)observing your caution & what I am about to mention  
(2-445)to you I will entreat your goodness to consider as equally  
(2-445)confidential for I am well aware that the Dundas family  
(2-445)who have been long my kind & intimate friends have the  
(2-445)warmest wishes to serve me while at the same time they  
(2-445)must necessarily feel themselves trammel'd with a variety  
(2-445)of claims on their patronage & may not perhaps be  
(2-445)the less zealous for an occasional hint from a quarter  
(2-445)which may be friendly to me. Mr. David Hume (the  
(2-445)gentleman whose claims were considered as preferable  
(2-445)to mine & undoubtedly they were most weighty) is now  
(2-445)out of the field, having finally declined to accept the offer.  
(2-445)There are two ways in which I may be promoted to  
(2-445)the emoluments of my situation. The one is clear  
(2-445)explicit & but for one circumstance by far the most

(2-445)elegible. It is simply that as Mr. George Home my  
(2-445)colleague formerly resigned his sole commission to accept  
(2-445)a joint nomination with me, so now he & I should resign  
(2-445)that joint commission & should be separately nominated  
(2-445)Clerks of Session I in the vice of Mr. Pringle & Mr.  
(2-445)Home in his own place. This arrangement would be  
(2-445)agreeable to Mr. George Home my colleague as well  
(2-445)appears from his letter to Mr. Ferrier in possession of the  
(2-445)Marchioness. My brethren in office are unanimous in  
(2-445)wishing this arrangement, there can be no legal or formal  
(2-445)objection to it nor shall we be at at [sic] the least loss in  
(2-445)supplying any of Mr. Home's deficiencies arising from  
(2-445)his age & deafness as the duty is not heavy and we are  
(2-445)all at liberty to work for each other. But I fear this will  
(2-445)not quite meet Mr. R. Dundas's views as I can easily  
(2-445)conceive he would like to extend his patronage as much  
(2-445)as possible by obliging two persons-In the event of this  
(2-445)being the case or of Mr. David Hume (for the third time)  
(2-445)changing his mind & choosing to step between me &  
(2-445)the office, there will I doubt be no remedy but by way  
(2-445)of pension to Mr. George Home as a superannuated

(2-446)officer who has been I believe forty years in office & has  
(2-446)become from deafness & age absolutely unfit to discharge  
(2-446)the duties. That such a person has a legitimate claim to  
(2-446)retire upon a pension has always been admitted & the  
(2-446)circumstance of my having born [sic] him on my shoulders  
(2-446)for five years can scarcely be held to enable the public to  
(2-446)saddle me with him for ever. The later the pension is  
(2-446)applied for, after age & infirmities have rendered it a  
(2-446)just measure, the more the public is benefited & at any  
(2-446)other moment than when the Pitt administration was  
(2-446)going to pieces & I like others was glad to get a piece of  
(2-446)the wreck to float me ashore I should have done myself

(2-446)& family injustice to have accepted the hard terms I at  
(2-446)present lie under.

(2-446)I have just had some intimation that Mr. David Hume  
(2-446)is a third time hesitating-Upon my honour I think it  
(2-446)a little hard that any man should have an office forced  
(2-446)upon him after repeated refusals formally communicated  
(2-446)to his friends & competitors & that in a department  
(2-446)where another not altogether void of pretensions has  
(2-446)been labouring for nothing for five years-I saw Lord  
(2-446)Mellville who I found very warmly disposed to second  
(2-446)me using the strong expression that if he had any interest  
(2-446)in Scotland he should see my claims attended to. I  
(2-446)believe the pension business is the only chance I have of  
(2-446)relief in this country but I am not wedded to it nor too  
(2-446)old to seek preferment elsewhere should everything  
(2-446)fail me.

(2-446)I beg my most respectful compliments to the kind &  
(2-446)friendly Lady who engaged such powerful assistance on  
(2-446)my behalf. You will find my friends when the office is  
(2-446)fairly filled up will require a flapper [?] as indeed they  
(2-446)have more than enough to engage their attention. I am  
(2-446)with much respect Sir Your obliged & Most humble  
(2-446)servant  
(2-446)EDINBURGH 23 february [1811]

WALTER SCOTT

[Pierpont Morgan]

1811                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      447

TO VISCOUNT MELVILLE

(2-447)[Feb. 1811]

(2-447)MY LORD,-Availing myself of the kind interest you

(2-447)have always taken in my affairs I have to request your  
(2-447)attention to the inclosed copy of a letter which I have  
(2-447)received from Mr. Arbuthnot Secretary to the Treasury.  
(2-447)I wrote to Mr. George Home on the subject of the  
(2-447)arrangement to which it refers on Sunday last & have not  
(2-447)as yet heard from him on the subject. It would be very  
(2-447)indelicate in me to have even the appearance of hurrying  
(2-447)Mr. Homes determination on a matter in which I am to  
(2-447)be the party obliged. Although at the same time I have  
(2-447)explained to him that I propose no advantage at his  
(2-447)expence.

(2-447)At the same time I should be happy that Mr. Home  
(2-447)were acquainted with the contents of Mr. Arbuthnots  
(2-447)letter which seem to intimate that the affair depends upon  
(2-447)his resolution as I am sure his knowlege of the world will  
(2-447)point out to him that those who have to day the power  
(2-447)of assisting me may tomorrow have only the inclination.  
(2-447)I do not possess the information Mr. Arbuthnot requires  
(2-447)of me nor if I did should I wish to proceed further in  
(2-447)the matter untill I am apprised of Mr. Homes wishes &  
(2-447)determination.

(2-447)Mr. Homes kindness & liberally of which I gave your  
(2-447)Lordship a convincing proof, even before this business  
(2-447)came forward, encourage me to hope that sanctioned as  
(2-447)the transaction is both by Law & Equity he will not upon  
(2-447)light grounds refuse to accede to it. I have the honour to  
(2-447)be ever My dear Lord Your Lordships much obliged &  
(2-447)honord humble Servant

(2-447)WALTER SCOTT

(2-447)CASTLE STREET Friday Evening

(2-447)Lord Viscount Mellville.

(2-447)&c. &c. &c.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

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TO LORD MELVILLE

(2-448)MY DEAR LORD,-I inclose for your Lordships perusal  
(2-448)a letter from Mr. Arbuthnot of the Treasury from which  
(2-448)it would seem that there will be no difficulty made to  
(2-448)pension off Mr. George Home provided he will apply for  
(2-448)the Superannuation. I wrote to him on Sunday mentioning  
(2-448)what was proposed and assuring him that I did  
(2-448)not propose in advancing my own interest to do the least  
(2-448)injury to his for which my friends will give him fuller  
(2-448)assurance & security than he himself would desire. I  
(2-448)have not heard from him in reply, but his offer of returning  
(2-448)to the table was so handsome & my request seems so  
(2-448)reasonable that I hope he will start no objection to the  
(2-448)arrangement. If your Lordship should think with Mr.  
(2-448)Arbuthnot that a few lines from yourself might have the  
(2-448)effect to determine him in my favour I am sure I shall not  
(2-448)weary your goodness in requesting this further assistance  
(2-448)towards bringing to an end this matter which without your  
(2-448)Lordship[s] kind & active patronage would never have  
(2-448)advanced so far.

(2-448)I inclose an abstract of the Superannuation Act from  
(2-448)which it appears than an Officer serving fifteen years  
(2-448)& being upwards of sixty may retire on two thirds of his  
(2-448)salary and emoluments. Mr. Home is I should suppose  
(2-448)much above sixty & as I observe from the Books of Sederunt  
(2-448)was twenty five years in office before I was conjoined with  
(2-448)him & five years have elapsed since our joint commission.  
(2-448)So there can be no doubt as to his title to the pension if  
(2-448)he chuses to apply. His salary & emoluments stand in a

(2-448)particular condition. The judicature Act fixes 1000 as  
(2-448)the future salary of Clerks of Session & allows each Clerk  
(2-448)then in possession 100 a year for life as Compensation  
(2-448)for patronage etc. The Court of Excheq: by an order  
(2-448)on the last day of last term allowd each Clerk 200 yearly  
(2-448)in further & full compensation but this last sum is made  
(2-448)payable during incumbency only & not for life. It seems

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(2-449)to me therefore that Mr. Home may retain the 100 for  
(2-449)life even after his retirement, but as he must resign the  
(2-449) 1000 charged in the fee fund & the 200 payable in  
(2-449)Exchequer during incumbency he will be entitled under  
(2-449)the act to a pension for 800 being two thirds of the above  
(2-449)sum, & my friends will not permit him to be a loser upon  
(2-449)the difference between 900 & the full emoluments of  
(2-449)his office.

(2-449)I have only to add that this arrangement will be in the  
(2-449)highest degree satisfactory to me & will serve to relieve  
(2-449)me in every material degree from a pressure which I  
(2-449)cannot think Mr. Home would wish to continue a  
(2-449)moment longer than it is necessary for his own interest &  
(2-449)Security.

(2-449)I cannot express my sense of your Lordships kind &  
(2-449)persevering goodness & you must be sensible how much  
(2-449)I calculate upon it since I intrude with so little ceremony.  
(2-449)I am ever my dear Lord Your truly obliged & most  
(2-449)respectful Servant W. SCOTT

(2-449)CASTLE STREET, Thursday [February 1811]  
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO LORD MELVILLE

(2-449)My DEAR LORD,-I send the copy of Mr. Arbuthnots  
(2-449)letter with a few lines from myself to your Lordship in  
(2-449)case you should think it suitable to forward them also.  
(2-449)If I have a letter from Mr. H. I will write to your Lordship  
(2-449)tomorrow to save you as much trouble as possible. I am  
(2-449)with Gratitude your Lordships truly obliged

[No address. Between February and March 1811]  
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-450)A thousand thanks for the kind interest you have taken

(2-450)in my very trifling yet to me most important concern.  
(2-450)Mr. Arbuthnots attention to it will be of the last consequence  
(2-450)& I am infinitely obliged by the kind readiness  
(2-450)with which he has undertaken it. It has been considered  
(2-450)proper to give Mr. David Hume the vacant Clerkship  
(2-450)which he has with great difficulty been prevailed with  
(2-450)to accept of. His ambition was to be a Baron of  
(2-450)Exchequer & I believe or rather suspect that it was a wish  
(2-450)to remove him from an object to which the L. Advocate  
(2-450)himself casts an eye that occasioned their forcing the  
(2-450)present office upon him. By way of compensation to  
(2-450)me for passing me over they now propose to give my  
(2-450)colleague Mr. Geo. Home a pension under the Act for  
(2-450)providing superannuated office-holders. I shall be  
(2-450)perfectly satisfied with this arrangement & upon reading  
(2-450)over the Act attentively I cannot see there can be the  
(2-450)least objection stated to it. Lord Melville has assured  
(2-450)me in the warmest & kindest terms that if he has the least  
(2-450)interest left in Scotland the thing shall be done. There  
(2-450)has not been since my recollection a time in which

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(2-451)preferment has flowed in upon the bar with so full a  
(2-451)spring-tide. A double Judges gown,<sup>1</sup> the situation of  
(2-451)Solicitor General, that of Judge Admiral, three Sherifffdoms,  
(2-451)a Clerkship of Session, a Judge Commissioners  
(2-451)seat, with many more minute crums [sic] of comfort have  
(2-451)fallen among us like the Manna in the wilderness at the  
(2-451)time the friends of this administration looked for nothing  
(2-451)but being turned out of what they had. All the gentlemen  
(2-451)promoted are either my early friends companions &  
(2-451)equals or very much my juniors. I own therefore I  
(2-451)shall feel hurt if as Jorick says while it is raining mitres  
(2-451)from heaven as it were, none of them should light upon  
(2-451)my head. Or as Cowley more practically complains

(2-451)of the neglect which he experienced when he was passed  
(2-451)over in the distribution of favours at the Restoration, &  
(2-451)when after fourteen years service he was disappointed of  
(2-451)the Mastership of the Savoy which had been promised him.

(2-451)As a fair morning of the blessed Spring  
(2-451)After a tedious stormy night  
(2-451)Such was the glorious entry of our king  
(2-451)Encircling plenty drop'd on every thing.  
(2-451)Plenty he sowd below & cast about him light.  
(2-451)But then alas ! to me alone  
(2-451)One of old Gideon's miracles was shown  
(2-451)For every tree & every herb around  
(2-451)With pearly dew was crown'd  
(2-451)And upon all the quickend ground  
(2-451)The fruitful seed of heaven did brooding lie  
(2-451)And nothing but the Muses fleece was dry

[MS. sewed in here]

(2-451)The Rachel for which twice seven years & more  
(2-451)Thou didst with faith & labour serve  
(2-451)And didst (if faith & labour can) deserve  
(2-451)Though she contracted was to thee  
(2-451)Given to another didst thou see  
(2-451)Given to another who had store  
(2-451)Of fairer & of richer wives before  
(2-451)And not a Leah left thy recompense to be.

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(2-452)The last lines come very near my situation for I suppose  
(2-452)a Clerkship of Session is as like Rachel as the Mastership  
(2-452)of the Savoy. But Mr. Arbuthnott gives me good hope  
(2-452)of a Leah in recompense, in shape of a pension to Mr.  
(2-452)Geo. Home : I am far from being offended at the

(2-452)preference given to my friend Mr. David Hume a most  
 (2-452)excellent & highly accomplished man but of a temper  
 (2-452)so shy & reserved unless to his intimate friends that  
 (2-452)he has repeatedly said he would not accept the offer  
 (2-452)unless with the view of the assistance which I can easily  
 (2-452)& will cheerfully give him. Your Ladyship will readily  
 (2-452)believe that being in such habits [?] I cannot but rejoice  
 (2-452)in his appointment. I shall be quite satisfied with what  
 (2-452)is proposed for me provided it does not as has been  
 (2-452)hitherto my hard fortune stop short at the proposal &  
 (2-452)vanish in ineffectual expressions of regret & goodwill.  
 (2-452)I would never have my friends do anything for me which  
 (2-452)they cannot defend upon grounds both of law & justice.  
 (2-452)But I think I am entitled to expect under all the circumstances  
 (2-452)that no apprehension of frivolous or unreasonable  
 (2-452)cavil being made out to deter them from assisting me.<sup>1</sup>  
 (2-452)It is very true that anything done in my favour may be  
 (2-452)subject to more malignant scrutiny than in another  
 (2-452)case ; but then it ought not to be forgotten why I am  
 (2-452)more disadvantageously situated in this respect than  
 (2-452)others of my rank, nor ought the prejudices of the  
 (2-452)Foxites against me to prevent my friends from doing me  
 (2-452)right since these prejudices would not have existed but  
 (2-452)for the warmth & sincerity of my attachment to Lord  
 (2-452)Mellville. Of all this both L. M. & Mr. R. Dundas are  
 (2-452)I am sure fully sensible nor is there any good reason for  
 (2-452)my teasing your Ladyship with the repetition excepting  
 (2-452)that out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh.  
 (2-452)Mr. R. Dundas has thrown out a slight hint as if he would  
 (2-452)like to have my Sherifffdom. But if Mr. D. Hume retains

(2-453)his professorship (worth 600) I see no reason for  
 (2-453)resigning my office with only 300. Besides I have  
 (2-453)assigned such reasons as I am persuaded will prevent

(2-453)Mr. Dundas from insisting on what I will not comply  
(2-453)with, for I dont see why I should buy a favour & that  
(2-453)very dearly too. So like my predecessor in that office  
(2-453)the Outlaw Murray renowned in ballad I am determined  
(2-453)to be

(2-453)-- Sheriff of Ettricke forest  
(2-453)Surely while upward grows the tree.<sup>1</sup>

(2-453)Upon the whole I flatter myself that things go well-  
(2-453)much the more do I so flatter myself because you my  
(2-453)kind friend interest yourself in the matter & that Mr.  
(2-453)Arbuthnott will have an eye upon it for your sake & will  
(2-453)take care it does not slip out of memory during the  
(2-453)hurry of so many matters as R. Dundas has to think  
(2-453)about-

(2-453)I have some poetical matters to tell you about but I  
(2-453)will not intermingle them with this stuff of Clerkships  
(2-453)& pensions and Sherifffdoms. Ever your truly indebted  
(2-453)& obliged W. S.

(2-453)EDN. 25 February [1811]

(2-453)Pray have the goodness when you honour me with a  
(2-453)line to say how Lady Hamilton & the little boy do-  
(2-453)whether he is christened & by what name & what is  
(2-453)his title.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO LORD MELVILLE

(2-453)MY DEAR LORD,-I send your Lordship inclosed a copy  
(2-453)of Mr. Homes answer which is decidedly unfavourable.  
(2-453)I suspect it will hardly be possible to remove his scruples.

(2-453)It would be very easy for me to place Mr. Home in the  
(2-453)situation he dislikes so much for were I to resign

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(2-454)tomorrow as he could have no renewal of the joint  
(2-454)commission he must then retire on the Superannuation Act.  
(2-454)The last objection I could easily remove by ensuring my  
(2-454)life for a certain annuity payable to Mr. Home in the  
(2-454)event of his surviving me. Perhaps your Lordships  
(2-454)intercession may have some weight with him. I am my  
(2-454)dear Lord very gratefully yours  
w. SCOTT

(2-454)PARLIAMT. HOUSE Saturday [March 1811]  
[No address]

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

Enclosure

(2-454)Letter from George Home, Paxton, 6th March 1811, to  
(2-454)Viscount Melville.

(2-454)... I may be mistaken in the Construction I put upon the  
(2-454)act, but it appears to me that there is no room for granting a  
(2-454)Pension under it, when the office is filled by a Person capable  
(2-454)to do the duties of it. The Treasury may no doubt grant the  
(2-454)Pension, but it must be reported to Parliament that they may  
(2-454)judge whether it has been properly granted. . . . While the  
(2-454)Joint Commission subsists & the duties of the office [are]  
(2-454)properly performed, I shall never prevail upon myself to run  
(2-454)the risk of having that objection stated to my claim, or to  
(2-454)have it said that this is a Job by which the Parties have  
(2-454)secured to themselves a Joint Interest in the office and are  
(2-454)now endeavouring to burden the Publick with a double  
(2-454)sallary. I should adhere to this resolution, even altho there

(2-454)was no other remedy for Mr. Scott's relief, but he has himself  
(2-454)suggested the remedy, which is to resign his Joint Commission.  
(2-454)I shall then be in a situation to claim under the act, content  
(2-454)myself with the Pension & leave to Mr. Scott the Emoluments  
(2-454)of the office.

TO LORD MELVILLE

(2-454)MY DEAR LORD,-I am honourd with your letter and  
(2-454)willingly defer my whole interest to your Lordships  
(2-454)opinion & that of the Lord President. I cannot be in  
(2-454)better or kinder hands and if Mr. Home should convince  
(2-454)you of the illegality of the measure proposed or influence

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(2-455)you with doubt on the subject. God forbid I should press  
(2-455)it or do Mr. Home the injustice to embarrass him by  
(2-455)leaving him in the lurch-I would rather work for nothing  
(2-455)all my life-But if Mr. Home's doubts should not be so  
(2-455)supported as to have influence on your Lordships' mind  
(2-455)my present feelings will dictate a resignation of my  
(2-455)commission in which case Mr. Home's interest &  
(2-455)convenience will be deeply compromised. For I conceive  
(2-455)he cannot serve in the office-neither can it be performd  
(2-455)by Mr. Walker & Mr. D. Hume the latter being a novice  
(2-455)& it will be for Mr. Geo: Home to weigh his own interest  
(2-455)instead of weighing mine against his objections to retiring  
(2-455)upon the superannuation act & either to make that  
(2-455)sacrifice to himself which he may decline to make to me  
(2-455)& solicit for the superannuation pension or resign his  
(2-455)office without any compensation whatever. Even in  
(2-455)the former case he will be worse off than I now wish  
(2-455)him to be for he is satisfied that if the proposed arrangement  
(2-455)be carried through he will not lose a penny by it,  
(2-455)whereas if a new commission is to be granted to any one,

(2-455)the person receiving it is bard under the highest penalties  
(2-455)which extend also to the Secretary of State from having  
(2-455)any understanding by which the incumbent can give the  
(2-455)retiring officer a guinea out [of] his pocket. The only  
(2-455)footing on which I could make this additional compensation  
(2-455)(which I am ready to do either by purchasing him a  
(2-455)life-annuity or paying him the purchase money) is that  
(2-455)in the event of Mr. Homes resigning the joint interest he  
(2-455)has in the commission & particularly his right to the  
(2-455)emoluments, I neither take any new office nor have occasion  
(2-455)to place myself within the danger of the Brokerage  
(2-455)act which only refers to offices granted long after the date  
(2-455)of my commission. I therefore feel myself at liberty to  
(2-455)offer Mr. Home what I think full justice. But it is  
(2-455)obvious no other person can legally make him the same  
(2-455)compensation.

(2-455)I suspect Mr. Home's chief fear and it is a very just

(2-456)at least a very natural one is that his name may be dragd  
(2-456)through parliament & the matter subjected to a sort of  
(2-456)investigation (much the taste of the present day) which  
(2-456)howsoever it may end cannot but occasion a gentleman  
(2-456)of his age & habits great vexation and embarassment.  
(2-456)And this risque must appear more formidable as the Act  
(2-456)respecting Superannuation declares that where the  
(2-456)salaries are paid out of a feefund & where the said fee-fund  
(2-456)is deficient the deficiency shall be made good by a vote  
(2-456)of parliament. But on the other hand the Judicature  
(2-456)Act declares that when the fee-fund of the Court of Session  
(2-456)is inadequate to discharge the salaries of the Clerks &  
(2-456)other burdens lawfully charged upon it, the Clerks  
(2-456)salaries shall be made good in Exchequer. Now my  
(2-456)brethren are kindly contented that Mr. Homes superannuation

(2-456)pension shall be drawn out of the first and  
(2-456)readiest of the fund which will therefore be always  
(2-456)adequate to the payment thereof: and they will content  
(2-456)themselves with seeking redress in Exchequer under the  
(2-456)terms of the Judicature Act. Instead of sending Mr.  
(2-456)Home to seek it in parliamt. I have a notion this assurance  
(2-456)will remove much of Mr. Homes real objection to the  
(2-456)measure. Mr. Ferrier thought it might be right to place  
(2-456)this circumstance under his consideration so I wrote him  
(2-456)a few lines to that purpose.

