TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(4-1)DEAR JAMES,-I cannot I think make what you want 
(4-1)of a good tone or so as to harmonize well with what is 
(4-1)already written. I could easily I think please your 
(4-1)partiality but I cannot, please myself especially as I think 
(4-1)the sheet rounded off as it stands. If I alter my mind 
(4-1)I will let you know before the sheet can go to press but 
(4-1)I have already lost too much time about it.

(4-1)I send you more Guy.1 It is time to think of mottoes.

(4-1)The 1st. Chapter.

(4-1)" He cannot deny that looking round upon the dreary 
(4-1)region & seeing nothing but bleak fields & naked trees 
(4-1)hills obscured by fogs & flats coverd with inundations he 
(4-1)did for some time suffer melancholy to prevail upon him 
(4-1)& wishd himself again safe at home."

(4-1)Travels of Will Marvel. Idler No 49.
(4-1)Second Chapt.

(4-1)-- Comes me crankling 2 in, 
(4-1)And cuts me from the best of all my land 
(4-1)A huge half moon a monstrous cantle out-

(4-1)Henry fourth p. I.
(4-1)Third Chapter.

(4-1)There is a good mottoe for this in Byroms poems which 
(4-1)are in the Chalmers collection of British poets. Will 
(4-1)you see to get me sight of thi[s] volume.3       W. S.
DEAR JAMES,-It is quite impossible to alter Bruces
speech & more than impossible to take away the letter. I
The art of writing not universal was however perfectly
known among females of high rank. How could Isabel
recognize a ring she had never seen & how long conversations
& interviews would be necessary to clear the matter
up. It may not be. You blame me for introducing dialogue
but you [are] not aware that the incidents which must
be known would be still flatter in the mouth of the
author himself than in those of the actors. I mention
this only to show that when I am dull there is a design.
I wish to see John very much either tonight or tomorrow
morning. But it may be necessary to remind him that
I go abroad by 1/2 past 9.

TO LORD BYRON 2

MY LORD,-I have long owed you my best thanks for
the uncommon pleasure I had in perusing your high-
spirited Turkish fragment. But I should hardly have
ventured to offer them, well knowing how you must be
overwhelmed by volunteer intrusions of approbation-
(which always look as if the writer valued his opinion at
fully more than it may be worth)—unless I had to-day
learned that I have an apology for entering upon the
subject, from your having so kindly sent me a copy of the
poem. I did not receive it sooner, owing to my absence
from Edinburgh, where it had been lying quietly at
my house in Castle Street; so that I must have seemed
ungrateful, when, in truth, I was only modest. The last
offence may be forgiven, as not common in a lawyer and
poet; the first is said to be equal to the crime of witchcraft, I
but many an act of my life hath shown that I am
no conjurer. If I were, however, ten times more modest
than twenty years' attendance at the Bar renders probable,
your flattering inscription would cure me of so unfashionable
a malady. I might, indeed, lately have had a legal
title to as much supremacy on Parnassus as can be
conferred by a sign-manual, for I had a very flattering
offer of the laurel; but as I felt obliged, for a great
many reasons, to decline it, I am altogether unconscious
of any other title to sit high upon the forked hill.

To return to the Giaour; I had lent my first edition,
but the whole being imprinted in my memory, I had no
difficulty in tracing the additions, which are great
improvements, as I should have conjectured beforehand
merely from their being additions. I hope your Lordship
intends to proceed with this fascinating style of composition.

You have access to a stream of sentiments, imagery,
and manners, which are so little known to us as to convey
all the interest of novelty, yet so endeared to us by the
early perusal of Eastern tales, that we are not embarrassed
with utter ignorance upon the subject. Vathek, bating
some passages, would have made a charming subject for a tale. The conclusion is truly grand. I would give a great deal to know the originals from which it was drawn.

Excuse this hasty scrawl, and believe me, my Lord, your Lordship's much obliged, very humble servant,

[Lockhart] WALTER SCOTT

TO MESSRS. CONSTABLE & CO.

January 1815

DEAR SIR,-Respecting the insurance I may thus far meet the gentlemens wishes (if insisted upon) though it puts the bargain in an entire new shape & quite different from their own offer. I intend to insure my own life for about that sum (say 5000.) & if the annuity is to be granted for my life I have no great objection to let them have the benefit of that policy for the whole or such part of the price of the annuity as may be unredeemd at my death. But if the annuity is to depend upon another persons life as in the present bond I cannot do this. You will readily observe the difference is great for supposing the annuity redeemd as I trust it will be in a couple of years I have all the benefit of the policy in my own life but of course am a loser by all I may have paid upon that of another person. I think however they should stick to their own precise & distinct offer of 8-per Cent. Yours Very truly WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. friday

Private.