(2-456)I send the Commission which expressly assigns the whole  
(2-456)profits of the office to Mr. Home. But I conceive that  
(2-456)does not bar him from resigning it and placing our  
(2-456)arrangement on the more equitable footing of the  
(2-456)Superannuation Act which has been made since the date  
(2-456)of the commission expressly to rule such cases as ours.  
(2-456)Nor does it I apprehend in the event of Mr. Home being  
(2-456)unreasonably negligent of my interest (which would be  
(2-456)entirely contrary to all I have heard & the little I have  
(2-456)seen of his disposition) offer any obstacle to my resigning  
(2-456)in which case Mr. Home would have no other means of  
(2-456)getting a guinea from the office but by the very act of

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(2-457)which he doubts whether he be entitled to the benefit.  
(2-457)Now if he in such case being an existing Clerk entitled  
(2-457)to act & to draw the full salary of his office could retire  
(2-457)upon the superannuation pension in favour of any one  
(2-457)but me the question seems only to be whether five years  
(2-457)gratuitous service (which I am at liberty to discontinue  
(2-457)at pleasure) have renderd me unworthy of the benefit  
(2-457)of an arrangement which must rule every other case. I  
(2-457)am with much respect Your Lordships truly obliged &  
(2-457)grateful

WALTER SCOTT

(2-457)[March, 1811]

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

## TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-457)MY DEAR FRIEND,-I am very sorry to inform you that  
(2-457)our negotiation stands some chance of failing through  
(2-457)the obstinacy of Mr. Home. Every objection of the  
(2-457)nature you pointed out in your kind note was obviated  
(2-457)to his full contentment. But hitherto to no purpose.  
(2-457)He pretends scruples at being a pensioner on the public  
(2-457)yet never considers he has been this five years the pensioner  
(2-457)of an individual. Lord Melville has taken him in hand  
(2-457)& may possibly make some impression upon him-  
(2-457)nothing can be more warm than the interest Lord M.  
(2-457)has taken in this matter so much so that he will hardly  
(2-457)allow that it is increased by your most kind & affecting  
(2-457)letter on my behalf which he shewed me. He understands  
(2-457)Scotchmen & usually carries his point so I must  
(2-457)e'en trust to his influence. I think however Mr. Home  
(2-457)will perceive his own interest is more deeply implicated  
(2-457)in the matter than he seems at present to be aware of.  
(2-457)For if his hard-hearted conduct should oblige me to  
(2-457)resign my share in our joint commission how would he  
(2-457)stand ? Act he cannot, & nobody under the circumstances  
(2-457)would act for him & therefore (as no new joint  
(2-457)commission can be granted) he would find himself under

(2-458)the necessity either of soliciting the superannuation  
(2-458)pension or resigning without any pension at all-at any  
(2-458)rate he could not have a penny more than his pension  
(2-458)whereas in my case facilities might be given & have been  
(2-458)offered to make him as well as at present. This would

(2-458)be too irritating [?] a string for me to touch upon but  
(2-458)I will contrive that Lord M. or some mutual friend shall  
(2-458)place it strongly before this Scotch Shylock who sticks  
(2-458)to his bond with all the obstinacy of his Jewish prototype.

(2-458)I believe there is nothing at the bottom but sheer  
(2-458)pride-he thinks himself well as he is & does not choose  
(2-458)to submit to the least alteration that may infer either  
(2-458)risque or disgrace in his apprehension let the consequences  
(2-458)to me be what they may. Add to this he is an old bachelor  
(2-458)with no relative under the cope of heaven but a maiden  
(2-458)aunt who resides with him-they are both upwards of  
(2-458)seventy poor dear souls & have between them scarcely  
(2-458)twelve thousand pounds a year to keep house upon.

(2-458)This is but cold news of our fine project my dear  
(2-458)Lady Abercorn & I know you will be grieved at it. It  
(2-458)is possible however things may take a turn especially if  
(2-458)my ancient rider could be prevailed upon to come to  
(2-458)Edinburgh where we might get the Lord President upon  
(2-458)him. I write Mr. Arbuthnott a few lines to thank him  
(2-458)for his kind & inestimably useful assistance & to inform  
(2-458)him where the matter hitches.

(2-458)No circumstance of success or failure can increase or  
(2-458)diminish the gratitude with which I am Dear Lady  
(2-458)Abercorn Your faithful & obliged W. SCOTT

(2-458)EDINR. 3 March [1811]  
[Pierpont Morgan]

TO CHARLES ARBUTHNOT

(2-458)[8 March 1811]

(2-458)SIR,-It is my duty to acquaint you that after some

(2-458)days silence I yesterday received a letter from Mr. Home

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(2-459)of which I sent a copy to Mr. Dundas in which with  
(2-459)some expressions of regret & civility he declines applying  
(2-459)for the Superannuation pension because as he conceives  
(2-459)the granting it may expose Mr. D. to censure in the House  
(2-459)of Commons. Mr. Dundas is the last man whom I  
(2-459)should wish to bring under obloquy to favour any selfish  
(2-459)views of mine ; but I conceive he may considering his  
(2-459)excellent good sense & experience besides his having  
(2-459)access to the first law assistance be very safely trusted  
(2-459)with the charge & defense of his own conduct in any  
(2-459)matter of this kind. Mr. Home in applying for his  
(2-459)superannuation will only undo a previous transaction  
(2-459)which nothing but its date prevents from being illegal  
(2-459)& put our relative arrangement upon the footing prescribed  
(2-459)by an act expressly introduced to rule such cases.  
(2-459)Were I to retire tomorrow & there is nothing to prevent  
(2-459)my doing so Mr. Home who has been from deafness long  
(2-459)absolutely incapable of doing his duty would have no  
(2-459)alternative but to weigh his scruples of delicacy against  
(2-459)his own substantial interest, (when they would probably  
(2-459)prove lighter than when balanced with mine) & as then  
(2-459)[? MS. sewed in here] scale predominated he must either  
(2-459)claim his superannuation or retire without pension or  
(2-459)emolument of any kind. In either case it seems hard  
(2-459)that he should hesitate to do for me what he would find  
(2-459)himself obliged to do were I to leave him to himself since  
(2-459)I understand the point to be clear that no one could be  
(2-459)placed in the situation which I now hold with relation  
(2-459)to him.

(2-459)Lord Melville has taken up the matter with great  
(2-459)warmth & jointly with the Head of our Court the Lord

(2-459)President has written to Mr. George Home to come to  
(2-459)Edinburgh to talk over the matter. If he can convince  
(2-459)them of the reality of his difficulties I am sure I have no  
(2-459)inclination to press any arrangement which my friends  
(2-459)shall think even dubious-if not, & if he continues to  
(2-459)found upon mere whims of his own a refusal to do me

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(2-460)what is really substantial justice he will set me much at  
(2-460)liberty from the necessity of consulting his interest in  
(2-460)the remainder of the transaction. In this latter case  
(2-460)supposing that I resign my situation Mr. Home will find  
(2-460)himself obliged to resign also for his total deafness renders  
(2-460)him incapable of acting as Clerk & the other two gentlemen  
(2-460)now in office (one being a mere novice) could not  
(2-460)discharge the duty of the Court which is at this moment  
(2-460)rather burdensome. I will put Lord Melville in possession  
(2-460)of these circumstances & I believe they will have some  
(2-460)weight in forming Mr. Homes ultimate decision. I am  
(2-460)very glad he is coming to town as we shall find where  
(2-460)the business really hitches.

(2-460)I beg pardon for troubling you with all the trivial  
(2-460)detail of difficulties & private interests & can only trust  
(2-460)to the kind interest which you have taken in my success  
(2-460)for forgiveness. Lord Mellville will probably get an  
(2-460)answer to his letter tomorrow or next day & as the  
(2-460)Lord President & his Lordship have more influence with  
(2-460)Mr. Home than anyone has it is probable he will come  
(2-460)to town in which case I shall reckon my cause half won.  
(2-460)I will do myself the honour to apprise you of the result.  
(2-460)Meanwhile I remain with much respect Your obliged &  
(2-460)indebted humble Servant  
[Pierpont Morgan]

WALTER SCOTT

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-460)You will be rejoiced to hear my dear friend that your  
(2-460)kind & friendly exertions in my behalf are at length  
(2-460)likely to succeed. My ancient Colleagues opinion or  
(2-460)rather the wind of his inclination after shifting to every  
(2-460)point on the compass has at length come to blow fair  
(2-460)for my desired harbour. In short he consents to apply  
(2-460)for the Superannuation with which he declares he will be  
(2-460)satisfied positively declining to accept any offer to make  
(2-460)up the difference between two-thirds & full pay. I am  
(2-460)totally at loss to know what motives have at length moved

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(2-461)him to this unexpected compliance only I suppose his  
(2-461)natural feelings of justice have got the better of the  
(2-461)wayward & testy temper of an old bachelor of seventy  
(2-461)five. Lord Mellvilles rhetoric was lost on him-so was  
(2-461)my Lord Presidents-at least to all appearance-only  
(2-461)he offered that if I would resign first then he would  
(2-461)resign also ; but there were circumstances that might  
(2-461)have rendered this a little hazardous. I yesterday wrote  
(2-461)my doubts & wishes on that subject to Mr. Arbuthnott  
(2-461)very fully & I now wish I had spared him the trouble of  
(2-461)that long letter but it was impossible after Mr. Home  
(2-461)had declared himself so wedded to his own opinion as to  
(2-461)say " that call it folly or obstinacy or what my friends  
(2-461)or his friends chose no argument should prevail on him  
(2-461)to apply for the superannuation unless I resigned first."  
(2-461)He was once a very different sort of man but

(2-461)In lifes last stage what various scenes surprize  
(2-461)Fears of the brave and follies of the wise

(2-461)He has now (thank God) totally resigned the management

(2-461)of the business to Mr. Ferrier with carte blanche-  
(2-461)this gentleman (a kind-hearted old Highlander) is my  
(2-461)warm friend as indeed all my brethren in office have  
(2-461)always shown themselves to be ; he is now the oldest of  
(2-461)our number & having been long Mr. Home's friend  
(2-461)& colleague may be able to keep him in good humour.

(2-461)Meanwhile we are hurrying everything forward for  
(2-461)fear of a relapse. I am just going to Lord Mellvilles to  
(2-461)prepare the necessary paper for Mr. Homes signature.  
(2-461)But as I was writing this change of circumstances for Mr.  
(2-461)Arbuthnott's information I must have been ungrateful  
(2-461)indeed not to find time to communicate what I trust will  
(2-461)give your Ladyship pleasure. I will write more fully  
(2-461)in a few days when I forward the Application for Mr.  
(2-461)Home desires I will see it through the Treasury. Ever  
(2-461)Dear Lady Marchioness Your obliged & grateful

(2-461)EDINR. 10 March [1811].  
[Pierpont Morgan]

W. S.

462        LETTERS        OF        1811

TO HIS DAUGHTER SOPHIA

(2-462)[1810?]

(2-462)BENEATH every Kings reign Papa expects Sophia to  
(2-462)write down neatly & in good spelling the following  
(2-462)particulars.

(2-462)Whether his reign was peaceful or warlike.

(2-462)If warlike with whom he was at war & particularly  
(2-462)whether with his own subjects or foreign nations.  
(2-462)Also whether he was victorious in battle (generally) or

(2-462)defeated.

(2-462)Whether any great alterations of government took place

(2-462)in his reign & what they were.

(2-462)Whether he was a good man or a bad.

(2-462)Whether the condition of his subjects was amended or

(2-462)became worse under his reign.

[Letters to Governess, 1905]

TO MRS. LEADBEATER 1

(2-462)MADAM,-I am honoured by your beautiful verses and

(2-462)beg your acceptance of my most respectful thanks. You

(2-462)do me great honour in supposing me able to celebrate a

(2-462)nation in which I am so much interested as Ireland.

(2-462)Whether I shall ever strike the harp again my graver

(2-462)occupations render very doubtful, but should it so happen

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(2-463)I will not fail to carefully consider the hint you have

(2-463)favoured me with, especially should it ever be in my power

(2-463)to visit Ireland. From the mode of dating your letter

(2-463)I conclude I am addressing a lady of a religious profession

(2-463)for whose simplicity of manner and purity of morals I

(2-463)have had from infancy the most deep respect, and which

(2-463)adds to the sense of obligation with which I subscribe

(2-463)myself your honoured and very humble servant 1

(2-463)WALTER SCOTT

(2-463)EDINBURGH 12th of March 1811.

[O'Donoghue's Tour in Ireland]

To MISS SMITH

(2-463)I HAVE been shockingly ungrateful dear Miss Smith in  
(2-463)not sooner thanking Mrs. Smith and you for your  
(2-463)obliging and interesting communications. I am very  
(2-463)glad that the Manager found his advantage in the Lady  
(2-463)of the Lake which as far as I can judge is very well  
(2-463)adapted for the Stage ; and I am delighted that you were  
(2-463)thought a proper representative of Ellen because that is  
(2-463)paying Ellen a very high compliment. Our attempt at  
(2-463)the Lady of the Lake did not succeed quite so well yet  
(2-463)it answered expectation I believe as to profit. The words  
(2-463)of the poem were retained but as they were thrown into  
(2-463)the arrangement of blank verse the dialogue had to those  
(2-463)acquainted with the poem the appearance of an old friend  
(2-463)with a new face. You always missed the expected and  
(2-463)perhaps the remembered rhyme which had a bald effect.  
(2-463)I think your plan infinitely preferable. In point of  
(2-463)representation, Mrs. Young played the mad captive  
(2-463)superbly and threw every body into tears. Mrs. H.  
(2-463)Siddons did not perform Ellen so well as I expected-she  
(2-463)had got somehow a little too Columbinish, and fell short in  
(2-463)the dignity which should mingle even with the playful

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1811

(2-464)simplicity of a high-born maiden. But you are not to  
(2-464)whisper this to any one for Mrs. H. Siddons is a very  
(2-464)particular friend of mine and I know it would hurt her  
(2-464)were it to come round. They are now going to try the  
(2-464)London Edition of this said poem called the Knight of  
(2-464)Snowdown which will probably produce them a house  
(2-464)or two. I am told Roderick recovers and marries Ellen  
(2-464)there being no Malcolm Graeme in the case. You must  
(2-464)know this Malcolm Graeme was a great plague to me from

(2-464)the beginning-you ladies can hardly comprehend how  
(2-464)very stupid lovers are to every body but mistresses-I  
(2-464)gave him that dip in the Lake by way of making him do  
(2-464)something but wet or dry I could make nothing of him.  
(2-464)His insignificance is the greatest defect among many  
(2-464)others in the poem. But the canvas was not broad  
(2-464)enough to include him considering I had to groupe the  
(2-464)King, Roderick, and Douglas. I should have told you  
(2-464)that a young man of uncommon talent and accomplishment  
(2-464)(Mr. Richard 1 Terry) played Roderick Dhu  
(2-464)delightfully. He is a rising actor, studies hard and is  
(2-464)a man of extensive reading, fine taste and amiable  
(2-464)manners. He often came to read Shakespeare to me  
(2-464)of an evening. I fear his voice will never be strong  
(2-464)enough for the immense concavity of a London house  
(2-464)but his conceptions are admirable and as he has good  
(2-464)sense and principle I am certain he will one day make a  
(2-464)figure. Your story of an immense Epic poem at a guinea  
(2-464)a line sounds a formidable contract for the poor bookseller  
(2-464)and is much of a piece with one which appeared in the  
(2-464)Sheffield papers announcing my immediate departure  
(2-464)for Portugal to gather poetic images; I suppose out of  
(2-464)the cannon mouth.<sup>2</sup> There is this difference however  
(2-464)between them that had I no body to care about but myself

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(2-465)I would go to Portugal but I would hardly have lent  
(2-465)myself to the sort of job-bargain you mention. The truth  
(2-465)is I neither have written nor think of writing a single  
(2-465)line of poetry and I should think it very injudicious after  
(2-465)the flattering kindness which the public has shewn me to  
(2-465)press upon them before I have it in my power (which may  
(2-465)never be the case) to offer them something decently  
(2-465)worth their acceptance. I beg my kind compliments to  
(2-465)Mrs. Smith with my best thanks for the trouble she has

(2-465)taken in my behalf- I hope this will find the eyes in a  
(2-465)fair way of recovery. You have been exercising them I  
(2-465)suppose too severely upon your Irish conquests. Mrs.  
(2-465)Scott sends best regards and I ever am dear Miss Smith  
(2-465)Yours very Truly

(2-465)WALTER SCOTT  
(2-465)EDIN. 12 March, 1811.

(2-465)Many thanks for the sweet tune to which my unworthy  
(2-465)words have been adapted. Lady Douglas was just now  
(2-465)here and enquired after you.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE. ROBERT DUNDAS

(2-465)MY DEAR SIR,-I am honourd with your letter but  
(2-465)before it came to hand Mr. George Home had given his  
(2-465)approbation of the terms of a petition tendering his  
(2-465)resignation on his claim being admitted under the  
(2-465)Superannuation Act & as it went to him yesterday to be  
(2-465)subscribed & forwarded you will probably receive it  
(2-465)within a post or two of this letter. I am very sorry to  
(2-465)find Mr. Perceval entertains the doubts which on  
(2-465)consideration Mr. Home has seen ground to abandon. It is  
(2-465)with great diffidence I offer my own opinion that the Act  
(2-465)is intended as much for the benefit of those officers who  
(2-465)actually discharge the duty of the office as for those  
(2-465)whose age entitles them to a provision upon retirement.

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(2-466)It is as much the public interest that he who labours shall  
(2-466)be rewarded as that he who can labour no longer shall  
(2-466)have the means of retiring upon [a] competency. Accordingly

(2-466)it is coupled as it were with the Brokerage and  
(2-466)Reversion bills which expressly prohibit all such  
(2-466)commissions as Mr. H. & I now hold. In accepting of Mr.  
(2-466)Homes resignation on the Act 30. c. 117. the commissioners  
(2-466)of the Treasury will substitute a legal arrangement upon  
(2-466)the principle of the existing law in place of one which  
(2-466)nothing but its priority of date prevents from being  
(2-466)illegal. Were I dead or did I resign, Mr. Home who  
(2-466)cannot discharge the duty would be ex concessis entitled  
(2-466)to the benefit of the Act & the full emolument of the  
(2-466)office would pass undiminishd to his successor. It would  
(2-466)be hard to say that five years gratuitous service ought to  
(2-466)place me in a worse situation with the public than a  
(2-466)stranger would be that has never served them at all. It  
(2-466)is very true my present situation was of my own seeking  
(2-466)but what could I do. Mr. Pitt was just dead & you  
(2-466)cannot have forgot the recommendation in my favour  
(2-466)which I shall always regard as the proudest circumstance  
(2-466)of my life. If the Act Cap. 117 had then existed there  
(2-466)can I think be little doubt that as Mr. Home was fully  
(2-466)entitled to the benefit of it by age & service so I under all  
(2-466)the circumstances would probably have been his successor  
(2-466)in an unincumberd office. But I was obliged in the  
(2-466)moment of the dissolution of a friendly ministry to take  
(2-466)such a bargain as I could get & the existing law would  
(2-466)give me; just as sailors when the vessell is sinking catch  
(2-466)at the next piece of the wreck to float ashore upon.  
(2-466)Perhaps also I might not be altogether unreasonable  
(2-466)in entertaining some hopes that in case my friends  
(2-466)should come in again and an opening occur in my own  
(2-466)department they might consider my gratuitous service  
(2-466)as affording me some claim for favourable consideration.  
(2-466)Now as the claims of a more meritorious individual have  
(2-466)interfered with mine & been I dare say very justly

(2-467)preferd the circumstance may I think be allowd to give  
(2-467)some weight to any reasonable application I may now  
(2-467)make for relief.

(2-467)In order to bring my situation as closely under the  
(2-467)Act as possible & to place the point of form out of the  
(2-467)question I inclose my own resignation which you will  
(2-467)make use of as your prudence may suggest. I apprehend  
(2-467)the circumstance of its being offerd will in itself almost  
(2-467)entirely take away the objection in point of form & that  
(2-467)the acceptance of it may be judged unnecessary. For if  
(2-467)my resignation be tenderd Mr. Home is surely in  
(2-467)imminent danger of being calld upon to discharge the  
(2-467)duties of an office for which his deafness renders him  
(2-467)altogether incompetent & the objection that there is one  
(2-467)in the office able to discharge them flies off when that  
(2-467)persons resignation is tenderd. It will then be for the  
(2-467)wisdom of the Lords of the Treasury to consider whether  
(2-467)there is any essential difference to the country between  
(2-467)accepting Mr. Home's resignation as matters now stand  
(2-467)and having me in possession of the office or doing the  
(2-467)same thing rather more circuitously by accepting my  
(2-467)resignation also, & making a new grant to any one who  
(2-467)has interest enough to get it. In either case the necessity  
(2-467)of granting the pension seems to be [the] same and perhaps  
(2-467)Mr. Perceval may be inclined to wave his scruples  
(2-467)to the first mode of proceeding when it is considerd  
(2-467)that the case is absolutely singular & can never again  
(2-467)occur.

(2-467)If it be found absolutely necessary that my resignation  
(2-467)accompany or precede that of Mr. Home there is nothing  
(2-467)to prevent the Regent issuing a new Commission. For  
(2-467)there never was such a thing as a Clerk of Sessions  
(2-467)commission unless for life-it would be contrary to

(2-467)express statute & indeed so very much was this the case  
(2-467)that untill the late judicature act the Clerks had a right  
(2-467)even to sell their commissions. As to the regents  
(2-467)boggling why I must run my chance unless Mr. Percevals

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(2-468)scruples should give way upon seeing that Mr. Home is  
(2-468)placed substantially though not altogether formally under  
(2-468)the pressure for which the Act offers relief. That the  
(2-468)measure has justice & equity to recommend it can hardly  
(2-468)be disputed so I really still hope it may be carried through,  
(2-468)as at first proposed by the Advocate & you and sanctiond  
(2-468)by Lord Mellville & Lord president.

(2-468)Mr. Perceval is not perhaps aware that Mr. Home  
(2-468)besides being Seventy six and upwards is perfectly deaf  
(2-468)and incapable of business of any kind, & that our situation  
(2-468)since the division of the Courts has been a very busy  
(2-468)one.

(2-468)As Mr. Home has intimated his anxious wish that the  
(2-468)matter should be brought to a decision it is no longer in  
(2-468)my power to postpone my application and indeed his  
(2-468)resignation will be in your hands or perhaps in those of  
(2-468)Mr. Arbuthnot almost as soon as this letter. If I had got  
(2-468)your letter a few days sooner I would have sufferd every  
(2-468)thing to lie over till our meeting but I believe the attempt  
(2-468)to postpone it now Mr. Homes resolution is made up  
(2-468)would make him very irritable indeed & that I should  
(2-468)never be able to bring him to any subsequent arrangement.  
(2-468)Had D. Humes commission been given to me all  
(2-468)difficulty would have been removed. Mr. Geo: Home  
(2-468)must then have had his pension & Mr. D. Hume would  
(2-468)have got my office instead of Mr. Pringles.