[Stevenson]
TO LADY ABERCORN

(4-5)EDINR., January 10th 1815

(4-5)MY DEAREST FRIEND.-I hope you have long since received the Lord of the Isles one of the first Volumes out of the press was sent to you under an office cover. I could not superintend the sending away these copies as usual because we were rather a complaining family as the Scotch say. My eldest boy has contrived to have a decided smallpox in defiance not only of Vaccination but inoculation thereafter. You may be assured we were alarmed enough for the appearance of the Smallpox in this generation is like one of the giants in Ariosto who comes alive after he is killed. Nothing could be more easy than the manner in which he had the disorder and he is now quite well. I propose to exhibit him along with the Indian Jugglers who are just arrived as the youngster that has had the smallpox naturally after both vaccination and inoculation. I trust this matter will be closely looked into by medical men for it will be a very serious business fifty years hence should the smallpox break out suddenly as probably the lower class may neglect the vaccinating operation or go through it superficially.

The world do me too much honour in giving me [blank in original]. I What I know or rather guess about that work I will tell your Ladyship when we meet which will be soon as I expect to be in London in the month of March. I think I shall bring Mrs. Scott and your Ladyship's acquaintance Sophia with me and be about a month in London. If it were not for the equinox gales which may make it uncomfortable for my companions I would come up by sea for if there is a route I am tired
of it is that vile North road which has less to interest one
than the same extent in any direction in Great Britain.

My plan for last spring was to have gone to the Continent
when I should have seen the great Entree into
Paris. I was pretty sure of the light of Lord Aberdeen's
countenance if I could have joint the grand army and
might have hoped for Lord Castlereagh's also. At any
rate if a horse or a mule could be got I should have gone
on very well for few people submit with more indifference
to want of accommodation of all kinds. I was disappointed
in this by very exaggerated reports of the difficulty of
passing through Flanders and especially getting past
Antwerp and Bergen-op-zoom: I was so angry at not
seeing the grand crash that I had little curiosity about the
subsequent part of the entertainment that was performed
here.

As for my Irish journey it was a mere excursion of
twenty-four hours for we were not longer upon the coast
than was necessary to visit the causeway excepting a
few minutes at Port Rush where I saw your Ladyship's
friend Dr. Richardson. I was only one of a large party
so that I could hardly have escaped from my friends even
to the hospitality of Barons Court though nothing would
have delighted me more than to have surprized you on
Irish ground.

Charlotte bids me enclose the bill of the linen draper
as the best answer to your Ladyships question—the note
below refers to a table cloth which Mrs. S. thinks very
handsome & which will dine 22 people but it is single not
double damask & though it looks as well will not be so
(4-6)durable as the other. Mrs. S. however says it is very
(4-6)beautiful & any commands your Ladyship honours her
(4-6)with she will of course have great pleasure in attending to.
(4-6)She begs her most respectful remembrances to your
(4-6)Ladyship.

(4-6)As for the Lord of the Isles I think it is my last poetical
(4-6)adventure at least upon a large scale-I swear not

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT

(4-7)because I do not make any positive resolution. But I
(4-7)think I have written enough and it is unlikely that I shall
(4-7)change my opinion.

(4-7)I beg to be most respectfully remembered to the
(4-7)Marquis. Sophia is much honoured in your remembrance
(4-7)she is now growing a great girl and is very sensible
(4-7)and good-humoured and [is] a great comfort to Charlotte
(4-7)and me. Indeed if one dare judge [from] what appears
(4-7)in early life my young people are all well disposed.

(4-7)Next to seeing the great men themselves nothing can
(4-7)equal beholding them on the canvas of Lawrence who is
(4-7)one of the first geniuses of his art and merits his extended
(4-7)fame. That is a pleasure I propose to receive soon.-
(4-7)Believe me ever Dear Lady Abercorn your truly grateful
(4-7)and affectionate friend WALTER SCOTT

[Peterpont Morgan]

TO DANIEL TERRY

(4-7)Januy 15. 1815
(4-7)MY DEAR TERRY,-I have been guilty too long in
(4-7)saying my Gratulor 1 which has been only owing to
(4-7)the uncertainty of how far it might not have been paid
in person. For you must know that the late remarkable change of events has induced me to go for a week or two to the Continent just to hear the Grenadiers March resounded from the Walls of Paris where an English drum has not been struck for such a number of years. But my good wishes are not the less warm for their being late in arriving. I do most sincerely hope & trust that you will find in the well assorted union that you have formed that domestic happiness which after all forms the most delightful as well as the purest portion of human pleasure. The little difficulties which usually occur to a couple on entering upon the married life are easily faced & surmounted where there is mutual affection & that prudence which is its necessary consequence. I need not mention that when Mrs. Terry makes her arrangements for continuing the practice of an art to which she does so much honour, she will give me most sincere & unaffected pleasure if my acquaintance among London folks can be of the slightest use in making her merit known which is all that it requires to make its own way. Charlotte & all my little folks join in cordial good wishes. I am here just for a few days & can assure you that Abbotsford is now looking delightful & repaying with interest the many hours labour that you & I bestowed both upon plans & execution some three years since. The young wood upon the bank begins to appear herisse & tufty even at some distance: the flowers &c were in full bloom & fragrance & you never saw anything more neat & at the same time more minute than all our internal accommodations. I will be delighted when I can shew all these things to Mrs. Terry & you though I can hardly expect so much credit from the fair lady who never saw the unpromising state in which I found the subject of
So this strange eventful history of Politics has after all changed like the scene in the Rehearsal & Boney like his brothers of Brentford.

Ere a pot of good ale you could swallow
Is come with a whoop & is gone with a, hollo.

Adieu my dear Terry. I have a thousand things pressing on me at once. Remember me kindly to Matthews.

I hope he will never be in Scotland without seeing me as he has never been without my seeing him. I beg compts also to Messrs Fawcett & Listen. But particularly & kindly I beg all best wishes of regard & remembrance to Mrs. Terry in Which Mrs. Scott joins.

Ever yours very truly WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT

TO JOHN GULL, 44 WEYMOUTH STREET, PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON

DEAR SIR.-The distress of my family beginning with my wifes indisposition and continuing with the illness of my eldest boy who has been visited with the small pox or something very like that old-fashioned distemper in a very alarming way has prevented the possibility of my applying myself to any poetical or literary labour & in particular from attempting to comply with the request with which the Highland Society of London have been pleased to honour me. I feel great reluctance at any time to make this sort of exertion for which any poetical talent I may have is peculiarly ill qualified. But I would much rather appear an indifferent poet than seem to be
ungrateful to a body of my countrymen assembled for so honorable & useful a purpose and who have honoured me with such a mark of their esteem. I must trust to your goodness to make my excuse acceptable to the gentlemen & to my Lord Breadalbane as their Preses and to assure [them] that nothing but the unfavourable circumstances I have mentiond should have prevented my attempting to obey their commands. I have been late in answering your obliging letter in hopes the causes of my excuse might have been more speedily removed. But though greatly mended our health continues still indifferent and my harp is in the meanwhile hung upon the willows.

The circumstance if it prove authentic of your having it in your power to relieve a grand Child of the adventurous Chevalier is extremely interesting. I am Dear Sir Very much your obliged humble Serv.

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 15 January 1815

MY DEAR FRIEND,- Your kind remembrance wandered wide and rounded the Selkirkshire hills while I was tossing upon the German and Atlantic ocean. For you must know I have been on a voyage since I had the pleasure to send you a copy of that Swift to which your kindness has given so much value. I had the benefit of a handsome yacht belonging to the Commissioners of the
Northern lighthouses and as a committee of these gentlemen all intimate acquaintances made the tour along with me it was despite some rough weather quite delightful. We visited Shetland and Orkney, rounded the Northern extremity of Scotland, traversed the Archipelago of the Hebrides, ran over to your green Erin and saw the Giant's Causeway and would probably have proceeded as far as Dublin but were scared by the American cruisers then scouring the Channel. I regretted much seeing Irish land and none of the warm and most obliging friends to whom I have been so much indebted, but our ship was our house and our party too numerous to travel comfortably by land. I just had my foot upon the land which I love and respect so much and had the pleasure to hear the national dialect which to me will ever sound like the tongue of friendship. We were much struck with the Giant's Causeway which we examined one day with the advantage of the finest weather.