(2-468)I accompany this letter with a copy of the Resignation  
(2-468)of Mr. Home which he has sanctioned with his approbation  
(2-468)-with my own resignation to be used at your discretion-  
(2-468)& with two certified Copies of Mr. Homes original  
(2-468)Admission in July 1781 and of the Joint Commission to  
(2-468)him and me in 1806. Mr. Ferriar as Senior Clerk has  
(2-468)attested by docquet upon Mr. Homes petition the fact  
(2-468)which it contains and also certified the extent of his  
(2-468)emoluments.

(2-468)I shall send this long scrawl to Lord Mellville to be  
(2-468)forwarded to you after his Lordship has perused it. We

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(2-469)will be delighted to see you here especially as we did not  
(2-469)meet the last time you were here. Believe me dear Colonel  
(2-469)Ever truly your much obliged

(2-469)WALTER SCOTT

(2-469)EDINR. 14 [March 1811]1

(2-469)The Right Honble Mr. Dundas.

(2-469)With : Copy of Commission to George Home & Walter  
(2-469)Scott.  
(2-469)Petition of Walter Scott.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO MRS. APRICE, 16 BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON

(2-469)MY DEAR MRS. APRICE,2 -I have been much to blame  
(2-469)in not sooner acknowledging the pleasure I received  
(2-469)from your kind token of remembrance but probably the

(2-469)dullness of my letter will be the best apology for its delay.  
(2-469)I was indeed at the time of receiving your letter in some  
(2-469)uncertainty whether I should not have had an opportunity  
(2-469)of returning my thanks in person but that is now at an  
(2-469)end for I certainly shall not see London untill next  
(2-469)Spring at soonest. We are here as nearly as possible in  
(2-469)the same quiescent state in which we were last winter  
(2-469)rather more secluded since we lost the temptation of

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(2-470)your good neighbourhood going no where but to the  
(2-470)Theatre and seeing no one but our ancient gossips who  
(2-470)are contented to stupify [?] with us in our own way. Of  
(2-470)Literary society I can say but little. I have not dined at  
(2-470)our club once this winter nor been at a[n] evening party  
(2-470)excepting one. But I understand Edinburgh has been  
(2-470)as lively as usual though neither possessing a Thalia in  
(2-470)the shape of my gentle and lively cousin [n]or a  
(2-470)Melpomene in that of the weeping-ripe Mrs. W--

(2-470)You flatter me excessively by telling me of the extent  
(2-470)and regularity of my correspondence. You know (who  
(2-470)understand conversation so well) that no praise is more  
(2-470)tickling than that which is equally unexpected and  
(2-470)undeserved. But I am afraid I understand your irony  
(2-470)too well to devour a compliment I deserve so little. As  
(2-470)for Mr. Davy I met him once among the mountains of  
(2-470)Cumberland and liked him excessively though we can be  
(2-470)scarcely said ever to have renewed our acquaintance. I  
(2-470)was particularly delighted with the total absence of  
(2-470)pedantry which has always appeared to me the test of  
(2-470>true genius. Charlotte begs to be remembered with all  
(2-470)the warmth which she has left to spare having just  
(2-470)exerted a considerable portion of that ardent quality in  
(2-470)scolding me for purchasing a pair of Highland pistols of

(2-470)the antique model. They were to be sure very dear  
(2-470)but quite irresistible being of steel inlaid with silver and  
(2-470)might become the belt of Rob Roy himself. You see I  
(2-470)retain all my hobby horses and shall be delighted when  
(2-470)a visit to the Land of Cakes gives me an opportunity to  
(2-470)air my stud for your amusement. Our little folks are  
(2-470)all well and send their loves. Believe me dear Mrs.  
(2-470)Aprice, Your respectful and Affect cousin

(2-470)EDIN 2d April 1811  
[Abbotsford Copies]

WALTER SCOTT

1811            SIR WALTER SCOTT            471

TO MISS SMITH

(2-471)MY DEAR Miss SMITH,-That nothing may be wanting  
(2-471)in my power to enable you to represent the Witch Dame  
(2-471)of Branksome in proper costume I lose no time in answering  
(2-471)your letter.<sup>1</sup> The Lady when engaged in her magical  
(2-471)intercourse with the Spirits should I think have a sort  
(2-471)of stole or loose upper scarf with astrological hieroglyphics  
(2-471)of the planets. I have seen Prospero wear such a thing  
(2-471)which you may remember he desires Miranda to pluck  
(2-471)from his shoulders. For the same reason I would have  
(2-471)the hair loose in the first scene and afterwards put under  
(2-471)such a head-dress as Queen Mary is usually represented  
(2-471)with. The first scene should be a good deal studied in  
(2-471)point of dress and scenery for I conceive the Lady's  
(2-471)intercourse with supernatural beings is more to be  
(2-471)understood from external appearances than from anything  
(2-471)she actually says. I quite approve of your changing  
(2-471)dress for the tournament- Only still be so good as  
(2-471)remember you are a widow and must therefore be rather  
(2-471)sumptuous than showy in attire. The black velvet with  
(2-471)old point will be quite in taste and so will the relief of

(2-471)the green and gold. If you do not like Queen Mary's  
 (2-471)coif you may chuse among the prints to Birchs Lives.<sup>2</sup>  
 (2-471)Pray for my love drub your management out of the  
 (2-471)general blunder of dressing the Scottish borderers in  
 (2-471)Tartan- He might as well make them speak Gaelic.  
 (2-471)They should have the bonnet and in a very picturesque  
 (2-471)ballad by a living borderer I find a spirited description  
 (2-471)of the appearance of Wat of Harden as handed down by  
 (2-471)tradition from which some hints might be taken. I

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(2-472)should say that the poet is lineally descended from the  
 (2-472)Henchman of this famous marauder, a man selected for  
 (2-472)huge stature and great strength and called in allusion to  
 (2-472)his very unpoetical name of Hog, the Wild Boar of  
 (2-472)Falshope and that it is from family tradition that this  
 (2-472)account of his protector's array was handed down-

(2-472)And he's away to Holy Rood / Amang the nobles a'  
 (2-472)Wi' bonnet like a girdle broad / O'er hair like Craighope snaw  
 (2-472)His coat was o' the forest green / Wi' buttons like the moon  
 (2-472)His trews were o' the good buck skin / Wi' a' the hair aboon  
 (2-472)His twa hand sword hung round his neck / And raided to  
 (2-472)his heel  
 (2-472)The rowels of his silver spurs / Were of the Rippon steel  
 (2-472)His hose were braced wi' chains of aim / And round wi'  
 (2-472)tassells hung  
 (2-472)At ilka hamp of Harden's heel / The royal arches rung- 1

(2-472)If Wat Tinlinn comes on the stage an excellent sketch  
 (2-472)of his proper costume may be seen in the frontispiece to the  
 (2-472)first or second Vol.- of Grose's Military Antiquities 2 where  
 (2-472)an English archer is represented in his leathern jacket  
 (2-472)studded with iron plates. Only Wat Tinlinn should have  
 (2-472)a pike instead of the ugly mallet in the print.

(2-472)If I were to write anything for the stage it would be for  
(2-472)the delight of dressing the characters after my own fancy.  
(2-472)But I am sure I never shall have that pleasure. The  
(2-472)ruinous monopoly of the two theatres necessarily excludes  
(2-472)every-thing but shew and renders the managers absolutely  
(2-472)dependent upon that class who have least real taste for  
(2-472)the stage as an elegant amusement. Their hours must  
(2-472)be studied, their taste must be consulted and the hours  
(2-472)and taste of such an audience being necessarily at variance  
(2-472)with those of the more polite and better educated part  
(2-472)of society why truly we may say with a little alteration  
(2-472)of the old song-

(2-472)Our ancient English tragedy is banished out of doors  
(2-472)Our Lords & Ladies run to see Signoras & Signers.

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(2-473)It increases my good opinion of the Irish nation that  
(2-473)they have not fallen into this general depravity of  
(2-473)dramatic taste and that they do justice my dear Miss  
(2-473)Smith to your merits. I shall be delighted when we can  
(2-473)see you once more in the Land of Cakes as your letter  
(2-473)seems to promise. Adieu my dear Miss Smith and pray  
(2-473)let me know how the Lady of Buccleuch is received.  
(2-473)Believe me with sincere regard your faithful friend and  
(2-473)servant

(2-473)W. SCOTT

(2-473)EDIN. 5 April 1811.  
[Owen D. Young]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(2-473)EDINR. 10th April [1811]

(2-473)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-Leyden's direction is simply  
(2-473)Calcutta-Bengal-I heard from him by the last ships  
(2-473)he is flourishing like a green bay tree, strong in  
(2-473)constitution & high in reputation. He is likely to push the  
(2-473)researches into Indian antiquities as far as any savant  
(2-473)we have hitherto sent out and as he totally postpones  
(2-473)every other object I have no other apprehension than  
(2-473)that he may hurry over too much ground to admit of his  
(2-473)being severely accurate. He will be delighted with  
(2-473)Kehama and I judge completely astonished at such a  
(2-473)poem being produced by one who has never seen Indostan.  
(2-473)As for Leyden's silence towards me for some years (which  
(2-473)I sincerely hope is the only objection to him you hint at)  
(2-473)I now impute it to the misrepresentations of a dissipated  
(2-473)and worthless blackguard his brother whom I served  
(2-473)for Leyden's sake as long as I possibly could until he  
(2-473)rendered himself absolutely intolerable by coming to my  
(2-473)house intoxicated.<sup>1</sup> Poor Jack of Leyden sent me some  
(2-473)months ago a precious gage d'amitie in the shape of a

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(2-474)poisoned creeze the hilt as brilliant as that of Excabbar  
(2-474)as to which you cannot but remember

(2-474)-that all of Coleyne was the blade  
(2-474)And all the hilt of precious stone.

(2-474)In short it is worthy of the bowels of Bonaparte himself  
(2-474)and I wish it were sheathed in them with my heart-  
(2-474)I pray his Majesty's mercy I should have said his guts for  
(2-474)bowels he hath none.

(2-474)I have just got the Quarterly. I scarcely know the

(2-474)Article of Kehama which has been greatly alter'd  
(2-474)especially in omitting quotations. Another time I shall  
(2-474)wish to have the final correcting of the proof sheets of my  
(2-474)own Articles. I dare say however the article is improved  
(2-474)on the whole for I wrote in a most excessive hurry to get  
(2-474)it into the last number which proved impossible the work  
(2-474)not being then published in London. I trust the Quarterly  
(2-474)will do well. Murray writes me that they print 6000 and  
(2-474)are daily gaining ground. I don't augur much interference  
(2-474)from Longman's new review unless he has been  
(2-474)singularly fortunate in an editor.-What do you think of  
(2-474)Roscoe's mean-spirited pamphlet on Lord Gray's opinions  
(2-474)concerning the war ? I always thought that man overrated  
(2-474)but he seems to have grown actually silly.

(2-474)Barrossa is indeed a glorious affair & gain'd too by a  
(2-474)" Gallant Graeme." The effect of such a victory upon  
(2-474)the morale of the French army is likely to be incalculable  
(2-474)-But O my dear Southey for La Pena's head in a  
(2-474)charger ! I fear the Spaniards will ruin the best cause  
(2-474)in the world & render their own valour and patriotism  
(2-474)altogether unavailing by the false pride of which King  
(2-474)William long since complained which will not suffer them  
(2-474)to acknowledge those deficiencies that ruin them. All the  
(2-474)officers I have seen lament that the courage & zeal of the  
(2-474)Spanish common soldiers have in every conflict fail'd  
(2-474)through the cowardice and ignorance of those who lead  
(2-474)them. They want subaltern & non-commissioned officers

(2-475)dreadfully & most unfortunately the total want of education  
(2-475)prevents them from drawing the natural supply of  
(2-475)them by preferments from their own ranks-If while it is  
(2-475)called today they would profit by the example of the  
(2-475)Portuguese & put a few thousands of their levies under

(2-475)British Officers & British discipline I think I would stake  
(2-475)my life on the final issue of the contest. Portugal now  
(2-475)exhibits a glorious confutation of Lord Grenville's  
(2-475)croaking.<sup>1</sup> I could not read yesterday's news without  
(2-475)dinning your friar's prophecy into the ears of every one.

(2-475)To Coimbra shall their reliques be brought  
(2-475)Such is the will divine !

(2-475)I saw a letter from an officer of our flying artillery  
(2-475)who since the retreat of Massena commenced had been  
(2-475)with the van of the pursuers and almost constantly in sight  
(2-475)& often engaged with the French rear. Their confusion  
(2-475)& distress augmented on each movement: their flank  
(2-475)had been turned at every stand which they attempted.  
(2-475)Artillery, baggage, sick, wounded all were abandoned &  
(2-475)hundreds of horses & mules were lying hamstrung upon the  
(2-475)line of March. The writer is perhaps too sanguine for he  
(2-475)anticipates the dispersion or surrender of that immense  
(2-475)army. But that they have suffered and continue to suffer  
(2-475)the greatest possible losses is indubitable. And all owing  
(2-475)to the coolness & generalship of Wellington manifested  
(2-475)not in military [matters] only but in the firm & confidential  
(2-475)feelings with which he has inspired our allies.  
(2-475)For there is no doubt that the unceasing activity of the  
(2-475)Ordonanya was the principal means of reducing Massena  
(2-475)to his present dilemma. It is astonishing with what  
(2-475)unspeakable incredulity the opposition folks maintained  
(2-475)this retreat to have been a mere colour. If so I hope  
(2-475)as Justice Shallow says it is a colour Massena will die in.  
(2-475)I beg my kind remem. to Mrs. Southey. I was very

(2-476)ungracious not to send my best thanks for Kehama. He  
(2-476)has just returned from the Binder's in superb blue

(2-476)Morocco to match Madoc, the Cid & Brazil-I have not  
(2-476)seen Pasley 1 but will read him on yr. recommendation.  
(2-476)I am ever yours

(2-476)WALTER SCOTT  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO CHARLES ERSKINE, WRITER, MELROSE

(2-476)[12th April, 1811]

(2-476)My DEAR [CHARLES],-I had your letter and am  
(2-476)much pleased with the prospect of having Mr. Donaldson  
(2-476)for my travelling companion on the 2ist. We shall take  
(2-476)post-horses from Melrose so be with you about half past  
(2-476)four.

(2-476)I have nothing from Mr. Warrender about Agnes  
(2-476)Murray or whatever her name is. As she is at liberty  
(2-476)she may remain so but I wish you would cause the  
(2-476)constables of Galashiels to give a little attention to her  
(2-476)movements. I have no idea that without further evidence  
(2-476)we shall be able to convict her but the country will expect  
(2-476)a trial and indeed the presumptive evidence is very strong.

(2-476)We will talk of Raeburn 2 when we meet & I will show  
(2-476)you a letter of Willies which I have not yet answerd.  
(2-476)I must understand him very plainly before I quite  
(2-476)trust him.

(2-476)I am much obliged to you for the lookout you keep for  
(2-476)me about land. But Andrew Langs are greatly too near  
(2-476)Selkirk. I must be on Tweedside if possible. It is not  
(2-476)unlikely that the value of land will fall if the war last as  
(2-476)last it necessarily must. There has been too much  
(2-476)speculation in that as in other articles for the real capital

(2-476)embarkd.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-477)The Advocate writes me of an Act respecting a Numbering  
(2-477)of the people passd 22 March last to be executed  
(2-477)under authority of the Sheriff's. I never heard of it  
(2-477)before : there will be a copy at Selkirk probably pray  
(2-477)get it that we my may look it over together & do the  
(2-477)needful. I hope we shall escape the judgement which  
(2-477)attended King David on a similar occasion.

(2-477)I had a letter from A. Baillies father praying her  
(2-477)release & promising she should torment the country no  
(2-477)more. This will not do-if she will herself petition for  
(2-477)banishment from the county I pray you grant it without  
(2-477)delay under certification & let the constables see her to  
(2-477)the verge of it lest she get drunk & so find her way back  
(2-477)again to Selkirk jail-her punishment has been a pretty  
(2-477)light one. Yours truly

(2-477)W SCOTT

(2-477)EDINR. Thursday.

[Craig-Brown]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-477)ASHESTIEL, 30th April 1811

(2-477)MY DEAR FRIEND,-I promised I would not write any  
(2-477)poetry without letting you know and I make all sort of  
(2-477)haste to tell you of my sudden determination to write a  
(2-477)sort of a rhapsody upon the affairs of the peninsula. It  
(2-477)is to be called the Vision of Don Roderick and is founded

(2-477)upon the apparition explanatory of the future events in  
(2-477)Spain said to be seen by the last King of the Gothick race  
(2-477)in a vault beneath the great church of Toledo. I believe  
(2-477)your Ladyship will find something of the story in the  
(2-477)Comtesse D'Aunois' travels into Spain 1 but I find it at  
(2-477)most length in an old Spanish history of the aforesaid  
(2-477)Don Roderick professing to be translated from the Arabic

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(2-478)but being in truth a mere romance of the reign of  
(2-478)Ferdinand and Isabella. It will serve my purpose  
(2-478)however tout de meme. The idea of forming a short lyric  
(2-478)piece upon this subject has often glided through my mind  
(2-478)but I should never I fear have had the grace to turn it  
(2-478)to practice if it were not that groping in my pockets to  
(2-478)find some guineas for the suffering Portuguese and  
(2-478)detecting very few to spare I thought I could only have  
(2-478)recourse to the Apostolic benediction, " Silver and gold  
(2-478)have I none but that which I have I will give unto you."  
(2-478)My friends and booksellers the Ballantynes of Edinburgh  
(2-478)have very liberally promised me a hundred guineas for  
(2-478)this trifle which I intend to send to the fund for relieving  
(2-478)the sufferers in Portugal. I have come out to this  
(2-478>wilderness to write my poem and so soon as it is finished  
(2-478)I will send you my dear Lady Marchioness a copy not  
(2-478)that it will be worth your acceptance but merely that  
(2-478)you may be assured I am doing nothing that I would  
(2-478)not you knew of sooner than any one.1 I intend to write  
(2-478)to the Chairman of the Committee by to-morrow's  
(2-478)post. I would give them a hundred drops of my blood  
(2-478)with the same pleasure would it do them service for my  
(2-478)heart is a soldier's and always has been though my  
(2-478)lameness rendered me unfit for the profession which  
(2-478)old as I am I would rather follow than any other. But  
(2-478)these are waking dreams in which I seldom indulge even

(2-478)to my kindest friends.

(2-478)I have not heard anything from Mr. Dundas. His  
(2-478)father wrote him a letter of which he sent me a copy and  
(2-478)which is worthy twenty disappointments. It is frank  
(2-478)generous and if too warmly partial to me is very honourable  
(2-478)to his feelings admitting his judgment to be blinded  
(2-478)by personal regard. I have written to Mr. Dundas in  
(2-478)hopes to bring this matter to some end or other. They  
(2-478)must give Mr. Home a pension in the event of my  
(2-478)resignation, and really I see no reason why they should

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(2-479)economize for the state at the expense of my rising  
(2-479)family. By diminishing my establishment, devoting my  
(2-479)time to letters, selling my library and my house in town  
(2-479)and retiring to the country for life I shall be able to make  
(2-479)a provision for my young people without dependence on  
(2-479)any one. My house is worth 2000 and my library  
(2-479)which has been my most expensive hobby-horse worth  
(2-479)a great deal more even retaining the more useful books.  
(2-479)So that if they choose to prefer any other person to my  
(2-479)office I shall only have to regret having spent five years  
(2-479)in doing duty for nothing. I have realized some hundreds  
(2-479)a year besides my Sherifffdom which is 300 more so  
(2-479)that I shall have enough for all the useful and some of  
(2-479)the ornamental purposes of income and have the less  
(2-479)right to complain of any disappointment.

(2-479)Adieu my dear friend for deuce take this poem it  
(2-479)must be written before it can be read. I beg my kindest  
(2-479)respects to your noble friends and am ever your truly  
(2-479)obliged W. S.

(2-479)When does your Irish journey take place. I must

(2-479)waylay you at Dumfries.

[Pierfont Morgan]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

(2-479)MY DEAR Morritt,-I have indeed been strangely  
(2-479)negligent but far from forgetful of you. A variety of,  
(2-479)little selfish interests arising from some alterations in the  
(2-479)state of our body have necessarily occupied a great deal  
(2-479)of my time & I need not tell you that calculations  
(2-479)solicitations orations perorations & above all prorogations  
(2-479)with all the formal classes which terminate in the same  
(2-479)combination of the alphabet are woeful enemies to easy  
(2-479)and friendly correspondence. The pen dreads the  
(2-479)inkstandish and scarcely the various commodities of my  
(2-479)new desk which by the way is the most convenient thing  
(2-479)in the world could reconcile me to the manual operation

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(2-480)of writing. If thinking and talking of Mrs. Morritt &  
(2-480)you would have done the business I think you could  
(2-480)hardly have complained of my ungrateful neglect. But  
(2-480)to leave apologies & to speak to business-I hope for  
(2-480)his own sake your Captain Payne has more foundation  
(2-480)for his military rank than his literary connections. I dont  
(2-480)even remember being in company with one of the name  
(2-480)but am positive I have never maintained the least  
(2-480)correspondence of any kind with such a person. So there  
(2-480)is no occasion for the aristocratic dames of York thawing  
(2-480)their frost on my account. One is a little astonished at  
(2-480)these things although they happen so frequently.

(2-480)I rejoice with the heart of a Scotsman in the success of  
(2-480)Lord Wellington and with all the pride of a Seer to boot.

(2-480)I have for three years been proclaiming him as the only  
(2-480)man we had to trust to. A man of genius and talent,  
(2-480)not deterd by obstacles, not fetterd by prejudices, not  
(2-480)immured within the pedantries of his profession but  
(2-480)playing the general and the heroe where most of our  
(2-480)military commanders would have exhibited the drill  
(2-480)Serjeant or at best the adjutant. These campaigns will  
(2-480)teach us what we have long needed to know that success  
(2-480)depends not on the nice drilling of regiments but upon  
(2-480)the grand movements and combinations of an army. We  
(2-480)have been hitherto polishing hinges when we should have  
(2-480)studied the mechanical union of a huge machine. And  
(2-480)our Army begin to see that the Grand Secret as the French  
(2-480)call it consists only in union joint exertion and concerted  
(2-480)movement. This will enable us to meet the dogs on fair  
(2-480)terms as to numbers and for the rest " my soul and body  
(2-480)on the action both."

(2-480)The downfall of Bonapartes military fame will be the  
(2-480)signal of his ruin and if we may trust the reports this day  
(2-480)brings us from Holland there is glorious mischief on foot  
(2-480)already. I hope we shall be able to fling fuel into the  
(2-480)flame immediatly. A country with so many dikes and  
(2-480)ditches must be fearfully tenable when the peasants are

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(2-481)willing to fight. I should enjoy the disconsolate visages  
(2-481)of these Whig dogs these dwellers upon the isthmus,  
(2-481)who have been foretelling the rout and ruin which it  
(2-481)only required their being in power to have achieved.  
(2-481)It is quite plain from Sir Robt. Wilsons account that,  
(2-481)they neglected to feed the lamp of Russia and it  
(2-481)only rested with their want of opportunity that they  
(2-481)did not quench the smoking flax in the peninsula--a  
(2-481)thought so profligate that those who from party or

(2-481)personal interest indulged it ought to pray for mercy  
(2-481)and return thanks for the providential interruption which,  
(2-481)obstructed their purpose as they would for a meditated  
(2-481)but prevented parricide. But enough of the thorny,  
(2-481)subject of politics.

(2-481)You are very kind to tell me so much of dear Lady Hood 1  
(2-481)in whose kindly temper and elastic play of spirits all must  
(2-481)delight who have the happiness to know her. I, am  
(2-481)delighted to learn from so good a judge of character &  
(2-481)circumstance that she studies the ground on which she  
(2-481)has to sustain a sort of perpetual skirmish for what better  
(2-481)is the situation of a gay & beautiful female in high, life  
(2-481)unprotected by her proper guardian. But I trust; all  
(2-481)will end well for her as her own good warm heart deserves.  
(2-481)As to Mrs. Apreece, she is one of those persons who aim  
(2-481)at literary acquaintances and the reputation of knowing  
(2-481)remarkable characters and seeing out of the way places  
(2-481)not for their own value nor for any pleasure she has at  
(2-481)the time but because such hearing and seeing & being  
(2-481)acquainted gives her a knowing air in the world. If it  
(2-481)fixes her in good society verily she has her reward and,  
(2-481)will not forfeit it by doing, any thing silly though I think  
(2-481)her entre nous a bit of a pretence. She takes a good  
(2-481)varnish however and will shew off very well in a London  
(2-481)literary party.

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(2-482)I grieve for your loss at Barosa but what more glorious  
(2-482)fall could a man select for himself or friend than dying  
(2-482)with his sword in hand and the cry of victory in his ears.

(2-482)As for my own operations they are very trifling though  
(2-482)sufficiently miscellaneous. I have been writing a sketch  
(2-482)of Bonaparte's tactics for the Edinr. Register 1 and

(2-482)some other trumpery of the same kind. Particularly I  
(2-482)meditate some wild stanzas referring to the peninsula :  
(2-482)if I can lick them into any shape I hope to get something  
(2-482)handsome from the Booksellers for the Portugeze  
(2-482)sufferers " Silver and gold have I none but that which  
(2-482)I have I will give unto them." My lyric[s] are calld the  
(2-482)Vision of Don Roderic. You remember the story of the  
(2-482)last Gothic King of Spain descending into an enchanted  
(2-482)cavern to know the fate of the Moorish invasion-that  
(2-482)is my machinery. Pray do not mention this for some one  
(2-482)will snatch up the subject as I have been served before ;  
(2-482)and I have not written a line yet. I am going to Ashestiel  
(2-482)for eight days to fish and rhyme.

(2-482)Do you ever see aught of George Ellis ? I made you  
(2-482)acquainted and I shall be very angry if you dont cultivate  
(2-482)each other. He is a prime support of the Quarterly  
(2-482)which is making its way very well. I mentiond your  
(2-482)wish to Gifford respecting Clarkes new volumes and I  
(2-482)will remind him when I write to him. It is astonishing how  
(2-482)closely they are beating up to the Edinburgh in popularity.

(2-482)Adieu my dear Morritt. Mrs. Scott joins me in the  
(2-482)kindest respects to your Lady. Lord Mellville is in town  
(2-482)& I expect the honour of a call every moment so I will  
(2-482)close my letter that it may be ready for a frank. I never  
(2-482)saw the veteran Statesman in better health or spirits than  
(2-482)he has shewn this winter. Ever Yours most affectionately

(2-482)EDINR. 26 April 1811

WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO GEORGE THOMSON, TRUSTEES OFFICE, ROYAL EXCHANGE,  
EDINBURGH

(2-483)DEAR SIR,-The preceding page contains a few tawdry  
(2-483)stanzas to one of the airs you recommended, which I  
(2-483)indited yesterday at Bankhouse on my journey here.  
(2-483)The words begin " There was an ancient fair," and an  
(2-483)old newspaper which I found in the inn suggested the  
(2-483)application of the tune to the late splendid exploit of our  
(2-483)horse near Campo Mayor, for which the burthen is very  
(2-483)well adapted.<sup>1</sup> As I intend to send you two songs besides,  
(2-483)I think it will be unnecessary to prefix my name to this  
(2-483)little rough effusion, which can have no effect unless  
(2-483)when sung, and which I have studiously kept thin of  
(2-483)poetry in hopes of giving it a martial and popular cast.  
(2-483)Let me know if you like the lines, and if you think them  
(2-483)quite adapted for so elegant a publication as yours. I will  
(2-483)send you the " Bed in the barn " to-morrow or next day  
(2-483)at furthest, and remain yours truly

(2-483)W.S.

(2-483)ASHESTIEL BY SELKIRK 30 April [1811]

[British Museum]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

(2-483)[April or May 1811]

(2-483)MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-I did not embrace your  
(2-483)kind offer to send the harp because we expected my friend  
(2-483)Miss Scott who lives nearer and proposed sending hers-  
(2-483)But both Minstrel and harp have failed us, the former in  
(2-483)a fit of the tooth ache and the latter I suppose ringing in  
(2-483)sympathy to her distress. Now you know I have a harp  
(2-483)of mine own but I have it hung up by S' Fillans Spring  
(2-483)and cannot reach it down at this moment- Now if you

(2-484)can still send yours over it will be the greatest favour in  
 (2-484)life except that of using it when it comes. The mode how  
 (2-484)I leave entirely to you but we will take infinite care of the  
 (2-484)instrument while with us. You wishd to hear the  
 (2-484)Ballantynes so I asked them to look in this evening.  
 (2-484)If you can trust the bearer he is a very steady fellow.

(2-484)W. SCOTT

(2-484)Tuesday three o'clock. -

[Northampton]

TO GEORGE THOMSON, TRUSTEES OFFICE, ROYAL EXCHANGE,  
 EDINBURGH \*

(2-484)[Postmark : May 1811]

(2-484)MY DEAR SIR,-I return the song. The lines cannot  
 (2-484)be better cut down than you have done it yourself, but in  
 (2-484)the pattern sent there were eight syllables, not six.  
 (2-484)Observe-

(2-484)1        2            3    4        5        6        7        8  
 (2-484)Her quiz - ing glass and dia - mond ring.

(2-484)Right by all the rules of Cocker.1 I only mention this in  
 (2-484)vindication of my own accuracy, for I counted both the  
 (2-484)lines and notes. It does not make the least difference in  
 (2-484)the sense. As to giving a copy, I never had one except  
 (2-484)that which I sent to you, so that I should be sure to  
 (2-484)observe your caution. I sent you the " Bed in the Barn "  
 (2-484)the other day, thinking it was in the greatest hurry.

(2-484)I like the melody of" Chirke Castle " and the stanza very  
(2-484)well, but the name Chirke is enough to put the whole  
(2-484)world's teeth on edge. I don't mean to observe any  
(2-484)secret about " The Light dragoon," only it's not just the  
(2-484)sort of thing that one solemnly puts their name to. I

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(2-485)will send the Minstrelsy to-morrow or next day. Why was  
(2-485)it not the minstrelsy of Kilgarvon or Conway ? Yours very  
(2-485)truly and hastily,

(2-485)W. S.

[British Museum]

TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

(2-485)DEAR SIR,-I am distressed and ashamed 1 at the  
(2-485)appearance I must have been making in your eyes while  
(2-485)you are loading [me] with your unmerited favours. A  
(2-485)Mercantile friend undertook many weeks since to send  
(2-485)a packet containing a few Books (my own publications)  
(2-485)for your acceptance, and I have the mortification to  
(2-485)find that they are still lying in his warehouse at Glasgow.  
(2-485)Be so good as to let me know how they can be safely sent  
(2-485)to you as I am sick of private hands and have written  
(2-485)to desire that they may be returned to me without delay.  
(2-485)Besides I want to add to them the Vision of Don Roderick  
(2-485)a short rhapsody which has been suggested by the success  
(2-485)of your gallant countryman Lord Wellington and the very  
(2-485)favourable state of affairs on the Peninsula.

(2-485)For three months passed I have not almost had time to  
(2-485)look at Swift except in the way of correcting the press. A  
(2-485)Colleague in my office died and I had not only all his  
(2-485)business to attend to, but the much more fretting and

(2-485)unpleasing task of soliciting corresponding and negotiating  
(2-485)to procure if possible the vacant situation to which I might  
(2-485)be considered as having some title having done the duty

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1811

(2-486)of the office for five years without a guinea of emolument.  
(2-486)I have not however been hitherto successful but the object  
(2-486)is worth some anxiety and trouble being full 1300 and  
(2-486)that joined to my own small fortune would make me  
(2-486)very independent indeed. I mention these things to  
(2-486)you in confidence because I should not have been satisfied  
(2-486)with trusting to the fidelity of my Glasgow friend altho  
(2-486)I thought myself safe in doing so, had my own avocations  
(2-486)been of a less peremptory and perplexing nature. I  
(2-486)believe I shall be the second edition of the Hare with  
(2-486)many friends, for you would think all the world would be  
(2-486)delighted to assist me just until it was in their power  
(2-486)to do me a real and reasonable service.

(2-486)Had it not been for this sort of engagement I intended  
(2-486)myself the pleasure of being in Dublin, during the vacation  
(2-486)of our Courts when I should have esteemed myself  
(2-486)peculiarly happy in an opportunity of returning my  
(2-486)personal thanks to you my dear Sir for the extreme degree of  
(2-486)trouble which you have taken in my matters. Indeed it will  
(2-486)be entirely owing to you and the revd. Mr. Berwick if I  
(2-486)am able to give much that is new or curious in my Edition  
(2-486)of your great Patriot. I have made out a whole string of  
(2-486)notes upon your Swiftiana which I do not intend now to  
(2-486)repeat because it is in the parcel aforesaid and will reach  
(2-486)you along with it. To my notes I have added a few Queries  
(2-486)which I have to trust to your goodness to excuse. I have  
(2-486)been among my own hills for these three weeks past and  
(2-486)was quietly tuning my pipes to the aforesaid Vision of  
(2-486)Don Roderick when your hue & cry after me was

(2-486)forwarded by the Ballantynes-to be sure I could not have  
(2-486)complained if you had advertised me as the greatest  
(2-486)ingrate on the face of the earth and to say truth I had  
(2-486)some momentary idea of putting into the papers as a  
(2-486)melancholy accident the loss of my fingers by the bursting  
(2-486)of a fowling piece as the only rational apology for my  
(2-486)ungracious silence. But you will soon be troubled with  
(2-486)me far oftener than may be convenient, for I am about

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-487)to resume Swift with my whole strength mind and might.  
(2-487)I have the pleasure to know your ingenious countryman  
(2-487)Mr. Croker very well having often met him in London  
(2-487)and being on a very friendly footing with him. His  
(2-487)Epigrammatic Pamphlet is really very clever but gives a  
(2-487)sad account of your Politics : another of my occupations  
(2-487)has been the Annual Register now coming out. I have  
(2-487)selected out of your valued collection the adieu to the  
(2-487)Prince of the Brasils because it will assort very well [with]  
(2-487)my own Don Roderick who is to make his first entree  
(2-487)before the Public in the same register. I am very much  
(2-487)indebted indeed to Mr. Theo: Swift for his kindness  
(2-487)and liberality in permitting me the use of the valuable  
(2-487)materials respecting his honoured ancestor but am  
(2-487)deeply ashamed of the personal trouble you have taken  
(2-487)in transcribing the whole. My eccentric friend Miss  
(2-487)White sent me the transcript of the Manuscript notes on  
(2-487)Clarendon which are truly Swiftian. I have e'en printed  
(2-487)them ad longum tho it was a curious task for a Scotchman.  
(2-487)Among your other favours let me not omit to thank you  
(2-487)for your kind prose invitation and poetical wellcome to  
(2-487)Ireland. Perhaps the day may yet come tho removed till  
(2-487)Spring 1812 when I may have an opportunity of personally  
(2-487)expressing how much I am dear Sir Your obliged humble  
(2-487)Servt

(2-487)WALTER SCOTT

(2-487)If the Packet can be sent to any of your friends at  
(2-487)the Castle whose franks carry unusual weight, I can divide  
(2-487)it into two or three Post Parcels. Pray direct to Edinburgh  
(2-487)as I leave this cabbin very soon.

(2-487)ASHESTIEL, SELKIRK. I May, 1811.

[Brotherton]

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TO CLARKE WHITFELD

(2-488)ASHESTIEL 7 May [1811]1

(2-488)DEAR SIR,-I am just favoured with your letter &  
(2-488)write in answer to say that I have no thoughts of writing  
(2-488)another poem, excepting a sort of thing respecting Spain  
(2-488)& Portugal very short, & which as I intend [it] to be  
(2-488)almost entirely in the stanza of Spencer could in no shape  
(2-488)be adapted for Music. I know my friends & publishers  
(2-488)the Messrs. Ballantynes had considerable offers from  
(2-488)musical composers for the exclusive privilege of setting  
(2-488)from that work, but they declined imposing any restrictions  
(2-488)in that particular, as it seemed to them to be  
(2-488)stepping out of the ordinary line of their profession, &  
(2-488)imposing an unusual restraint upon the gentlemen of  
(2-488)yours. If ever I should write another poem, which if I  
(2-488)live & have my health I may do perhaps much sooner  
(2-488)than I have the slightest idea of at present, I will take  
(2-488)care you are early supplied with any part of the words  
(2-488)that may seem adapted for music. But as my publishers  
(2-488)seem to make a point of honour of not admitting any

(2-488)monopoly I shall of course be unwilling to impose upon  
(2-488)them any condition in that particular.

(2-488)I am just now writing in the Country but when I  
(2-488)return to Town which will be next week, I will subjoin  
(2-488)McGregor a rua ruagh (pronounced O roro). My  
(2-488)friends the Miss Maclean Clephanes will procure it me,  
(2-488)who have the largest collection of Highland Music I ever  
(2-488)saw written down. I regret Braham should be so  
(2-488)capricious, but his talent is unique & that naturally

1811            SIR WALTER SCOTT            489

(2-489)inspires conceit. I hope this will find Miss Whitfeld  
(2-489)continuing better, & I am ever. Dear Sir, Yours truly

[Abbotsford Copies]

W SCOTT

TO MISS CLEPHANE

(2-489)MY DEAR Miss GLEPHANE,-My friend Mr. Weber who  
(2-489)takes the trouble of presenting this has promised to make  
(2-489)drawings of the Carslogie<sup>1</sup> reliques for yours truly.

(2-489)W. SCOTT.

(2-489)It will give Mrs. Scott and me the greatest pleasure my  
(2-489)dear Miss Clephane to wait upon you at eight tomorrow  
(2-489)evening and I have secured the Ballantini-We will stay  
(2-489)till eleven unless you will turn us away sooner. W. S.

[Received at 23 Georges Sq. May 1811]

[Northampton]

TO GEORGE THOMSON, ESQ., ROYAL EXCHANGE

(2-489)MY DEAR SIR,-I assure you it has been very particular  
(2-489)and pressing business of my own as well as the necessity  
(2-489)of attending the circuit, which have prevented my getting  
(2-489)the song ready for you. I go to Ashestiel on Monday  
(2-489)when I shall be quite at leisure to fullfill my engagements  
(2-489)and I hope to send you one song at least in the course of

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(2-490)the week and to the tune you wish. I have the Sketch  
(2-490)of a little Border tale which I think may answer. Believe  
(2-490)me yours very truly    W. S.

(2-490)EDINR. Saturday Evening [May 1811]  
[British Museum]

TO WILLIAM ERSKINE, ADVOCATE, ALBANY STREET,  
EDINBURGH

(2-490)MY DEAR ERSKINE,-I write to you because I want  
(2-490)you to read & because if you do not like to do so you can  
(2-490)put the letter in your pocket since it requires no answer.  
(2-490)I am truly anxious about Mrs. Erskines situation. Is it  
(2-490)not usual in such cases either to get a nurse or to wean the  
(2-490)child. I should prefer the latter which for some reasons  
(2-490)was Walters case about the same age and you see few stouter  
(2-490)boys. But I should fear the perseverance in a duty so  
(2-490)exhausting as nursing cannot be good either for the child  
(2-490)or mother when the latter is under such distress of mind.

(2-490)I had a line from your sister which would have brought  
(2-490)me to town if I could have hoped you would have complied  
(2-490)with her proposal which was that we should visit  
(2-490)Killermont together. But your letter assigns too good  
(2-490)reasons for remaining in Albany and I only hope you  
(2-490)neglect nothing that may tend to soothe or even to distract

(2-490)your feelings. You have much left to care for, many  
(2-490)weighty and important duties to yourself your family  
(2-490)Society and your friends so you must compel yourself  
(2-490)to regular exercise and whatever else is necessary to the  
(2-490)support of your health.

(2-490)Never puzzle yourself about my affairs till we meet.  
(2-490)I have written to Mr. R. Dundas & by the time I come  
(2-490)to town I shall be surprized if I do not hear from him. I  
(2-490)think they use me coldly and unworthily which I feel more  
(2-490)than any pecuniary disappointment for " bread we shall  
(2-490)eat or white or brown." I am busy with Don Rodericke &  
(2-490)I hope by the time it is finishd your spirits will be sufficient

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(2-491)to go over it with me before it goes to press which it must  
(2-491)not do without your imprimatur. It is all in the Spenserian  
(2-491)stanza principally with the view of propitiating you.

(2-491)I am almost glad you are not here. Nothing but ever-  
(2-491)lasting rain hail and easterly blights & no walking without  
(2-491)being wet to the skin and gaining a good headache for the  
(2-491)day from the severity of the damp and cold. Yet my retreat  
(2-491)has been very useful as I have finishd much which might  
(2-491)have been endless under the interruptions of Edinburgh.

(2-491)Adieu my dear Erskine. Mrs. Scott joins in cordial  
(2-491)wishes to Mrs. Erskine of whose health I hope to get a  
(2-491)good account on Monday evening when I shall call on  
(2-491)you as we shall be in town at Dinner on that day. Do not  
(2-491)labour too hard but take care of yourself for the sake of  
(2-491)all whom you love & who love you including Your  
(2-491)affectionate friend    WALTER SCOTT

(2-491)ASHESTIEL Wednesday May 8, 1811

[Miss Erskine]

TO GEORGE THOMSON

(2-491)Postmark May 10, 1811

(2-491)DEAR SIR,-I am not sorry Lord Langley does not  
(2-491)answer, for I am certain I can make a pretty tale of it by  
(2-491)taking it out of its strait jacket. I believe you will find  
(2-491)few if any lines in it which exceed seven syllables, which  
(2-491)was all I looked to or really understand anything about.  
(2-491)It is impossible for me to attempt this tune again, not  
(2-491)having any idea of what words would suit it, and being  
(2-491)moreover, incompetent to anything requiring liveliness or  
(2-491)jollity. I have not a particle of poetical humour in my  
(2-491)composition. A military or romantic song I may get at,  
(2-491)but there I stop. I will therefore far rather try the  
(2-491)Highland air,<sup>1</sup> and as I shall be in town on Monday, when

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(2-492)I can have the advantage of hearing you sing it, I will be  
(2-492)in less danger of repeating my errors.

(2-492)I am very sorry for your disappointment, and willing to  
(2-492)do my best to repair but you are sensible you have only  
(2-492)my eyes to trust to ; ears cm. fait de musique I have none.  
(2-492)I remain very much yours    W. SCOTT

(2-492)ASHESTIEL Wednesday

(2-492)George Thomson Esq  
(2-492)A. Ballantyne's Esq Trustees Office  
(2-492)Royal Exchange Edinburgh

[British Museum]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(2-492)MY DEAR JAMES,-I received your letter this morning  
(2-492)and will attend to all that it contains : the jar shall be  
(2-492)discarded and the other lesser particulars reformed. I  
(2-492)am not so clear about omitting the stanza you object to  
(2-492)though perhaps I can mend it. A great deal of the poem  
(2-492)is finished at least in dead colours as the painters say for it  
(2-492)wants much touching. My attention has been a little  
(2-492)dissipated by considering a plan for my own future  
(2-492)comfort which I hasten to mention to you.

(2-492)My lease of Ashestiel is out and I now sit a tenant at  
(2-492)will under a heavy rent and at all the inconveniences of  
(2-492)one who is in the house of another. I have therefore  
(2-492)resolved to purchase a piece of ground sufficient for a  
(2-492)cottage & a few fields. There are two pieces either of  
(2-492)which would suit me but both would make a very  
(2-492)desireable property indeed. They stretch along the  
(2-492)Tweed near half way between Melrose and Selkirk on

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(2-493)the opposite side from Lord Somerville & could be  
(2-493)had for between 7000,, & 8000,, or either of them  
(2-493)separate for about half the sum. I have serious thoughts  
(2-493)of purchasing one or both and I must have recourse to  
(2-493)my pen to make the matter easy. The worst is the  
(2-493)difficulty which John might find in advancing so large  
(2-493)a sum as the copy-right of a new poem supposing it to  
(2-493)be made payable in the course of a year at farthest from  
(2-493)the work going to press would be essential to my purpose.  
(2-493)Yet the Lady of the Lake came soon home. I have a  
(2-493)letter this morning from Mr. Dundas giving me good hope  
(2-493)of my treasury business being carried through ; if this

(2-493)appointment take place I will buy both the little farms  
 (2-493)which will give me a mile of the beautiful turn of Tweed  
 (2-493)above Gala-foot, if not I will confine my purchase to  
 (2-493)one. As my income in the event supposd will be very  
 (2-493)considerable it will afford a sinking fund to clear off  
 (2-493)what debt I may incur in making the purchase. It  
 (2-493)is proper John & you should be as soon as possible  
 (2-493)apprised of these my intentions which I believe you  
 (2-493)will think reasonable in my situation & at my age  
 (2-493)while I may yet hope to sit under the shade of a  
 (2-493)tree of my own planting. I shall not I think want any  
 (2-493)pecuniary assistance beyond what I have noticed but of  
 (2-493)course my powers of rendering it will be considerably  
 (2-493)limited for a time. I hope the Register will give a start  
 (2-493)to its predecessor. I assure you I shall spare no pains.  
 (2-493)To recur to the 4th Stanza-were you not aware that  
 (2-493)Wales i.e. the country retaind by the British included  
 (2-493)the South-west of Scotland as far as the firth of Clyde  
 (2-493)untill the reign of Malcolm Camnore when the last King  
 (2-493)of the Strath Clyde Britons became extinct. Merlin is  
 (2-493)buried near Peebles & gives name to the parish where he  
 (2-493)lies. Llywarch's battles were almost all fought upon the  
 (2-493)border, & so late as the time of Froissart Jedburgh &  
 (2-493)Carlisle are calld cities in Wales, so is Stow upon Galawater  
 (2-493)where the celebrated Arthur is said to have founded

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(2-494)a church. Nay an you catch me napping on my geography  
 (2-494)I will give you my head for the washing. But a  
 (2-494)short note may be necessary.