I trust by this you have received a quarto of mine (the last 4to I intend to write) called the Lord of the Isles and arising in part out of this tour. I will be happy to hear that it reaches you safe and gives you pleasure. Constable our publisher here has sent this and one or two other tokens of remembrance of this same kind to Cuming (I think) of Dublin. It has been published here about ten days since.

Wonderful indeed have been the circumstances which have brought about peace to Europe and frantic must be the madness that would again draw the sword for petty and individual interest. And yet to say truth I have more reliance upon the exhausted state of the
Continental in point of wealth and military resources than
upon wisdom and moderation in my hopes that peace will
be maintained. I could have wished that the Americans
had felt the force of this country in such a manner as
would have deterred them in future from being rash in
breaking with us. But the opportunity has somehow
been neglected and that negligence is surely an argument
for than against peace.

Adieu, my dear Sir, I expect to be in London in March,
and would be happy to think I might have the pleasure
of meeting you there though I would be still happier if
there were a prospect of seeing you in this land of heath
and mountain. I will have an opportunity of seeing
Gifford and renewing our acquaintance which from
laziness in writing upon my part has quite ceased for
two years past. I will not forget the Lines and I anticipate
the pleasure I shall have in perusing them. I who
am a sorry scholar am particularly benefited by your
labour for making much curious information accessible
to me. Ever my dear sir Your truly obliged

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 18th January 1815.

A general direction W. S. Advocate Edinburgh always
finds me.

[Abbotsford Copies]

12        LETTERS OF  1815

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

EDINR. 19 January 1815
MY DEAR MORRITT,—I have been very foolishly putting off my writing until I should have time for a good long epistle and it is astonishing what a number of trifles have interfered to prevent my commencing on a great scale. The last of these has been rather of an extraordinary kind for your little friend Walter has chose to make himself the town-talk by taking what seemed to be the small-pox despite of vaccination in infancy and inoculation with the variolous matter thereafter, which last I resorted to by way of making assurance double sure. The medical gentleman who attended him is of opinion that he has had the real small pox but it shall never be averd by me for the catastrophe of Tom Thumb is enough to deter any thinking person from entering into a feud with the Cows. Walter is quite well again which was the principal matter I was interested in. We had very nearly been in a bad scrape for I had fixed the Monday on which Walter sickend to take him with me for the Christmas vacation to Abbotsford—it is probable that he would not have pleaded his headache when there was such a party in view especially as we were to shoot wild ducks one day together at Cauldshiels loch and what the consequence of such a journey might have been God alone knows.

I am clear of the Lord of the Isles and I trust you have your copy. It closes my poetic labours upon an extended scale [but] that I dare say I shall always be dabbling in rhime untiill the Solvejam senescentem. I directed the copy to be sent to Portland place. I want to shake myself free of Waverley and accordingly have made a considerable exertion to finish an odd little tale 1 within such time as will mistify the public I trust unless they suppose me to

SIR WALTER SCOTT 1815 13
be Briareus. Two volumes are already printed and the only persons in my confidence W. Erskine and Ballantyne are of opinion it is much more interesting than Waverley. It is a tale of private life and only varied by the perilous exploits of smugglers and excisemen. The success of Waverley has given me a spare hundred or two which I have resolved to spend in London this spring bringing up Charlotte and Sophia with me. I do not forget my English freinds but I fear they will forget me unless I show face now and then. My correspondence gradually drops as must happen when people do not meet and I long to see Ellis Heber Gifford and one or two more. I dont include Mrs. Morritt and you because we are much nearer neighbours and within a whoop and a hollow in comparaison-I think we shall come up by sea if I were not a little afraid of Charlotte being startled by the March winds for our Vacation begins 12 March.

You will have heard of poor Caberfaes 1 death-what a pity it is he should have outlived his promising young representative. His state was truly pitiable-all his fine faculties lost in paralytic imbecility and yet not sufficiently so but what he conceived and felt his deprivation as in a glass darkly. Sometimes he was fretful and anxious because he did not see his son sometimes he expostulated and complained that his boy had been allowd to die without his seeing him and sometimes in a less clouded state of intellect sensible of and lamenting his loss in its full extent. These indeed are the "fears of the brave and follies of the wise"1 which sadden and humiliate the lingering hours of prolongd existence.
Our friend Lady Hood will now be Caberfae herself. She has the spirit of a chieftaness in every drop of her blood but the estate is terribly embarrassed and will require great prudence in management. Perhaps there are few situations in which the cleverest women are so apt to be imposed upon as in the management of landed property more particularly of an highland estate. I do fear the accomplishment of the prophecy that when there should be a dumb 2 Caberfae the house was to fall. I hope Lady Hood will soon be home it is of great consequence she should be so & if Sir Samuel has made a few tens of thousands in the east things may do better than I at present augur.