(2-494)John must bend his earnest attention to clearing his  
 (2-494)hands of the Quire Stock and to taking in as little as he  
 (2-494)can unless in the way of exchange-in short of reefing  
 (2-494)our sails which are at present too much spread for our

(2-494)ballast. He must in future forbear ordering out of  
(2-494)catalogues as much as possible. It is always a poor trade  
(2-494)and sometimes a dangerous one.

(2-494)I have his letter acquainting me with the change in  
(2-494)Constable's firm 1 - No association of the kind Mr. G.  
(2-494)proposes will stand two years with him for its head. His  
(2-494)temper is too haughty to bear with the complaints and to  
(2-494)answer all the minute enquiries which partners of that  
(2-494)sort think themselves entitled to make & expect to have  
(2-494)answerd. Their first onset will however be terrible &  
(2-494)John must be prepared to lie by and not play the frog  
(2-494)in the fable by affecting rivalry. Give them cable and  
(2-494)they will bring themselves up. Campbell 1 & Caddell are  
(2-494)neither of them men that will willingly lie out of interest  
(2-494)as Hunter was forced to do. In short as Durandarte says  
(2-494)" patience Cousin & shuffle the cards."

(2-494)Having so very many things to talk of I wish you would  
(2-494)meet me at Johns on Monday between three & four  
(2-494)o'clock as I will stop there on my return from this place.  
(2-494)Yours truly W SCOTT

(2-494)ASHESTIEL 12 May 1811

(2-494)The new poem would help the presses.

(2-494)Pray have the goodness to send to the Post Office that  
(2-494)my letters may be sent to Castle Street. This is of some  
(2-494)consequence.

[Glen]

SIR WALTER SCOTT

1811

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TO LADY ABERCORN

[Extract]

(2-495)I DO not know any thing' of a play of mine my dear  
(2-495)friend unless it be a sort of half-mad German tragedy  
(2-495)which I wrote many years ago when my taste was very  
(2-495)green and when like the rest of the world I was taken in  
(2-495)with the bombast of Schiller.<sup>1</sup> I never set the least value  
(2-495)upon it and as I gave copies to one or two people who  
(2-495)asked for them I am not surprized it should have risen up  
(2-495)in judgement against me though its resurrection has been  
(2-495)delayed so many years. I happen fortunately to have a  
(2-495)clean copy of which I entreat your acceptance. The  
(2-495)story of the Invisible Tribunal on which it is founded is  
(2-495)probably familiar to your Ladyship. A very good little  
(2-495)German romance entitled Hermann of Unna is founded  
(2-495)upon it and was translated about the time I employed  
(2-495)myself in this idle task. The only tolerable scene is that  
(2-495)between the mother and son which I think would have a  
(2-495)dramatic effect.

(2-495)I long to know when your motions are fixed. My wife  
(2-495)will accompany me to Dumfries as she is very desirous to  
(2-495)have an opportunity however awkward to have the  
(2-495)honour of thanking you for all your kindness. She is  
(2-495)engaged in copying the Vision of Don Roderick as fast as I  
(2-495)copy it out for press in order that your Ladyship may be  
(2-495)possessed of it so soon as it is finished. It is all in the  
(2-495)Stanza of Spenser to which I am very partial. The  
(2-495)Booksellers intend first to publish a limited impression  
(2-495)in Quarto & then to put it into the Edinburgh Annual  
(2-495)Register to which I have made some other little  
(2-495)contributions.

(2-495)I am about a grand and interesting scheme at present  
(2-495)-no less than the purchase of a small property delightfully

(2-496)situated on the side of the Tweed my native river.  
 (2-496)The worst is there are few trees and those all young. I  
 (2-496)intend to build a beautiful little cottage upon the spot  
 (2-496)which will either be my temporary or constant residence,  
 (2-496)as Mr. Arbuthnot succeeds or fails in his kind exertions  
 (2-496)on my behalf. I am sure I cannot be sufficiently grateful  
 (2-496)to him or the kind friend who interested him in my  
 (2-496)fortune. I have a letter from Mr. R. Dundas who pleads  
 (2-496)his journey to Scotland as a cause of delay and seems  
 (2-496)pretty confident of bringing matters to a favourable  
 (2-496)conclusion. Am I not a good philosopher to write verses  
 (2-496)when I have 1300 a year trembling in the scale ? But  
 (2-496)how could I help myself by being anxious. I suppose  
 (2-496)Mr. Arbuthnott will continue to forward your Ladyship  
 (2-496)packets when you go to Ireland. Believe me Dear Lady  
 (2-496)Marchioness ever your truly obliged & grateful

(2-496)EDINBURGH 17 May [1811]  
 [Pierpont Morgan]

W. S.

TO MRS. SCOTT OF HARDEN

(2-496)[Postmarked 23rd May 1811]

(2-496)MY DEAR MADAM,-We are deprivd of the prospect  
 (2-496)of waiting upon you on the Birthday by the confusion  
 (2-496)into which the business of this Court is thrown by the  
 (2-496)most unexpected and irreparable loss which it has  
 (2-496)sustained in the death of the President.<sup>1</sup> It is scarcely

(2-497)possible to conceive a calamity which is more universally

(2-497)or will be so long felt by the country. His integrity and  
(2-497)legal knowlege joind to a peculiar dignity of thought  
(2-497)action and expression had begun to establish in the minds  
(2-497)of the public at large that confidence in the regular and  
(2-497)solemn administration of justice which is so necessary  
(2-497)to its usefulness and respectability. My official situation  
(2-497)as well as the private intimacy of our families makes me  
(2-497)a sincere mourner on this melancholy occasion for I feel  
(2-497)a severe personal deprivation besides the general share  
(2-497)of sorrow common to all of every party or description  
(2-497)who were in the way of witnessing his conduct. He was  
(2-497)a rare instance of a man whose habits were every way  
(2-497)averse to the cultivation of popularity rising nevertheless  
(2-497)to the highest point in the public opinion by the manly  
(2-497)and dignified discharge of his duty. I have been really  
(2-497)so much shockd and out of spirits yesterday and the day  
(2-497)preceding that I can write and think of nothing else.

(2-497)I have to send you the Vision of Don Roderic so soon  
(2-497)as we can get it out. It is a trifle I have written to eke  
(2-497)out the subscription for the suffering Portugueze.

(2-497)Mrs. Scott desires her kindest compliments to you and  
(2-497)the young people. I suppose Mr. Scott is returnd or  
(2-497)upon the point of returning.

(2-497)Believe me my dear Mrs. Scott ever yours most truly  
(2-497)& respectfully

(2-497)WALTER SCOTT

(2-497)I desired the servant at Ashestiel to bring down the filly  
(2-497)& her mama as the Mertoun grass will be better than ours

(2-498)at this season which is important for the foal. I hope the  
(2-498)filly will turn well out as she looks very promising at  
(2-498)present.

[Polwarth]

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE

(2-498)[May-June 1811]

(2-498)DEAR JOHN,-The Entail is in Walpoles Works & only  
(2-498)requires to be copied out. I forget the volume but you  
(2-498)will easily find it out as the poetry is not extensive.

(2-498)I think I have a scheme for the Vision of Don Roderick  
(2-498)but reserve it till meeting. It is coming on apace thanks  
(2-498)to bad weather only.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-498)MY DEAR FRIEND,-The calamity which has befallen  
(2-498)our Courts of Justice and Scotland in general, by the  
(2-498)sudden death of our Lord President renders it impossible  
(2-498)for me to be at Dumfries on the 27th agreeably to my  
(2-498)intention as we are all thrown into great confusion by so  
(2-498)cruel a loss. I have God knows my own peculiar share  
(2-498)in this general misfortune for both in my official intercourse  
(2-498)and in private life I lived upon the best and most  
(2-498)intimate footing with the great judge we have lost.  
(2-498)There never was a more general sorrow extending over  
(2-498)all classes and parties of men. He was a rare instance  
(2-498)of a man who attained universal popularity by the  
(2-498)discharge of his duty although he scorned to court it by  
(2-498)any of the usual arts. And I do not believe that high

(2-498)and scrupulous integrity, extent of legal knowledge and  
(2-498)that dignified demeanour so necessary to support the  
(2-498)credit of a Court of Justice ever met so happily in a,  
(2-498)person of his eminent station. He had not been at the  
(2-498)head of our law above two years, just long enough to

499

SIR WALTER SCOTT

1811

(2-499)shew that [the conduct] we all admired was no  
(2-499)extraordinary exertion in consequence of his promotion but  
(2-499)the steady and uniform tenor of his conduct. He was  
(2-499)not ill above half an hour and I had parted with him the  
(2-499)day before in great health and spirits after much laughing  
(2-499)at some nonsense or other-but such is our precarious  
(2-499)tenure-I forget, my dear friend that you probably did  
(2-499)not know this excellent man but as a dear friend of mine  
(2-499)and an irreparable and unspeakable loss to Scotland I  
(2-499)am sure you will regret our loss of him.

(2-499)Mrs. Scott has made a copy for your Ladyship of the  
(2-499)Vision of Don Roderic so far as it is corrected for the  
(2-499)press. There are about 20 verses more but I have not  
(2-499)since this shock had spirits enough to correct them.  
(2-499)There are probably many errors both of the pen & poet  
(2-499)in Mrs. Scott's copy. I put the poem up with a finely  
(2-499)printed Copy of the Castle of Otranto which was printed  
(2-499)by the Ballantynes here & to which at their request  
(2-499)I wrote a hasty sort of a preface, so I made them give  
(2-499)me a copy for your kind acceptance.<sup>1</sup>

(2-499)I sent under Mr. Arbuthnott's cover a copy of the play  
(2-499)your Ladyship enquired about although it certainly is  
(2-499)a very foolish performance. But I fancy you must have  
(2-499)set out before it could reach London. Mr. Arbuthnott  
(2-499)will probably forward it.

(2-499)I have directed the packet with the book and poem to  
(2-499)the care of the postmaster at Dumfries who of course  
(2-499)will give it to your Ladyships servant.

(2-499)Our poor president is to be interd on Wednesday at  
(2-499)which last duty I must be present-

(2-499)I have heard nothing from R. Dundas excepting that  
(2-499)my matters were interrupted by his going to Scotland  
(2-499)& that he expected to resume them with hopes of good

500                LETTERS       OF               1811

(2-500)success. I will apprise you my dear friend of the issue  
(2-500)so soon as I learn it. My respectful Compliments attend  
(2-500)the Marquis & family. I am ever Your Ladyships truly  
(2-500)obliged & grateful    W. S.  
(2-500)EDINR. 25th May [1811]

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO CHARLES ERSKINE

(2-500)MY DEAR CHARLES,-You will see by the enclosed that  
(2-500)Peel has nearly made a bargain for me with Doctor  
(2-500)Douglas for his land on Tweedside.<sup>1</sup>

1811                SIR WALTER SCOTT                501

(2-501)As the situation and terms in every respect suit me I  
(2-501)have no hesitation in writing to Mr. Laidlaw that I shall  
(2-501)close with the Doctor on the terms he proposes supposing  
(2-501)the title to be correct. I beg the favour that you will  
(2-501)consult with Peel about closing the matter directly ¥ with  
(2-501)the Doctor by Missives. My plan is to make the present  
(2-501)farm-house do by dint of crowding for next season & to

(2-501)set about a handsome cottage.

(2-501)My change of situation dear Charles is like to occasion  
(2-501)you a little trouble for I am so helpless in every thing  
(2-501)respecting farming that I must trust to your goodness  
(2-501)as I have done hitherto to Mr. Laidlaws to give a look  
(2-501)to my matters as you ride past to Selkirk which I hope  
(2-501)will not be very inconvenient. There is a farm immediately  
(2-501)east of the Drs. which will be one day in the market  
(2-501)when I hope I may compass it. The two will make as  
(2-501)the advertisements say a very desireable property. I am  
(2-501)quite tired of the plague of repairs rise of rent &c at  
(2-501)Ashestiel & as I am offerd 3000 guineas for a new poem  
(2-501)I can easily fetch myself home for additional expence.  
(2-501)Yours very truly

(2-501)WALTER SCOTT

(2-501)2 June 1811

[Curle]

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE. ROBERT DUNDAS

(2-501)MY DEAR DUNDAS,-I cannot think of your leaving  
(2-501)Edinburgh without my expressing in the way least  
(2-501)intrusive to you and least painful to us both the deep and  
(2-501)acute share which I take in the recent calamity which has  
(2-501)so suddenly and under such awful circumstances deprived  
(2-501)you of a most affectionate father me of a kind and  
(2-501)efficient friend who honourd me with a far greater share  
(2-501)of his regard than I deserved and our Country of a  
(2-501)patriot whose like she will probably not see for a century  
(2-501)to come. The inevitable law of nature, that sad reflection

(2-502)humana perpassi sumus supplies the only consolation that  
(2-502)so grievous a dispensation will admit of: unless we  
(2-502)should add to it the reflection that our departed friend  
(2-502)was removed in the full enjoyment of his admirable  
(2-502)faculties & without any painful interval of bodily  
(2-502)complaint. In common cases indeed the twilight of the  
(2-502)understanding and decay of the frame which often  
(2-502)precedes the close of existence may be considered as a  
(2-502)preparation to wean the sufferer himself from the love of  
(2-502)life & to prepare his friends for his removal from among  
(2-502)them. But who could have wished that to save ourselves  
(2-502)the suddenness of this most unexpected blow Lord  
(2-502)Melville's noble intellect should have lost the least of its  
(2-502)brilliant acuteness or that he should have been even for  
(2-502)the shortest space subjected to pain or even to the necessity  
(2-502)of inactivity. It is thus I endeavour to reconcile myself  
(2-502)to a mode of dissolution which within so short a space has  
(2-502)deprived [me] of two friends whom I honoured more than  
(2-502)any which remain behind, since their kindness to my  
(2-502)youth & friendship since my more advanced age render  
(2-502)my regret for their loss almost filial.

(2-502)I do not ask you to forgive this intrusion which I have  
(2-502)purposely delayed till I understand you are about to leave  
(2-502)Edinburgh. We shall meet in happier times and correspond  
(2-502)upon pleasanter subjects. The world is before  
(2-502)us both & while you in the discharge of your important  
(2-502)duties will I am sure always remember the example of  
(2-502)such a father it shall be my prayer to God that in my  
(2-502)very subordinate walk I shall never be found altogether  
(2-502)[undeserving] of the regard with which Lord Melville  
(2-502)honoured me. An affectionate adieu & God's blessing  
(2-502)with you.

(2-502)WALTER SCOTT

(2-502)[7th June, 1811]

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

1811            SIR WALTER SCOTT            503

TO PATRICK MURRAY

(2-503)MY DEAR MORRAY,-I am truly grieved at the issue  
(2-503)of --s affair- ...

(2-503)We have had enough of distress lately from the loss  
(2-503)of characters eminent by their situation and talents, & I  
(2-503)assure you I sympathized deeply in that which by near  
(2-503)relationship must have been so severe & unexpected a  
(2-503)stroke to Mrs. Murray & you. The loss of the President  
(2-503)& Lord Melville so closely following upon each other  
(2-503)affected my spirits very much, & effectually interrupted  
(2-503)for a time a little poetical attempt which I was making  
(2-503)for behoof of the Portuguese sufferers. I hope however  
(2-503)soon to send it to you, as I shall have a few separate copies  
(2-503)for my friends.<sup>1</sup> The same reason has prevented my being  
(2-503)sufficiently attentive to get the separate copies of our  
(2-503)tactical essay. I will make enquiry about them today.  
(2-503)Perhaps if they are generally approved of, the remarks  
(2-503)may be extended into a small pamphlet: the late events  
(2-503)seem to me to furnish much illustration of the doctrine  
(2-503)of reserves, for it is very edifying to see how each party  
(2-503)supported by repeated reinforcements their position in  
(2-503)the village of Fuentes d'Onore.

(2-503)I hope we are now about to reap in the Peninsula the  
(2-503)fruits due to bravery & perseverance, and if we do. not  
(2-503)take fright, or what is worse, starve the business, I firmly  
(2-503)believe Bonaparte will find the grave of his glory there.



(2-504)poem for which I claim applause for the intention  
(2-504)though not for the execution. If you have not time for  
(2-504)such vagaries yourself pray send it to Lady Mellville with  
(2-504)my kind compliments.

(2-504)In civility and considering how much your time is  
(2-504)occupied I should stop here but I cannot help expressing  
(2-504)some anxiety to know how Mr. Homes application in  
(2-504)Treasury is likely to be disposed of not having heard  
(2-504)anything upon the subject for some time. Perhaps it  
(2-504)may be right to mention to Mr. Percival that the public  
(2-504)cannot in any shape be burthend by the grant of  
(2-504)superannuation to Mr. Home because it is in the first  
(2-504)instance to be allocated upon the Fee-fund which affords  
(2-504)a surplus more than sufficient to discharge it.

SIR WALTER SCOTT                      1811                      505

(2-505)I have bought the little Tweedside farm I wrote to your  
(2-505)Lordship about-whether for a temporary retreat or a  
(2-505)constant place of residence the success or failure of this  
(2-505)application must determine. I am therefore a little  
(2-505)feverish about it. We are all in gaping expectation of the  
(2-505)new appointments. I have the honour to be ever My dear  
(2-505)Lord Your obliged & faithful humble Servant

(2-505)WALTER SCOTT

(2-505)EDINR. 30 June 1811.

(2-505)I inclose a poem of considerable merit<sup>1</sup> in the subject  
(2-505)of which your Lordship is too deeply interested. The  
(2-505)author as I hear is a young Kirkman of the name of  
(2-505)Buchanan tutor in Lord Wemyss family.

(2-505)The Right Honble

(2-505)Lord Mellville etc etc etc

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

(2-505)[July 1811]

(2-505)MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-I am fortunate in being able  
(2-505)to request your acceptance of the Orpheus Caledonius 2  
(2-505)now a rare book and which has some of the most original  
(2-505)sets of our old Scotch songs. You may believe I am  
(2-505)highly gratified by Mrs. Clephane and your approbation  
(2-505)of Don Roderick who now with characteristick Spanish  
(2-505)gravity and tardiness draws to a conclusion. I hope to  
(2-505)send you a copy in the end of the week I have ordered a  
(2-505)small set for my friends not to interfere with the purpose  
(2-505)of the publication. But Mr. Ballantyne promises they  
(2-505)are to be very handsome.

(2-505)Pray tell Mrs. G. I know nothing of Sir W. W. Wynne

506                    LETTERS    OF                    1811

(2-506)the welch G- amighty. I know his brother Charles a  
(2-506)little bit, but none of the rest of the family.

(2-506)I hope you are not so desperate in your intentions "the  
(2-506)lovely isle again to see " as you threatend when we last  
(2-506)met. Kind compliments to Mother and Sister and  
(2-506)believe me very faithfully and respectfully Your  
(2-506)affectionate friend

WALTER SCOTT

(2-506)EDINR. Monday.

(2-506)Do you know I have made a discovery of a likeness

(2-506)which tormented me from a wavering uncertainty of  
(2-506)recollection since I have the pleasure of knowing you.  
(2-506)It is the very decided resemblance of your profile to a  
(2-506)Greek coin of Minerva. This would be in many instances  
(2-506)an unfortunate discovery since the outward resemblance  
(2-506)might impose all the painful duties of prudence and talent  
(2-506)necessary to sustain the character. But I mention it to  
(2-506)you without fear of inconvenience as I know you can play  
(2-506)the part without effort.

(2-506)I had to reclaim Orpheus not quite from the Shades  
(2-506)but something like it or I would have answered your kind  
(2-506)note sooner.

[Northampton]

TO GEORGE THOMSON

(2-506)EDINBURGH, July [1811]

(2-506)AFTER repeated trials, I can make nothing of " Chirke  
(2-506)Castle " that would be in the least satisfactory. The  
(2-506)recurrence of the eternal double rhymes and the short  
(2-506)structure of the verse renders it unfit (at least in my hands)  
(2-506)for anything very pretty, and I am really more jealous of  
(2-506)these little things than of long poems. I am much better  
(2-506)pleased with " Glencoe," which I have finished in the  
(2-506)rough. The death of the two great men who made part  
(2-506)of the social company at Mr. Wauchope's the last time  
(2-506)we met has broken two strings of my heart. I will send  
(2-506)you " Glencoe " the instant I have got this damned

1811

507

SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-507)Spaniard, whose national sloth is infectious, out of my  
(2-507)hands. He is now almost finished.

[Hadden's George Thomson]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

(2-507)MY DEAR MORRITT-I have this moment got your  
(2-507)kind letter just as I was packing up Don Roderick for  
(2-507)you-a flying copy which be [sic] the assistance of an office  
(2-507)frank will reach you far sooner than Murrays heavy quarto.  
(2-507)This patriotic puppet show has been finishd under wretched  
(2-507)auspices-poor Lord Mellvilles death so quickly succeeding  
(2-507)that of presidt. Blair one of the best and wisest judges that  
(2-507)ever distributed justice broke my spirit sadly. My official  
(2-507)situation placed me in daily contact with the President  
(2-507)and his ability and candour were the source of my daily  
(2-507)admiration. As for poor dear Lord Mellville

(2-507)'Tis vain to name him whom we mourn in vain.

(2-507)Almost the last time I saw him he was talking of you in the  
(2-507)highest terms of regard and expressing great hopes of again  
(2-507)seeing you at Dunira this summer where I proposed to  
(2-507)attend you. Hei mihi! quid hei mihi! humana perpessi  
(2-507)sumus ! His loss will be long and severely felt here and  
(2-507)envy is already paying her cold tribute of applause to the  
(2-507)worth which she malignd while it walkd upon earth.

(2-507)There was a very odd coincidence between the deaths  
(2-507)of these eminent characters, and that of a very inferior  
(2-507)person a dentist of this city named Dubuisson.<sup>1</sup> He met the  
(2-507)Presidt. the day before his death, who used a particular  
(2-507)expression in speaking to him-the day before Lord  
(2-507)Mellville died he also met Dubuisson nearly on the same  
(2-507)spot and to the man's surprize used the Presidts. very  
(2-507)words in saluting him. On this second death, he  
(2-507)expressd (jocularly however) an apprehension that he

(2-507)himself would be the third-was taken ill and died in an  
(2-507)hours space. Was not this remarkable ?

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(2-508)I am quite delighted with your account of your journey 1  
(2-508)and would be most happy if I could promise myself  
(2-508)the pleasure of seeing you in Yorkshire this season.  
(2-508)But as the French Ambassador told the King wishing to  
(2-508)show that he understood the vernacular idiom and  
(2-508)familiar turn of the English language, " I have got some  
(2-508)fish to fry." You must know that my lease of Ashestiel  
(2-508)being expired I have bought a small farm value about  
(2-508) 150 yearly with the intention of " bigging myself a  
(2-508)bower " after my own fashion. The situation is good as  
(2-508)it lies along the Tweed about three miles above Melrose  
(2-508)but alas ! the plantations are very young. However I  
(2-508)think if I can get an elegant plan for a cottage it will look  
(2-508)very well, and furnish me amusement for some time before  
(2-508)I get every thing laid out to my mind. We stay at  
(2-508)Ashestiel this season, but migrate the next to our new  
(2-508)settlements. I have only fixd upon two points respecting  
(2-508)my intended cottage one is that it shall stand in my garden  
(2-508)or rather kail yard-the other that the little drawing  
(2-508)room shall open into a little conservatory in which  
(2-508)conservatory there shall be a fountain-these are  
(2-508)articles of taste which I have long determined upon.  
(2-508)But I hope before a stone of our paradise is begun we  
(2-508)shall meet and colloque about it. I believe I must be  
(2-508)obliged to my English friends for a few good acorns as  
(2-508)I intend to sow a bank instead of planting it and we do  
(2-508)not get them good here.

(2-508)I will write to you again very soon being now busied  
(2-508)in bundling off my presentation copies of Don Roderic.  
(2-508)Charlotte joins in kindest respects to Mrs. Morritt our

(2-508)little folk are all indebted to your kind remembrance, and  
(2-508)I am ever yours, W. S.

(2-508)EDINR. 1 July [1811]

[Law]

SIR WALTER SCOTT            1811            509

TO MRS. SCOTT OF HARDEN

(2-509)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-Accept Don Roderic & let  
(2-509)charity which hides a multitude of sins throw a corner of  
(2-509)her mantle over the poetical blunders of the doughty  
(2-509)Spaniard. Report says that the Sheriff of Selkirkshire  
(2-509)has actually bought that pleasant farm lately belonging  
(2-509)to the worthy Dr. Douglas of Galashiels and that he  
(2-509)intends to build a bower there next summer. We hear  
(2-509)one of his principal motives in making this large purchase  
(2-509)was to draw a little nearer his kind and beloved friends  
(2-509)at Mertoun. I have nothing to add to this Gossip except  
(2-509)that the House which Jack built will sink in comparaison  
(2-509)to the cottage which is to be built-of all which I hope we  
(2-509)will have an early opportunity of talking since we set out  
(2-509)for Ashestiel on the 12 Current or next day at farthest.  
(2-509)My best compliments to Mr. Scott & the little folks & I  
(2-509)am ever Dear Mrs. Scott Yours very truly

(2-509)WALTER SCOTT

(2-509)EDINR. 2 July 1811.

[Polwarth]

TO PATRICK MURRAY

(2-509)[July 1811]

(2-509)MY DEAR MURRAY,-I send you a copy of my Vision-  
(2-509)a Rhodomontade piece of goods it is, but you know poets  
(2-509)are entitled to be a little ecstatic upon good news. I am  
(2-509)desirous to get a copy out to Adam Fergusson and shall  
(2-509)make an effort through the War Office. Poor fellow he  
(2-509)has been unlucky in being out of the way when so much  
(2-509)good fighting was going, yet perhaps fortunate in escaping  
(2-509)the Polish pikemen. I think it would appear all these  
(2-509)butcherly villains have been cut off; why then rejoice  
(2-509)therefore ! My kind compliments attend Mrs. Murray  
(2-509)and believe me ever truly yours W. SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

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LETTERS OF 1811

TO RICHARD LOVELL EDGEWORTH 1

(2-510)SIR,-I am honoured with your hospitable invitation to  
(2-510)Edgeworthstown which adds to the regret I feel in not  
(2-510)having been able to atchieve my intended journey to  
(2-510)Ireland as nothing would give me more pleasure than an  
(2-510)opportunity of returning thanks to Mr. and Miss Edgeworth  
(2-510)for the peculiar pleasure which I have received  
(2-510)from their very amusing and interesting publications.  
(2-510)I will not affect to bandy compliments about the honours  
(2-510)you offer me as a minstrel it is sufficient that you think  
(2-510)me worthy of any attention in that character and I assure  
(2-510)you I shall value my rhimes more highly in the hopes  
(2-510)your approbation was sincere. As for the thorny wreath  
(2-510)of the Reviewer I beg leave utterly to decline the painful  
(2-510)honours having never adventured in that sort of composition  
(2-510)above a few antiquarian articles very harmless

(2-510)and very stupid I am the more anxious to mention this  
(2-510)because Fame I have heard has done me the dishonour  
(2-510)to attribute to me a very silly and impertinent review of  
(2-510)Miss Edgeworths Tales of fashionable Life which appeared  
(2-510)in the Quarterly Review. I know only one motive I  
(2-510)could have for venting my revenge on such a work in such  
(2-510)a manner and that is the soreness of my sides for several  
(2-510)days after I read the Irish journey in the inimitable tale  
(2-510)of Ennui. Perhaps this idle rumour has never reachd  
(2-510)you but if it should I trust Miss Edgeworth did not believe  
(2-510)it. It will give me great pride and pleasure to feel myself  
(2-510)authorized to pay my respects at Edgeworthstown should

1811                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      511

(2-511)I ever visit Ireland and I beg you will not allow any  
(2-511)member of your family or connected with it by friendship  
(2-511)to visit our Northern Metropolis without giving me a right  
(2-511)to offer them any civilities in my powers.

(2-511)I have been reading with infinite delight the Cottage  
(2-511)Dialogues and the notes.<sup>1</sup> But I am surprized to find  
(2-511)most of your Iricisms (many many of them at least) are  
(2-511)familiar Scoticismes. This emboldens me to exercise my  
(2-511)aforesaid vocation as an Antiquarian Critic and challenge  
(2-511)the derivation of Kemp (applied to the spinning matches)  
(2-511)as said to be derived from a Camp or tents. It is an old  
(2-511)Saxon word for strife and gives rise to our modern  
(2-511)champion the Kiempe <sup>2</sup> of Germany and the Kemperie man  
(2-511)or Kempe of our old romance. Vide the curious ballad  
(2-511)of King Estmere in Percys Reliques of ancient poetry.  
(2-511)Many of the matches in which our Scottish labourers  
(2-511)strive against each other, particulary [sic] those which  
(2-511)the reapers undertake are popularly calld Kemping  
(2-511)matches and the contending parties are said to kemp,  
(2-511)although tents must be out of the question from the nature

(2-511)of the contention.

(2-511)Excuse this little trait of the rusty antiquary and believe

(2-511)me Sir your obliged humble servant      WALTER SCOTT

(2-511)EDINR. 2 July [1811]

[Butler]

TO MRS. SCOTT OF HARDEN

[No date]

(2-511)MY DEAR MISTRESS SCOTT,-I take the opportunity of

(2-511)greeting you by the' Messenger who comes to reclaim

(2-511)Lady Wallace (your quadruped pensioner) whose filly

(2-511)I suppose can now more than dispense with her services.

1811

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LETTERS

(2-512)I hope James Stewart will handle the filly often & use

(2-512)him to see and receive kindness from men which makes the

(2-512)training of that breed of ponies the easiest thing in the

(2-512)world.

(2-512)I am truly glad that you like Don Roderic but I am

(2-512)now dreaming of nothing but cottages upon Tweedside.

(2-512)If I escape being declared crazy for my various projects

(2-512)I shall be anxious to have the advantage of your taste.

(2-512)I left all our lawyers about a fortnight ago agape at the

(2-512)immaculate trio Sir Francis Citizen Scott & my Lady

(2-512)Oxford.<sup>1</sup> It is truly pleasant to escape to the birches &

(2-512)alders after such discussions. I hope you think of

(2-512)coming up Tweed while days are long and skies somewhat

(2-512)clear. Charlotte & Anne will be delighted to see any of

1811

513

SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-513)their kind Xmas cousins that you will admit into the  
(2-513)party- Kind compliments to Mr. Scott. I am now  
(2-513)a compleat convert to his opinion about bullion as the  
(2-513)Roxburghshire & Merse Lairds are to his railway. Mrs.  
(2-513)Scott desires her best respects & I am ever Dear Madam  
(2-513>Your truly honourd & faithful

(2-513)W. SCOTT  
(2-513)ASHESTIEL Wednesday evening

[Polwarth]

TO WILLIAM HAYLEY 1

(2-513)EDINBURGH, July 2, 1811.

(2-513)MY DEAR HAYLEY,-I have not yet thanked you for  
(2-513)your kind and valued recollection of me in the acceptable  
(2-513)present of a copy of your plays, because I was then in the  
(2-513)very agonies of bringing forth the enclosed Drum and  
(2-513)Trumpet performance, which I sent to the press sheet by  
(2-513)sheet as fast as it was written. The death of two eminent  
(2-513)public characters interrupted my task not a little, and  
(2-513)took from me for some time all power of proceeding with  
(2-513)it. I was intimately acquainted with both, and in  
(2-513)frequent intercourse both familiarly and in the way of  
(2-513)public business. We shall not soon see two such men in  
(2-513)Scotland, to the welfare of which country they were  
(2-513)devotedly attached.

(2-513)I am just now setting about a task in which I wish I  
(2-513)had some of your good taste to assist me. I mean  
(2-513)building myself a cottage, or, in the language of romance,

(2-514)a bower upon Tweedside. The situation has a pastoral  
(2-514)character, but it is not of a romantic or beautiful description.  
(2-514)As the little property lies half a mile along the  
(2-514)banks of a bold and rapid river, I hope I shall find a good  
(2-514)place for my proposed hut. Can you direct me to any  
(2-514)good plan for such a cottage ? I know you are distinguished  
(2-514)for good taste in rural affairs as well as in  
(2-514)literature. Two things I have determined : one is to  
(2-514)have my little garden (having no pretension to fruit walls)  
(2-514)close to the house, and entering from it like some of your  
(2-514)beautiful old rectories ; the other is to have the offices  
(2-514)adjoining to the house, for you must know I like to spend  
(2-514)time in

(2-514)Twisting of collars my dogs to hold,  
(2-514)And combing the mane of my palfrey bold.

(2-514)Besides, as my boys, according to the habit of the  
(2-514)country, will be a great deal in the stable, I wish the said  
(2-514)stable to be under my own eye. Excuse my plaguing you  
(2-514)with these trifles. I have a great notion you can assist  
(2-514)me if you will think about it. Adieu. Believe me, ever  
(2-514)dear sir. Your truly obliged and faithful,

(2-514)WALTER. SCOTT  
[Notes and Queries, 5th Ser. xi. 65]

TO REV. R. POLWHELE, KENWYN, TRURO

(2-514)EDINBURGH, July 3, 1811

(2-514)MY DEAR SIR,-I should be very ungrateful indeed, if  
(2-514)in distributing the few copies I have retained of the  
(2-514)inclosed drum and trumpet thing, I should forget to  
(2-514)request your kind acceptance of it, especially as I am

(2-514)sure you will applaud the purpose, and pardon imperfections  
(2-514)in the execution. I am so busy making up all  
(2-514)my little parcels, that I have only a moment to add that  
(2-514)I hope this will find you as well as I wish you. Believe  
(2-514)me, dear Sir, your truly obliged,           WALTER SCOTT

[Letters of Sir Walter Scott, 1832]

1811           SIR WALTER SCOTT           515

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-515)EDINBURGH, 5th July 1811

(2-515)MANY thanks my dearest friend for your kind remembrance,  
(2-515)from Dumfries<sup>1</sup> which I postponed answering  
(2-515)from day to day because I expected continually to have  
(2-515)had Don Roderick before the public. I sent a small private  
(2-515)copy of which I printed a few to give away among  
(2-515)particular friends, to Mr. Arbuthnot on Sunday last for  
(2-515)your kind acceptance. By to-morrow's post I shall send  
(2-515)him one of the large-paper copies which is better fitted  
(2-515)for your weak eyes-I hope sincerely they are getting  
(2-515)better and I beg you will not exert them too much but  
(2-515)get some one to read to you. When very young and a  
(2-515)hard student I injured my eyes greatly by reading very  
(2-515)late and writing still later but I found great advantage  
(2-515)from the constant practice then recommended to me  
(2-515)of washing the throat and particularly the back of the  
(2-515)neck repeatedly in the course of the day with the coldest  
(2-515)spring water I could get; and my eyes are now tolerably  
(2-515)recovered though I am very cautious of straining them.  
(2-515)I also used with advantage an Eye Lotion of which I had  
(2-515)the receipt from Lord Webb Seymour. I enclose the  
(2-515)receipt but as disorders of that organ differ so much I  
(2-515)beg you will not use it, without the advice of some medical

(2-515)person & if anyone of that description says it will not  
(2-515)hurt your Ladyships complaint I will venture to hope  
(2-515)it may do it good. If you bath the back of the neck  
(2-515)with springwater putting a tea-spoonful of nitre into it  
(2-515)will render the cold still more intense.

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(2-516)We have indeed in poor Lord Mellville lost a generous-  
(2-516)spirited patriot, a man of the most extensive political  
(2-516)information and one of the kindest friends in private life  
(2-516)that ever adorned society. Lady Mellville is still at  
(2-516)Dunira in the Highlands bearing her incalculable loss as  
(2-516)people must bear irremediable afflictions. The fatal  
(2-516)disease was an ossification of the veins and fibres of the  
(2-516)heart which had commenced so far back as 1802 attended  
(2-516)with violent palpitation and fainting fits. He was quite  
(2-516)sensible for several years of the nature of his complaint  
(2-516)that it was gradually producing an interruption to the  
(2-516)circulation in the very seat of life and must be mortal  
(2-516)sooner or later. He has left a very remarkable letter  
(2-516)to a medical friend dated six or seven years back in  
(2-516)which he expresses this opinion of his disorder and  
(2-516)promises to be attentive to regimen at table. But as to  
(2-516)riding fast and speaking vehemently in public from which  
(2-516)the physician had also dissuaded [him] he says that he  
(2-516)must be left to the dictates of his own feelings both in  
(2-516)[the] exercise and in the discharge of his public duty  
(2-516)and that he must ride fast or slow as the feeling of the  
(2-516)moment prompted and that he could not think of  
(2-516)speaking in public as if his physician was one of his  
(2-516)audience. It is very remarkable that for about two years  
(2-516)before his death all the painful symptoms of his disorder  
(2-516)seemed to disappear and he never in his life as he himself  
(2-516)told me enjoyed better health. Yet upon opening the  
(2-516)body it appeared that the large ventricle which discharges

(2-516)the blood through the system was contracted to nearly  
(2-516)one third of the natural size by the progress of the  
(2-516)ossification. He was quite well the day preceding his death  
(2-516)he had arrived by a hasty journey from the Highlands  
(2-516)to be present at Lord President Blair's funeral with  
(2-516)whom he was connected by early uninterrupted and  
(2-516)intimate friendship. During the two days he was in  
(2-516)Edinburgh he was chiefly occupied in assisting to arrange  
(2-516)the family affairs of the Presidt. whose family is but

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(2-517)indifferently provided for. Lord Mellville wrote a most  
(2-517)affecting letter to Mr. Perceval recommending Mrs. Blair  
(2-517)to the protection and generosity of the public to whom  
(2-517)her husband has rendered such eminent services. In the  
(2-517)evening he made his visit to the disconsolate family  
(2-517)whose house is next door to Lord Chief Baron's then his  
(2-517)residence. Upon his return he supp'd with the C. Baron  
(2-517)who did not remark any thing particular in his appearance.  
(2-517)As he undressed to go to bed he directed his  
(2-517)mournings to be prepared for next day when the funeral  
(2-517)of the President was to take place, and at the same time  
(2-517)said " I lie down satisfied for I have done all the painful  
(2-517)duty which friendship exacted from me," or some  
(2-517)expression to that effect. In the morning he did not  
(2-517)ring at his usual hour of seven for he always rose early  
(2-517)and his servant becoming alarmed entered his room  
(2-517)about eight and found him dead and all remains of vital  
(2-517)heat quite departed. It was clear that he had never  
(2-517)waked but past away in sleep to a better world where  
(2-517)there is neither calumny persecution nor sorrow. One  
(2-517)arm was laid over his breast and the other stretched by  
(2-517)his side, the attitude in which he usually slept. It is a  
(2-517)remarkable coincidence that he died on Mr. Pitt's  
(2-517)birthday, supposing that he departed before the morning ;

(2-517)to which must be added the singular circumstance that  
(2-517)[the] early friend of his youth whose funeral he came  
(2-517)prepared to attend on the next day was then lying dead  
(2-517)within a few rooms of him. Whether the quick and  
(2-517)animated feeling of grief did or did not hasten this strange  
(2-517)catastrophe can only be known to God Almighty but  
(2-517)many of our medical men do think that the event though  
(2-517)perhaps it could not have been long deferred was precipitated  
(2-517)by the painful emotions with which the President's  
(2-517)death and the sad employments which devolved  
(2-517)upon Lord Mellville in consequence were necessarily  
(2-517)attended.

(2-517)I met him very often during his stay in Edinburgh

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(2-518)last spring being usually asked to meet him while he was  
(2-518)on the round of visiting his old friends. I think my wife  
(2-518)and I dined in company with him and Lady M. at  
(2-518)different houses, six or seven days together besides their  
(2-518)honouring us twice with their company in Castle Street.  
(2-518)He was in high health and spirits and very communicative  
(2-518)of curious information and anecdotes respecting Pitt's  
(2-518)administration. I took the liberty to ask him why he did  
(2-518)not write down some of these particulars for use of future  
(2-518)historians. He promised that if I came to Dunira I  
(2-518)should see some documents which he had preserved with  
(2-518)such a view but had never found leisure to arrange them.

(2-518)No doubt an immense deal of valuable and curious  
(2-518)materials for history would have [been] [very scratched and  
(2-518)blotted] preserved had our dear friend pursued his resolution.  
(2-518)He showed me in confidence a very curious state of  
(2-518)the correspondence which he had with the present  
(2-518)ministers upon the last change in which by the way he was

(2-518)but indifferently used. His loss will be severely felt by  
(2-518)the Pitt interest in Scotland for his long possession of  
(2-518)power and influence had enabled him to acquire claims  
(2-518)upon the gratitude of many individuals which will expire  
(2-518)along with him. His domestic affairs will turn out better  
(2-518)(or at least somewhat better) than his friends expected  
(2-518)but Lady Mellville will be but indifferently provided for.  
(2-518)Lord Mellville by assistance of Mr. Dundas Saunders [?]  
(2-518)made some good purchases about Dunira which may be  
(2-518)now worth about 4000 a year. It is said [that the]  
(2-518)[a hole in MS.] Regent has expressed a wish that something  
(2-518)should be done for Lady M. He caused his secretary  
(2-518)write to the Presidts. son in law expression of his R.H.'s  
(2-518)desire that a provision suitable to the services Ld. Prest.  
(2-518)had rendered the country should be made for that  
(2-518)family. This looks like laying himself out for popularity.  
(2-518)I avoided meeting the present Ld. Mellville when down  
(2-518)here lest it should have the indelicate appearance of  
(2-518)dunning him about my own matters in the midst of his

(2-519)family distress. Lord Dalkeith attacked him on the  
(2-519)subject however & he expressed himself as if it was to  
(2-519)be done immediately on his return to town. But I have  
(2-519)heard nothing on the subject since about a month since  
(2-519)when [he] told me that it was put into the Treasury  
(2-519)& Mr. Arbuthnot was to see it through the forms. But  
(2-519)he had not explained this quite so distinctly to Mr. A. as to  
(2-519)me. I took the opportunity to write to both last Sunday  
(2-519)& I hope I shall learn where or how the matter hitches ;  
(2-519)for somewhere I think there is an obstacle. My next  
(2-519)letter will be on a pleasanter subject for I want to tell you  
(2-519)my dearest friend that I have bought a small farm about  
(2-519)150 a year prettily situated upon the banks of the  
(2-519)Tweed so now I am a Laird at your Ladyships service

(2-519)and I want your advice about planting and building a  
(2-519)cottage and fifty things besides.-Ever, my dear friend  
(2-519)your truly grateful and obliged                      WALTER SCOTT

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(2-519)ASHESTIEL, 25th July 1811

(2-519)As you say my letters amuse you my dearest friend  
(2-519)I lose no time in offering my mite to divert you during  
(2-519)your indisposition which I sincerely hope is now giving  
(2-519)way to good weather & quiet. The rheumatism is a  
(2-519)terrible complaint & scarcely yields to anything except  
(2-519)the old vulgar remedy of flannel, the easterly winds too  
(2-519)must have added greatly to its intensity-they seem to  
(2-519)be everlasting in this quarter. I am now busy in the  
(2-519)country ; even the attractions of Jo: Kemble I am afraid  
(2-519)will hardly drag me to town although I wish I had been  
(2-519)in the way to offer him some civility both on account of  
(2-519)his own merit & as a friend of the Priory. As for showing  
(2-519)him my play I have not a legible copy of it till I get my  
(2-519)own scribbled manuscript copied over. Besides I do not

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(2-520)feel at all inclined to face the stage nor do I think the  
(2-520)tragedy worthy the pains it would cost to make it tolerable.  
(2-520)The only good scene in it is that between the  
(2-520)mother & son & it occurs so early in the piece that all  
(2-520)the interest of it would be over before the conclusion.  
(2-520)The fifth Act has greatly too much mummary & too  
(2-520)much blood--it would need to be entirely new-written  
(2-520)& as the Coachman replied to Pope's usual exclamation  
(2-520)" Heaven mend me," it would be more easy to make

(2-520)a new one.