I am delighted to find Mrs. Morritt is recovering health and strength. Better walking on the beach at Worthington than on the plain-stones of Princes Street for the weather is very severe here indeed. I trust Mrs. M. in her milder climate will lay in such a stock of health and strength as may enable you to face the North in Autumn. I have got the nicest crib for you possible just about 12 feet square and in the harmonious vicinity of a piggery. You never saw so minute an establishment and it has all that we wish for and all our friends will care about, and we long to see you there. Charlotte sends the kindest remembrances to Mrs. Morritt.

As for politics I have thought little about them lately the high and exciting interest is so completely subsided that the wine is upon the lees. As for America we have so managed as to give her the appearance of triumph and what is worse encouragement to resume the war upon a more favourable opportunity—it was our business.
to have given them a fearful memento that the babe
unborn should have rememberd. But having missd
this opportunity I believe that this country would
submit with great reluctance to continue a war for which
there is really no specific object. As for the continental
monarchs there is no guessing what the folly of Kings
and ministers may do but God knows would any of
them look at home enough is to be done which would
strengthen and improve their dominions in a different
manner than by mere extension. I trust Ministers will
go out rather than be engaged in war again upon
any account. If France be wise (I have no fear that any
superfluous feeling of humanity will stand in the way)
she will send 100000 of her most refractory troops to fight
with Christophe 1 and the yellow fever in the island of St.
Domingo and then I presume they may sit down in
quiet at home.

But my sheet grows to an end and so does the pleading
of the learnt counsel who is thumping the poor bar as I
write-he hems twice. Forward sweet Orator Higgins
at least till I sign myself Dear Morritt Yours most truly

WALTER SCOTT
[Law]

TO JAMES ELLIS, OF OTTERBURN, BY HEXHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND

MY DEAR SIR,-Many kind thanks for Pickering and
Beddingfields poems 2 which I think greatly more valuable
for being mingled with your own which are completely
entitled to rank with them and you know they stand high
in my estimation. I think you have made a very acceptable present to the literary world and feel myself much flattered in standing Godfather to the volume. It is executed in a manner creditable to the Newcastle press and without errors which is equally honorable to the Editor and printer. The literary anecdotes are very interesting and will be the means of preserving to posterity the memory of those two ingenious men which must otherwise have perished with the generation in which they flourished. You were fortunate in the opportunity of knowing them and they not less so in being known to one whose kindred talents have enabled him to preserve their fame.

The Border Antiquities must be given up for I don't think the publishers have taken the thing by the right handle making the Numbers far too large and miscellaneous. I have got a work for your acceptance. The Lord of the Isles but I wait for the royal 8vo which will appear in a fortnight that it may rank with the Rokeby... You will find some crumbs of antiquity in the notes.

I have just got from Mr. Bell the inaugural speech of the opening of the Society of Antiquaries which shews much taste and spirit. I have thoughts of going to town this spring: perhaps if I do not come down by sea, a mode of travelling to which I am rather partial, I may have an opportunity of being present at a meeting. I have often thought that if Antiquarian Societies would bestow some expence & time in causing fair copies to be transcribed from curious old papers and records they would render their associations of the most material use to history. About fifty years ago an old Scotch Gentleman, the Laird of Macfarlane who chanced to be a keen Genealogist and antiquary employed an amanuensis in
(4-17)making a collection of this kind. The volumes thus
(4-17)completed were afterwards purchased by our faculty of
(4-17)advocates and are in their fine library;1 and what points
(4-17)out the extreme value of such a collection many of the
(4-17)originals from which they were copied have even in the
(4-17)comparatively short space of time fallen aside or been
(4-17)destroyed so that these copies are now the only source to
(4-17)which we can resort for the curious information which
(4-17)they contained. Perhaps the antiquarian Society of the
(4-17)North may be induced at one time or other to take these
(4-17)matters under consideration. I wrote you a long letter
(4-17)some time since addressing by Hexham, which I hope
(4-17)came safe to hand. Mrs. Scott begs kind compliments
(4-17)to Mrs. Ellis. Our eldest boy little Walter whom you
(4-17)remember at Otterbourne has had the small pox or
(4-17)something very like it and thereby made himself the town
(4-17)talk for he was in infancy both vaccinated & inoculated.
(4-17)He is now got them very well over but the alarm prevented
(4-17)me writing this letter. The circumstance of the small pox
(4-17)(if such the disease be) reviving like one of Ariostos
(4-17)enchanted champions after it was supposed fairly slain is
(4-17)a little startling. But as vaccinating was then only new
(4-17)it is possible the Boy may not have [had] the right kind
(4-17)& that the subsequent inoculation may not have taken
(4-17)effect which sometimes happens or the disorder may
(4-17)have been only a violent chicken pox and not the real
(4-17)variol[o]us eruption.