(2-520)My matters are in Statu quo. I think of putting Lord  
(2-520)Dalkeith in mind of his promise to write to Lord M. in a  
(2-520)way which will probably elicit an answer of one kind  
(2-520)or other. All the Scotch appointments are left vacant  
(2-520)which looks as if ministers had some difficulty in getting  
(2-520)the Regents consent for filling them up. I fear the poor  
(2-520)old king is now to be laid aside for ever when the Prince  
(2-520)will probably make his own arrangements : if he consult  
(2-520)his interest character & safety he will abide by those who  
(2-520)adhered to his father in his distress. Ten thousand  
(2-520)thanks for your kindness dear Lady Abercorn which I  
(2-520)can never sufficiently acknowledge although I venture  
(2-520)to assure you it is not lost upon me.

(2-520)The action between those pure spirits Sir F. Burdett 1  
(2-520)& Mr. Scott (observe he is an Englishman & not of our  
(2-520)clan) divested of technicalities stands thus. It appears  
(2-520)there was an intrigue between Westminster's Hope & Lady  
(2-520)Oxford the consequence whereof was a child. As this  
(2-520)circumstance threatened exposure, the patriotic Bart.  
(2-520)granted a bond of 20,000 to Mr. Scott as a provision  
(2-520)for the Lady & her child. And thus matters stood till

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-521)the alarm blew over. When it appeared there was only  
(2-521)the little innocent consequence to be provided for, it was  
(2-521)settled that the bond for 20,000 should be cancelled on  
(2-521)payment of , 5000,, as a provision for the infant-but  
(2-521)as a counterpart of this arrangement Mr. Scott was to  
(2-521)grant his bond for 5000 to Sir Francis to be lodged in  
(2-521)the hands of a mutual confidant until the child came of  
(2-521)age. If it died before that period then the bond was to be  
(2-521)delivered to Sir F. in order to [indecipherable] his recovering

(2-521)the 5000,, which in that event M. S. would have no  
(2-521)time to retain. But it seems this mutual friend betrayed  
(2-521)his trust & put the bond into Sir Francis's hands who  
(2-521)has commenced a suit upon it in our courts. Mr. Scott's  
(2-521)defence is that he received indeed the 5000 but that it  
(2-521)was as a provision for the natural child & though he  
(2-521)granted a bond for it yet that bond was only to be enforced  
(2-521)in case of the child's death when Sir Francis would be  
(2-521)entitled to have back his money. Thus stands this  
(2-521)scandalous affair in which neither the Knight the Squire  
(2-521)nor the Lady are like to acquire much credit. No  
(2-521)decision is yet given-When the papers are printed I will  
(2-521)procure you a copy.

(2-521)As the shortest reply to your kind inquiries about the  
(2-521)size and nature of my cottage I send you a sketch of the  
(2-521)plan marked with the accommodations which may be  
(2-521)necessary. There is nothing romantic in the situation  
(2-521)but the neighbourhood of a very noble and bold stream  
(2-521)of water. The place I now inhabit is much more  
(2-521)beautiful but then it is not my own. I intend to plant  
(2-521)almost the whole property excepting about twenty-four  
(2-521)acres above the road for arable purposes and the meadow  
(2-521)near the proposed cottage for pasture. Thus in time I  
(2-521)shall be embosom'd in a little wood tho' at present the  
(2-521)place is very bare. I am torturing my brains for the best  
(2-521)means of conquering the prim regularity of artificial  
(2-521)plantations which I think may be done by putting in  
(2-521)plants of different ages and even sowing some part of the

(2-522)ground. Wood rises very fast with us everywhere. I  
(2-522)shall have time enough for my plans for I do not obtain  
(2-522)possession till next May. A larger farm bounds my  
(2-522)little patch to the South which is now to be sold and I

(2-522)would not hesitate to purchase it were my matters  
(2-522)finished above stairs, but otherwise the difference between  
(2-522)the interest of money and rent of land is too great for me  
(2-522)to think of it. I have not heard of Lady Mellvilles plans  
(2-522)but I think it likely she will remain among her relations  
(2-522)in this country for some little time. I should rather be  
(2-522)surprized at the event your Ladyship hints at: yet it is  
(2-522)not impossible for Lord M. & she were not at all times  
(2-522)entirely cordial-this is of course entre nous. Miss Wortley I  
(2-522)believe more than once made up differences between them.

(2-522)We have been christening Lady Dalkeith's little girl  
(2-522)(would it had been a boy). She is called Margaret after  
(2-522)the Lady in the Lay of the Last Minstrel and Charlotte  
(2-522)and I had the honour to be sponsors (as representing our  
(2-522)betters, cela s'entend). My name sake Walter is really a  
(2-522)noble child. I have not seen Lady D. looking so well  
(2-522)this many a day.

(2-522)Adieu my dearest friend. I must hear your page say  
(2-522)his lesson and it is hard to say whether the preceptor or  
(2-522)the scholar finds the task more wearisome. But I do not  
(2-522)chuse he should lose ground during his holydays.-Ever  
(2-522)your faithful and obliged, W. SCOTT

(2-522)Your letter of the 16th reached me on the 25 which  
(2-522)seems a very long time for so short a distance.

[Pierpont Morgan]

To MR. MAYO

(2-522)DEAR SIR,-I am much honoured by your thinking  
(2-522)any part of my poetry worthy of the particular enquiry  
(2-522)contained in your favour of the 26th July. The same  
(2-522)doubt has been proposed to me from other friends and

(2-522)to say the truth I have not been able to give a scholium

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-523)upon the passage at all satisfactory either to myself or  
(2-523)the querists. I think I meant merely to allude to the  
(2-523)poisonous qualities of the nightshade and that I had in  
(2-523)my head the Grecian practice of dispatching criminals  
(2-523)by vegetable poison forgetting that hemlock not nightshade  
(2-523)was the ingredient they used. So much for  
(2-523)punishment-As for the idea of pride connected with the  
(2-523)Foxglove, I believe I can only plead its erect stature  
(2-523)and the gaudy flaunting appearance of its flowers.<sup>1</sup> I  
(2-523)heartily wish I had a wiser answer to send to so flattering  
(2-523)an enquiry but I give the above under reservation of my  
(2-523)right to avail myself of the ingenuity of any friendly  
(2-523)commentator who may find out a better meaning for the  
(2-523)author than he can for himself. I remain, Dear Sir, Your  
(2-523)obliged humble servant, WALTER SCOTT

(2-523)ASHESTIEL, SELKIRKSHIRE, 3 August {c. 1811}

(2-523)Mr. Mayo, Bishop Lawton,<sup>2</sup> Near Barnstaple, Devon.  
[Brotherton]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(2-523)HERE have I been my dear Miss Baillie basking among  
(2-523)gooseberries and currants like an ungrateful pig for these  
(2-523)three weeks past without thinking of acknowleging  
(2-523)your kind and comfortable letter. It does me good to  
(2-523)hear that you are well and that you are working ; but  
(2-523)I am determined not to believe the unpleasant part of the  
(2-523)intelligence you give me namely that you intend to defer  
(2-523)the publication of your future plays untill a period when  
(2-523)(should I be then in the way to peruse them) the pleasure

(2-523)they must afford will be to me most painfully chequerd.

(2-523)So I will only thank you for your promised Xmas treat 3

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(2-524)without admitting your threatend declaration that it is to  
(2-524)be your foy. We would willingly try another play on  
(2-524)our little stage if you would give us an opportunity and  
(2-524)I really think, small as it is, you will be as worthily  
(2-524)associated with the pieces they have tried to bring out  
(2-524)as with the horse-play which seems to be the fashion of  
(2-524)Covent Garden outdoing even Johnsons prophecy that  
(2-524)upon these boards " Hunt might box, or Mahomet might  
(2-524)dance." We have one very intelligent accomplishd  
(2-524)young man in our theatre Terry by name who promises  
(2-524)to make a great figure and is indeed by far the least  
(2-524)pedantic and most agreeable of his profession whom I  
(2-524)ever met with. A great admirer of yours, that is included  
(2-524)in my ideas of dramatic excellence of course. He excels  
(2-524)in expressing the harsher and darker shades of passion  
(2-524)and I will certainly make him study the tragedy of fear  
(2-524)(with a view to getting it up) so soon as it comes out of  
(2-524)the press unless you rather chuse to trust us with an  
(2-524)unpublishd one. By the way I must not forget to say  
(2-524)that I saw Mr. Henderson in town some time ago and  
(2-524)that he settled his matters with Mr. Ballantyne to their  
(2-524)mutual satisfaction. I advised him before accepting  
(2-524)Mr. B's offer, which he was inclined to close with at  
(2-524)once, to write to Longmans house as they might chuse  
(2-524)to give a larger premium in order to keep all your  
(2-524)copyrights together. But upon enquiry I understand  
(2-524)he found Mr. B's offer most advantageous. The Family  
(2-524)Legend will always be a stock play in Edinburgh. It was  
(2-524)acted several times last winter and always brought good  
(2-524)houses. I shall most anxiously expect your volume so pray  
(2-524)dont forget to invoke Mr. Frelings talisman to waft it

(2-524)to me. I can hardly (in my impatience) admit your  
(2-524)rational apology for delaying the publication till a  
(2-524)congenial period and were it possible for me to hasten  
(2-524)the treat I expect, by such a composition with you, I  
(2-524)would promise to read the volume at the silence of  
(2-524)noonday upon the top of Minchmuir or Windlestraw-Law

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(2-525)-the hour is allowd by those skillful in daemonology to  
(2-525)be as full of witchery as midnight itself and I assure you  
(2-525)I have felt really oppressd with a sort of fearful sense of  
(2-525)loneliness when looking around the naked and towering  
(2-525)ridges of desolate barrenness which is all the eye takes in  
(2-525)from the top of such a mountain-the patches of cultivation  
(2-525)being all hidden in the little glens and vallies or  
(2-525)only appearing to make one sensible how feeble and  
(2-525)ineffectual the efforts of art have been to contend with  
(2-525)the genius of the soil. It is in such a scene that the  
(2-525)unknown author of a fine but unequal poem calld  
(2-525)Caledonia 1 places the remarkable superstition which  
(2-525)consists in hearing the noise of a chace with the baying  
(2-525)of the dogs the throttling sobs of the deer the hollo' of a  
(2-525)numerous train of huntsmen and the " hoofs thick  
(2-525)beating on the hollow hill." I have often repeated his  
(2-525)verses with some sensation of awe in such a place and I  
(2-525)am sure yours would effect their purpose as compleatly.  
(2-525)Nay I would bet on their effect even during the brilliancy  
(2-525)of the Princes fete so little does the charm of your poetry  
(2-525)depend upon mood and time. But all these considerations  
(2-525)will not accelerate the flight of the printers devil so  
(2-525)I must e'en have patience.

(2-525)Don Roderic has greatly exceeded my calculation as  
(2-525)to popularity. It is now to be squeezed into the Edinburgh  
(2-525)Annual Register which contains by the way a

(2-525)tolerable account of our actors and theatricals though  
(2-525)most imperfect and erroneous as far as the Family  
(2-525)Legend is commented upon. There is an article by a  
(2-525)Mocking Bird (not in caricature but in serious sadness)  
(2-525)who gives a good imitation of Crabbe, an indifferent one  
(2-525)of Moor and one of me which begins very well indeed

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(2-526)but falls off (as I think) grievously.<sup>1</sup> Ballantyne says if  
(2-526)the article is approved he expects for next year a scene in  
(2-526)imitation of Miss Baillie and also a ditty in the manner of  
(2-526)Southey. The author lies conceald as yet—Among the  
(2-526)striplings whose ill fate leads them to court the muses I  
(2-526)have lately found a young man whose genius appears to  
(2-526)me very uncommon considering he is but sixteen.<sup>2</sup> He  
(2-526)was with me a few days ago and brought me a little  
(2-526)goblin tale founded on a fact which has many of the faults  
(2-526)attachd to that slovenly composition, the German ballad,  
(2-526)but I think has also merits more than sufficient to redeem  
(2-526)them. You know I am none of those crimps for the Muses  
(2-526)who enlist boys under age nor am I by any means apt to  
(2-526)give encouragement to versifiers in general. I made  
(2-526)use of the youths application to me to direct his study  
(2-526)towards what appears to me the most useful and improving  
(2-526)branches of learning assuring him he could not be  
(2-526)a poet without a general acquaintance with letters. It  
(2-526)may turn out that he shall be no poet after all his peasant  
(2-526)promise and the labour I have imposed on him. But in  
(2-526)that case he will realize the fable of the dying peasant  
(2-526)who told his three idle sons of a treasure conceald in his

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(2-527)field. They trenched the ground in quest of it and found  
(2-527)no treasure indeed but a most excellent crop which

(2-527)rewarded their labours and explained their fathers  
(2-527)meaning. The young man is gentle amiable and unassuming.  
(2-527)During his stay here he told me with great  
(2-527)simplicity how much surprized he was to hear Harry  
(2-527)Mackenzie and I talk together like sportsmen and horse  
(2-527)jockies at some public place. I suppose he thought we  
(2-527)should have spoke in iambics-I tried to case-harden  
(2-527)him a little by carrying him a walking and riding but  
(2-527)desisted for fear of accidents after one or two sprains.  
(2-527)I send his ballad which he has promised greatly to  
(2-527)improve but I think it will divert you as it is. This  
(2-527)brings me to our amiable friend Mr. Coxe whose manners  
(2-527)and mildness of disposition I do entre nous like much  
(2-527)better than his poetry. He has beat me in the matter of  
(2-527)the brooch for I had imagined a dozen pretty things  
(2-527)about naiads and mermaids and St. Columbus and the  
(2-527)North and the South and Hampstead and the Hebrides-  
(2-527)but some how or other nothing came of it. My dreams  
(2-527)about my cottage go on. Of about no acres I have  
(2-527)manfully resolved to plant from 60 to 70-As to my scale  
(2-527)of dwelling why you shall see my plan when I have  
(2-527)adjusted it. My present intention is to have only two  
(2-527)spare-bedrooms, with dressingrooms each of which will  
(2-527)on pinch have a couch bed. But I cannot relinquish  
(2-527)my border principle of accommodating all the cousins  
(2-527)and dunawastles who will rather sleep on chairs and on  
(2-527)the floor and in the hayloft than be absent when folks  
(2-527)are gathered together-and truly I used to think Ashestiel  
(2-527)was very much like the tent of Peri Banou in the Arabian  
(2-527)nights that suited alike all numbers of company equally  
(2-527)well-ten people fill it at any time and I remember  
(2-527)its lodging thirtytwo without any complaints. As for  
(2-527)the go-about folks, they generally pay their score one  
(2-527)way or other, for you who are always in the way of  
(2-527)seeing and commanding and selecting your society are  
(2-527)too fastidious to understand how a dearth of news may

(2-528)make any body wellcome that can tell you the current  
(2-528)report of the day. If it is any pleasure to these  
(2-528)stragglers to say I made them welcome as strangers I am  
(2-528)sure that costs me nothing-only I deprecate publication  
(2-528)and am now the less afraid of it that I think scarce any  
(2-528)Bookseller will be desperate enough to print a new  
(2-528)Scottish tour. Besides one has the pleasure to tell over  
(2-528)all the stories that have bored your friends a dozen of  
(2-528)times with some degree of propriety to a stranger.  
(2-528)In short I think like a true Scotchman that a stranger  
(2-528)unless he is very unpleasant indeed usually brings a  
(2-528)title to a wellcome along with him and to confess the  
(2-528)truth I do a little envy my old friend Abou Hassan his  
(2-528)walks on the bridge of Bagdad and evening conversations  
(2-528)and suppers with the guests whom he was never to see  
(2-528)again in his life. He never fell into a scrape till he met  
(2-528)the Caliph and thank God no Caliphs frequent the Brigg  
(2-528)of Melrose which will be my nearest Rialto at Abbotsford.  
(2-528)I never heard of a stranger that utterly baffled all efforts  
(2-528)to engage him in conversation excepting one whom an  
(2-528)acquaintance of mine met in a stage-coach. My friend  
(2-528)who piqued himself on his talents for conversation assailed  
(2-528)this tortoise on all hands but in vain and at length  
(2-528)descended to expostulation " I have talkd to you my  
(2-528)friend on all the ordinary subjects literature farming  
(2-528)merchandise gaming and game-laws horse-races and  
(2-528)suits at law, politics and swindling and blasphemy and  
(2-528)philosophy-is there any one subject you will favour me  
(2-528)by opening upon ? " The wight writhed his countenance  
(2-528)into a grin " Sir " said he " can ye say onything clever  
(2-528)about bend leather ? " There I own I should have been  
(2-528)as much non-plussed as my acquaintance but upon any  
(2-528)less abstruse topic I think in general something may be

(2-528)made of a stranger worthy of his clean sheets and beef-  
(2-528)steak and glass of port. You indeed my dear friend may  
(2-528)suffer a little for me as I should for you when such a  
(2-528)fortuitous acquaintance talks of the intercourse arising

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(2-529)from our meeting as anything beyond the effect of chance  
(2-529)and civility. But these braggings break no bones and are  
(2-529)always a compliment to the person of whom the discourse  
(2-529)is held though the narrator means it to himself; for no  
(2-529)one can suppose the affectation of intimacy can be assumed  
(2-529)unless from an idea that it exalts the person who brags of it.

(2-529)My little folks are well and I am performing the  
(2-529)painful duty of hearing my little boy his latin lesson  
(2-529)every morning ; painful because my knowledge of the  
(2-529)language is more familiar than grammatical and because  
(2-529)little Walter has a disconsolate yawn at intervals that  
(2-529)is quite irresistible and has nearly cost me a dislocation  
(2-529)of my jaws. Charlotte is very well and joins me in the  
(2-529)most kind remembrances to Miss Agnes Baillie and  
(2-529)Mrs. Baillie. I fear (yet why should I say so in the  
(2-529)circumstances) that the fatal termination of the poor old  
(2-529)monarchs illness will soon (if it has not already) restore  
(2-529)Dr. Baillie to his family. I would I could augur well of  
(2-529)what is to follow-but alas ! a public defiance of morality  
(2-529)is but a bad bottoming for a new reign-it is incalculable  
(2-529)the weight which George III derived from his domestic  
(2-529)conduct. But we must hope the best and none is more  
(2-529)willingly to hope it than I who would do my little best for  
(2-529)the crown of England if it hung upon a hedge-stake.

(2-529)When I shall come to rummage your portfolio and eat  
(2-529)your pudding at Hampstead is very uncertain : if I  
(2-529)should walk in the morning after you receive my letter,

(2-529)pray do not take me for a wraith. But it is much more  
(2-529)likely I shall not see London for several years as I did not  
(2-529)come up this summer when I had real and serious business  
(2-529)to do. My most agreeable errand will be to claim the  
(2-529)promised communication of your future plans. Adieu  
(2-529)God bless you. W. SCOTT

(2-529)ASHESTIEL BY SELKIRK 4 August [1811 1]

[Abbotsford Copies and Royal College of Surgeons, London]

530                    LETTERS    OF                    1811

TO CHARLES ERSKINE

(2-530)[8th August, 1811]

(2-530)My DEAR CHARLES,-A report has reachd me that the  
(2-530)lands of Mr. Mercer adjoining to my new purchase arc  
(2-530)to be roupd at Melrose on Saturday. If this be true  
(2-530)pray procure me a note of the articles of roup as the  
(2-530)place lies very convenient for me. It will add much to  
(2-530)the favour if you can dine with me tomorrow yourself  
(2-530)when you will meet Lord Dalkeith & Ld Somerville. I  
(2-530)would take your coming up very kind as I really think  
(2-530)seriously of the land & would wish to consult with you  
(2-530)about it. If which is very possible you are engaged for  
(2-530)some other person you can nevertheless send me notice  
(2-530)about the articles of roup that I may consider what I am  
(2-530)to do yours very truly

(2-530)WALTER SCOTT

(2-530)ASHESTIEL Thursday evening

[Curle]

TO JAMES MONTGOMERY 1

(2-530)ASHESTIEL, Aug. 8, 1811

(2-530)SIR,-I am favoured with a copy of your paper in  
(2-530)which you have been so good as to insert an extract from  
(2-530)a late poetical attempt of mine with a very flattering  
(2-530)introduction. I the more readily embrace the opportunity  
(2-530)of returning thanks for your public attention  
(2-530)that I have been long desirous of an opportunity of  
(2-530)expressing the pleasure I have received from your poetry  
(2-530)and the interest I have taken in it. I assure you, Sir,  
(2-530)that having come late as a candidate into the literary  
(2-530)world, and being somewhat philosophical respecting the

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(2-531)popular applause, I am doubly sensible of the value of  
(2-531)the approbation of a man of talents, and that I am  
(2-531)respectfully. Your obliged humble servant,

(2-531)WALTER SCOTT

(2-531)Mr. Montgomery, Sheffield.

[Life of James Montgomery]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

(2-531)MY DEAR RICHARDSON,-I yesterday saw the announce  
(2-531)of your change of state<sup>1</sup> in the papers which gave me  
(2-531)sincere joy. I beg you will accept my best congratulations  
(2-531)on the subject with my hope that you will find the  
(2-531)marriage state what I am sure it will be to a man of your  
(2-531)sense & temper an alleviation of the necessary pains of  
(2-531)life and more than a duplication of its pleasures. Mrs.  
(2-531)Scott begs me to say that she claims an opportunity of

(2-531)being made acquainted with Mrs. Richardson whenever  
(2-531)your residence in Scotland will permit or our happening  
(2-531)to visit London of which last incident there is no speedy  
(2-531)chance. If you can visit Ashestiel before you leave  
(2-531)Scotland you know how happy you will make us & I will  
(2-531)shew you a bare haugh & a bleak bank by the side of the  
(2-531)Tweed on which I design to break a lance with Mother  
(2-531)Nature & make a paradise in spite of her. I have the  
(2-531)Tweed for my henchman for about a mile. I should not  
(2-531)otherwise speak so crouselly. If you can prevail on your  
(2-531)bonny bride therefore to " busk her & come to the braes  
(2-531)of Yarrow " you shall see peradventure what you shall  
(2-531)behold-

(2-531)I am greatly obliged to you for your attention to my  
(2-531)hobby horse & the very curious volume you have sent  
(2-531)me as forage for it, pray keep a good look out for me &  
(2-531)encourage me to request such a favour by letting me  
(2-531)know at your leisure the amount of my present debt.

(2-531)With best wishes & respects to Mrs. Richardson in

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(2-532)which Mrs. Scott begs leave to join I am always dear  
(2-532)Richardson most truly yours

(2-532)WALTER SCOTT

(2-532)ASHESTIEL, 14 August 1811

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO MRS. SCOTT, 33 GEORGE STREET EDINR.

(2-532)MY DEAR MOTHER,-I found your letter on our arrival

(2-532)from Mertoun where we had been for two or three days.  
(2-532)I had a few lines from Jack from London without any  
(2-532)direction how to write to him but I shall address to him  
(2-532)Cheltenham (not Chatham as you mistake it) and as the  
(2-532)post office people always are alert at these watering places  
(2-532)I am sure that will find him.

(2-532)Two days ago I bid as far as 6000,, for a farm which  
(2-532)lay near my little retreat but at length gave it up as far  
(2-532)beyond the value especially as another much more to  
(2-532)my purpose will be in the market in a year or two.

(2-532)I might perhaps have felt bolder on this subject had I  
(2-532)entertained further hope of having my salary made up  
(2-532)but the unfavourable state of the King's health makes so  
(2-532)happy a circumstance very unlikely. I am advised to  
(2-532)keep myself ready to go to London at a moment's  
(2-532)warning and have done so for this month past. But I  
(2-532)own I have little expectation from personal solicitation and  
(2-532)shall avoid the expense of a London journey if possible.  
(2-532)Lord and Lady Dalkeith have been staying with us for  
(2-532)two days-you would be delighted with them especially  
(2-532)with the Lady.

(2-532)I grieve to observe the death of poor Mr M. Montgomery  
(2-532)and can easily conceive the distress so unexpected  
(2-532)a misfortune in the family of a kind neighbour must have  
(2-532)given you. He was a very good and respected young man.

(2-532)I have a letter from Tom to the same purpose as yours.  
(2-532)Had he consented to an Indian appointment when he

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(2-533)went to the Isle I could easily have got it him. I hope  
(2-533)however times will come about yet & that I may be able

(2-533)to do something for my freinds. Thank God I have kept  
(2-533)myself independant of all political changes so far as  
(2-533)comfort & a respectable income is concernd.

(2-533)I had a letter from Mr. Donaldson about Fergusons  
(2-533)clerk upon whom as far as dilatoryness is concernd  
(2-533)his masters mantle has assuredly descended. I have  
(2-533)answerd Mr D. begging he might be brot. to a speedy  
(2-533)reckoning.

(2-533)The bairns are all well. I labour Walter daily in  
(2-533)Caesar and Virgil and on Sundays in Buchanans psalms  
(2-533)-a great exertion for my impatient temper-however  
(2-533)between yawning and scratching our head we get on  
(2-533)pretty well. Charlotte sends her kind love-in my  
(2-533)present unsettled state (which pray do not mention to a  
(2-533)human being) I cannot ask you to come here but if it  
(2-533)has a termination before our good weather has quite fled  
(2-533)I will send the carriage to meet you at Bankhouse and  
(2-533)you may bring Crookshanks or Jessy with you to take  
(2-533)care of you like a lady as you are. Believe me Dear  
(2-533)Mother your dutiful and affectionate Son

(2-533)WALTER SCOTT

(2-533)ASHESTIEL 14 August [1811]

[Law]

For DOCTOR LEYDEN, CALCUTTA 1

(2-533)Favoured by the Hon. Lady Hood.

(2-533)MY DEAR LEYDEN,-You hardly deserve I should write  
(2-533)to you for I have written you two long letters since I saw  
(2-533)Mr. Purves and receivd from [him] your valued dagger,

(2-534)which I preserve carefully till Bonaparte shall come or  
(2-534)send for it. I might take a cruel revenge on you for your  
(2-534)silence by declining Lady Hood's<sup>1</sup> request to make you  
(2-534)acquainted with her-in which case I assure you great  
(2-534)would be your loss. She is quite a congenial spirit an  
(2-534)ardent Scotswoman and devotedly attachd to those  
(2-534)sketches of traditionary history which all the waters of the  
(2-534)Burrampooter cannot I suspect altogether wash out of  
(2-534)your honour's memory. This however is the least of  
(2-534)her praises. She is generous and feeling and intelligent  
(2-534)and has contrived to keep her heart and social affections  
(2-534)vivid and awake amidst[t] the chilling and benumbing  
(2-534)atmosphere of London fashion. I ought perhaps first to  
(2-534)have told you that Lady Hood was the honble Mary  
(2-534)Mackenzie daughter of Lord Seaforth <sup>2</sup> and wife of Sir  
(2-534)Samuel Hood one of our most distinguishd naval heroes  
(2-534)who goes out to take the command in your seas. Lastly  
(2-534)she is a very intimate friend of Mrs. Scott's and myself  
(2-534)and first gaind my heart by her admiration of the  
(2-534)Scenes of Infancy. So you see my good friend what  
(2-534)your laziness would have cost you if listening rather to  
(2-534)the dictates of revenge and generosity I had withheld my  
(2-534)pen from the inkhorn. But to confess the truth I fear two  
(2-534)such similar minds would have found each other out like  
(2-534)good dancers at a ball room, without the assistance of a  
(2-534)Master of ceremonies. So I may even as well play Sir  
(2-534)Clement Cotterel <sup>3</sup> with a good grace since I cannot  
(2-534)further my vengeance by withholding my good offices.  
(2-534)My last letter went by favour of John Pringle who carried  
(2-534)you a copy of the Lady of the Lake a poem which I really  
(2-534)think you will like better than Marmion on the whole  
(2-534)though not perhaps in particular passages. Pray let me

(2-535)know if it carried you back to the land of mist and  
(2-535)mountain ?

(2-535)Lady Hoods departure being sudden and your deserts  
(2-535)not extraordinary (speaking as a correspondt.) I have  
(2-535)not time to write you much news. The best domestic  
(2-535)intelligence is that the Sheriff of Selkirkshire his lease  
(2-535)of Ashestiel being out has purchased about 100 acres  
(2-535)extending along the banks of the Tweed just above the  
(2-535)confluence of the Gala and about three miles from Melrose.  
(2-535)There saith fame he designs to bigg himself a minstrel  
(2-535)bower sibi et amicis and happy will he [be] when India  
(2-535)shall restore you to a social meal at his cottage. The place  
(2-535)looks at present very like " poor Scotland's gear " ; it  
(2-535)consists of a bank and a haugh as poor and bare as Sir John  
(2-535>Falstaff's regiment but I fear, ere you come to see, the  
(2-535)verdant screen I am about to spread over its nakedness  
(2-535)will in some degree have removed this reproach. But it  
(2-535)has a wild solitary air and commands a splendid reach  
(2-535)of the Tweed for about a mile and, to sum all up in the  
(2-535)words of Touchstone, " it is a poor thing, but mine own."

(2-535)Our little folks whom you left infants are now shooting  
(2-535)fast forward to youth and shew some blood as far as  
(2-535)aptitude to learning is concernd. Charlotte and I are  
(2-535)wearing on as easily as this fasheous world will permit;  
(2-535)the outside of my head is waxing grizzled but I cannot  
(2-535)find that the snow has coold my brain or my heart.  
(2-535)Adieu dear Leyden pray brighten the chain of friendship  
(2-535)by a letter when occasion serves and believe me ever  
(2-535)Yours most affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

(2-535)ASHESTIEL 25 Augt 1811

[Walpole Collection]

TO CHARLES CARPENTER

(2-535)ASHESTIEL 25 Augst. 1811

(2-535)MY DEAR CARPENTER,-I take the opportunity of Sir

(2-535)Samuel Hoods going out to command in your Indian seas

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(2-536)to enquire after your welfare & that of Mrs. Carpenter  
(2-536)& at the same time to make you known should circumstances  
(2-536)permit to the very accomplish'd & pleasing  
(2-536)woman who takes charge of this letter. Lady Hood is by  
(2-536)birth a daughter of Lord Seaforth one of our greatest  
(2-536)Highland Chiefs & a keen 1 Scotchwoman. So I hope  
(2-536)Mrs. Carpenter & she will be agreeable to each other as  
(2-536)country women ; although I fear there is small chance of  
(2-536)your being at Madras in case the Admirals vessel touches  
(2-536)there. If it should fortunately happen otherwise you  
(2-536)will I am sure be glad to see a valued friend of Charlotte  
(2-536)& me & Lady Hood will I know be happy in making your  
(2-536)acquaintance. She has always lived in the first circles  
(2-536)of society in London but deserves regard still more from  
(2-536)her valuable personal qualities than from her rank &  
(2-536)manners. Sir Samuel Hood is an amiable unaffected  
(2-536)man & as much distinguish'd by his gentle & unassuming  
(2-536)manners in society as by his professional gallantry of  
(2-536)which he has given so many proofs. I have very little  
(2-536)domestic news to send you : our little people are shooting  
(2-536)fast up from childhood towards youth & shew promising  
(2-536)disposition both for morals & learning : your namesake  
(2-536)& godson little Charles seems to be the cleverest of the  
(2-536)party & indeed exceeds any child at his age I have ever  
(2-536)seen. As my lease of this place is out, I have bought, for

(2-536)about 4000, a property in the neighbourhood, extending  
(2-536)along the banks of the river Tweed for about half-a-mile.  
(2-536)It is very bleak at present, having little to recommend it  
(2-536)but the vicinity of the river ; but as the ground is well  
(2-536)adapted by nature to grow wood, and is considerably  
(2-536)various in form and appearance, I have no doubt that  
(2-536)by judicious plantations it may be rendered a very  
(2-536)pleasant spot; and it is at present my great amusement  
(2-536)to plan the various lines which may be necessary for that  
(2-536)purpose. The farm comprehends about a hundred acres,  
(2-536)of which I shall keep fifty in pasture and tillage, and plant

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(2-537)all the rest, which will be a very valuable little possession  
(2-537)in a few years, as wood bears a high price among us. I  
(2-537)intend building a small cottage here for my summer  
(2-537)abode, being obliged by law, as well as induced by  
(2-537)inclination, to make this county my residence for some  
(2-537)months every year.<sup>1</sup> This is the greatest incident which  
(2-537)has lately taken place in our domestic concerns, and I  
(2-537)assure you we are not a little proud of being greeted as  
(2-537)laird and lady of Abbotsford. We will give a grand gala  
(2-537)when we take possession of it, and as we are very clannish  
(2-537)in this corner, all the Scotts in the country, from the Duke  
(2-537)to the peasant, shall dance on the green to the bagpipes,  
(2-537)and drink whisky punch. Now as this happy festival is  
(2-537)to be deferred for more than a twelve-month, during  
(2-537)which our cottage is to be built, &c. &c., what is there to  
(2-537)hinder brother and sister Carpenter from giving us their  
(2-537)company upon so gratifying an occasion ? Pray, do not  
(2-537)stay broiling yourself in India for a moment longer than  
(2-537)you have secured comfort and competence. Don't  
(2-537)look forward to peace ; it will never come either in your  
(2-537)day or mine.

(2-537)Nor do public matters at home look very consoling :  
(2-537)the poor old King is so very ill that death will be a  
(2-537)deliverance which may soon be expected. All parties  
(2-537)look up to & claim an interest with the Prince whose plan  
(2-537)seems to be to rely upon none of them, but breaking them  
(2-537)up by a partial distribution of his favor to form an  
(2-537)administration dependant only on the Sovereign & not  
(2-537)upon any public man or party leader : this is all very  
(2-537)well should such an administration prove successful &  
(2-537)popular, but if otherwise the public resentment which in  
(2-537)other cases is confined to the ministers may in that  
(2-537)supposition take a higher object. God turn all to the  
(2-537)best but at present our prospects are very unsettled.  
(2-537)Adieu my dear Carpenter : your sister sends kindest love

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LETTERS OF

1811

(2-538)to Mrs. C. & you : I daily scold her for her silence & she  
(2-538)promises to write as I naturally judge she will know better  
(2-538)what can interest you than I : but to say truth though  
(2-538)your sister & my wife she is the worst pen woman I  
(2-538)ever saw. Your affectionate brother

(2-538)WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies and Fraser Memoirs.]

TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

(2-538)DEAR SIR,-Yours of the 16th owing partly to delay &  
(2-538)partly to my absence from Ashestiel reached me only this  
(2-538)day and as your tour may be prolonged still leaves me  
(2-538)hope that you will find this at Edinburgh. If so the  
(2-538)purpose is to beseech that " being so far into the bowels  
(2-538)of the Land " you will allow me the pleasure of shewing  
(2-538)you the banks of the Tweed and braes of Yarrow and of  
(2-538)thanking you personally for the many favours you have

(2-538)honoured me with. This little cottage is just 30 miles  
(2-538)from Edinburgh and seven miles short of Selkirk ; if  
(2-538)you care for that sort of conveyance the mail will set you  
(2-538)down within a mile of my dwelling at a small hamlet  
(2-538)called Clovenford. You have but to name the day and  
(2-538)I will have a servant waiting for you with a chaise :1 if you  
(2-538)cannot do that let the ostler shoulder your portmanteau  
(2-538)and shew you the way to Ashestiel shout lustily for the  
(2-538)boat over the Tweed and you will be with us in an  
(2-538)instant. I will never forgive you unless you make this  
(2-538)digression in my favour and make your stay withal as  
(2-538)long as you possibly can. I will shew you all that is  
(2-538)memorable in our wilds and set you safely upon your  
(2-538)journey in any direction your mind gives you to. If you  
(2-538)make any stay in Edinburgh and really cannot conveniently  
(2-538)come here why then Mahomet must come to  
(2-538)the Mountain. I would have shewn you the way here  
(2-538)at any rate but am detained by the necessity of concluding

1811

539

SIR WALTER SCOTT

(2-539)some arrangements this week respecting the purchase of  
(2-539)a small farm, which will detain me here (but not occupy  
(2-539)my leisure) till after Thursday when I will wait upon you  
(2-539)in Edinburgh should it not be convenient for you to  
(2-539)come here. Pray write when this comes to hand. Our  
(2-539)Selkirk post leaves Edinr at 2 in the afternoon, & I get  
(2-539)the letter at 8 next morning. Yours truly in hopes of a  
(2-539)speedy meeting

WALTER SCOTT

(2-539)ASHESTIEL 25th Aug. [1811]

(2-539)On Thursday I must dine with the seller of my land  
(2-539)but can easily make you welcome there where you will  
(2-539)see the humours of some of our Yeomanry. Should you  
(2-539)want a Cicerone in Edinburgh, Will you call on my friend

(2-539)John Ballantyne who will be proud to give you his  
(2-539)assistance in every way if you exhibit this postscript.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(2-539)DEAR SIR,-Mr. Hartstongue, who takes the trouble of  
(2-539)this letter, has been indefatigable in his researches for  
(2-539)the enlargement & improvement of the edition of Swift.  
(2-539)He tells me that Mr. Mercier, 1 bookseller, Dublin, sent  
(2-539)to your shop for my use in that edition " A Proposal for  
(2-539)A Hospital for Incurables." I hope it reached you safely  
(2-539)and that you can find it for me, as it is a scarce and  
(2-539)valuable tract. I remain etc.

(2-539)WALTER SCOTT

(2-539)ASHESTIEL 4th September [1811]  
[Rosebery]

1811            540            LETTERS

TO ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD

(2-540)MY best thanks, my dear lady marchioness, attend  
(2-540)your kind grant of my boon. The acorns, with the  
(2-540)arrival of which you flatter me, will come most safely by  
(2-540)any Leith vessell to the care of Messrs. Ballantyne and  
(2-540)Company, booksellers, Edinburgh. I make it a rule to  
(2-540)get as much work out of these gentlemen as I possibly can.  
(2-540)I hope my little grove will so flourish as to deserve being  
(2-540)honoured by the name of the distinguished donor.

(2-540)I had a letter (a melancholy one) some time ago from  
(2-540)dear Lady Hood. She is a real loss to her friends, for

(2-540)we shall hardly find such another mixture of enthusiasm  
(2-540)with gaiety and good humour and unaffected simplicity.  
(2-540)But it is quite right she should go out with Sir Samuel,  
(2-540)and I think she will be better amused with her stay in  
(2-540)India than she seems at present to anticipate. If it is  
(2-540)not quite the money-making place it once was, our  
(2-540)eastern empire is considerably improved in point of  
(2-540)society, and I hope Lady Hood will find many (at least  
(2-540)among the gentlemen, for I don't anticipate highly of  
(2-540)Indian ladies) whose conversation will interest and  
(2-540)amuse her. And then there is the novelty of the scene,  
(2-540)with the change of manners and the mixture of eastern  
(2-540)magnificence with European elegance, and the dignity  
(2-540)of the situation which our friend will not dislike. In  
(2-540)short, when the long and dull passage is once over, I trust  
(2-540)she will find herself well disposed to relish her new and  
(2-540)in some degree dreaded situation.

(2-540)As for Bandello, he is such an entertaining fellow, and  
(2-540)shews such an odd picture of life during the feudal ages  
(2-540)in Italy, that to quarrel with him for the coarsness and  
(2-540)polissonerie of his time would be like shunning a wild  
(2-540)and romantic walk for a few miry sloughs which may be  
(2-540)stepped over as lightly as the passenger pleases. I beg your  
(2-540)ladyship will not fail to read Webster's old play. If it  
(2-540)were not treason to suppose that all that is rare and

(2-541)curious is to be found on the shelves at Cleveland House  
(2-541)I would refer you to a late collection of old plays in  
(2-541)3 volumes, double columns, printed by Miller, Albemarle  
(2-541)Street, 1 in which it was inserted at my particular request.  
(2-541)There is in it an odd and in some degree a terrific mixture  
(2-541)of what is wild and extravagant with the simple, pathetic,  
(2-541)and even childish turn of other places. I have not, I

(2-541)believe, a very good head for criticism, for it, certainly is  
(2-541)not selon les regles to be more affected by this sort of  
(2-541)patch-work, than by regular scenes where every thing  
(2-541)mean and trifling is compleately excluded, and the mind  
(2-541)visited by nothing but what is meant to be in unison with  
(2-541)tragic feeling. I do not know whether it is the spirit of  
(2-541)contradiction, or whether the very pains taken to render  
(2-541)every thing uniform, which never actually occurs in  
(2-541)nature, but I feel terribly inclined to be hard hearted in  
(2-541)the latter case, whereas I often light upon passages in  
(2-541)these old neglected dramatists which, from the very  
(2-541)strange and unexpected manner in which they are introduced,  
(2-541)make the very blood tingle. I have the first  
(2-541)edition of Bandello, now a very rare book in 3 volumes  
(2-541)quarto and one 12mo. It has a great number of prefaces,  
(2-541)and I believe some tales which were abridged in the  
(2-541)later editions, excepting one printed at London about  
(2-541)1760, which is compleat. These prefaces often contain  
(2-541)some thing relative to the tales, and when I go to Edinburgh  
(2-541)I will look at that prefixd to the Duchess of  
(2-541)Amalphi.

(2-541)I beg your ladyship will have the goodness to make  
(2-541)my most respectful compliments to the marquis, and am  
(2-541)ever, your ladyship's honour'd and obliged humble servant,

(2-541)ASHISTIEL, 11 September 1811.                      WALTER SCOTT,  
[The Sutherland Book]

LETTERS      OF              1811                      542

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

[September 1811]

(2-542)MY DEAR MORRITT,-I don't delay long to thank you

(2-542)for your land offer of acorns which I will accept with the  
(2-542)greatest pleasure provided always the forwarding them  
(2-542)does not cost you-too much trouble. As they are in the  
(2-542)South riding I should think a bushel might be sent from  
(2-542)Hull to Leith as there is a good deal of intercourse between  
(2-542)these ports. I assure you I will plant them in your name  
(2-542)with my own hands and those of my little people and  
(2-542)we will promise ourselves a Morritt grove when the fit time  
(2-542)shall come round. Next year as I shall have properly  
(2-542)speaking no place of residence in the country I hope to  
(2-542)be a wanderer and to brighten the chain of friendship at  
(2-542)Rokeby. I should like very much to go into Wales if I  
(2-542)could get any good companion but I don't much approve  
(2-542)of travelling alone-there are so many good things which  
(2-542)rot in one's gizzard as Sancho pathetically complaind  
(2-542)during the interval when the Don imposed silence upon  
(2-542)him!-

(2-542)I am quite happy that there is to be an union between  
(2-542)the houses of Lindsay and Pennington.1 Lady Balcarras  
(2-542)used to be my patroness many a day ago when like  
(2-542)a great shy lubberly boy as I was I used to be very  
(2-542)proud of the shelter of her countenance at parties and a  
(2-542)seat in her box at the theatre where she was a constant  
(2-542)attendant. Lady Anne Lindsay had great taste particularly  
(2-542)for painting. She does not indeed place  
(2-542)mountains on their apex like that of Taranta in Bruce's  
(2-542)travels or those of Selkirkshire in Miss Lydia White's  
(2-542)drawings but what her representations lose in the  
(2-542)wonderful they gain in nature and beauty. It happend  
(2-542)by accident that a brother of Lord Balcarras dined here  
(2-542)when I received your letter and I made him happy by

(2-543)telling him his nephew met the approbation of a friend

(2-543)of Lord Muncaster and of one who was likely (as much so  
(2-543)as any one I know) to take a lively interest in an event  
(2-543)which affected the happiness of a friends family.

(2-543)The Edinburgh reviewers have been down on my poor  
(2-543)Don Roderic hand to fist but truly as they are too fastidious  
(2-543)to approve of the campaign I should be very unreasonable  
(2-543)if I expected them to like the celebration thereof. I  
(2-543)agree with you respecting the lumbering weight of the  
(2-543)stanza and I shrewdly suspect it would require a very  
(2-543)great poet indeed to prevent the tedium arising from  
(2-543)the frequent recurrence of rhimes. Our language is  
(2-543)unable to support the expenditure of so many for each  
(2-543)stanza : even Spenser himself with all the licenses of using  
(2-543)obsolete words and uncommon spelling sometimes fatigues  
(2-543)the ear. They are also very wroth with me for omitting  
(2-543)the merits of Sir John Moore.<sup>1</sup> But as I never exactly  
(2-543)discoverd in what these lay unless in conducting his  
(2-543)advance and retreat upon a plan the most likely to verify  
(2-543)the desponding speculations of the foresaid reviewers I  
(2-543)must hold myself excused for not giving praise where I  
(2-543)was unable to see that much was due.

(2-543)The only literary news I have to send to you is that  
(2-543)Lucien Bonapartes Epic in 24 Chants is about to appear.  
(2-543)An application was made to me to translate it which  
(2-543)I negatived of course and that roundly. I believe Tom  
(2-543)Campbell will be next requested to do into English  
(2-543)Charlemagne ou La Rome Delivree <sup>2</sup> for such is the title  
(2-543)of this threatend publication.

544        LETTERS OF SIR WALTER SCOTT        1811

(2-544)Charlotte sends best love to Mrs. Morritt and I am ever  
(2-544)Dear Morritt Yours most truly

(2-544)WALTER SCOTT

[Law]