(4-17)Once more my dear Sir my grateful thanks and best
(4-17)wishes attend you and I am very much your much obliged
(4-17)and faithful Servant,                WALTER SCOTT

(4-17)EDINB 19 January, 1815

[Mrs. Walton and Abbotsford Copies]
TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

MY DEAR MORRITT,—I had your kind letter with the beautiful verses. May the Muse meet you often on the verge of the sea or among your own woods of Rokeby, may you have spirits to profit by her visits (and that implies all good wishes for the continuance of Mrs. M.'s convalescence) and may I often by the fruits of your inspiration have my share of pleasure. My Muse is a Tyranness and not a Christian Queen and compels me to attend to long and short and I know not what when God wot I had rather be planting evergreens by my new old fountain. You must know that like the complaint of a fine young boy who was complimented by a stranger on his being a smart fellow "I am sair halden down by the Bubbly-jock"—In other words the Turkey Cock at the head of a family of some forty or fifty infidels lays waste all my shrubs. In vain I remonstrate with Charlotte upon these invasions she is in league with the hen wife the natural protectress of these pirates and I have only the inhuman consolation that I may one day like a cannibal eat up my enemies. This is but dull fun but what else have I to tell you about—it would be worse if like Justice Shallows Davie I should consult you upon sowing down the head land with wheat.1 My literary tormentor is a certain Lord of the Isles famd for his tyranny of yore and not unjustly. I am bothering some tales of him I have had long by me into a sort of romance. I think you will like it: it is Scottified up to the teeth and somehow I feel myself like the liberated chiefs of the Rolliad,

Who boast their native filabeg restored.
I believe the frolics one can cut in this loose garb are all
set down by you Sassenach to the real agility of the wearer and not the free and independent character of his clothing. It is in a word the real highland fling and no one is supposed able to dance it but a native. I always thought that epithet of Gallia braccata implied subjugation and was never surprized at Caesars easy conquests considering he Labienus and all his merry men wore as we say bottomless breeks.

This was written 2 months & more since.

DEAR MORRITT,- I wrote you a few days since the above scrawl I thought I had sent from Abbotsford two months ago but something had come in the way to prevent my finishing it. As you are under privilege I e'en send it you that you may see I was not quite so thoughtless or inattentive as you must have supposed me. I hope soon to see you in London. Best and kindest Complims. to Mrs. Morritt-the weather here seems setting in for a feeding storm as we call it when the snow lies so long that the sheep must be fed with hay. I have just seen Caberfae's 2 hearse pass. I trust they will send it by sea for on land the journey must be fearful at this season. There is something very melancholy in seeing the body pass, poorly attended and in the midst of a snow storm whitening all the sable ornaments of the undertaker and all corresponding with the decadence and misfortunes of the family.

Adieu. I hope soon to see you in Portland place and to find Mrs. Morritt quite strong and revived by her abode.
MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-Longman & Co. Pater Noster Row have charge of Lord of the Isles with particular instructions as to your copy but among so many commissions as they have to execute there is always some sign of confusion so if he has not appeared Mr. Scott had better write them a note. [There follow some now faded details about lawyers who are employed in the application for the Polwarth title. See above. Vol. III. p. 463 and note.]

... Charlotte & I hope to be in town about March & if I come up by sea which I design I daresay I shall bring Sophia. I have made a bargain with Charlotte that if she chooses to go & return by sea she shall have the difference of expense to save her from the horror of hackney coaches in London. My kindest compliments attend Mrs. Scott and the young people. I do not write to Mr. S. separately as this letter contains all that I have to say upon the great affair. Mrs. Scott begs her love & I ever am Dear Mrs. Scott Most truly your faithful humble Servt

WALTER SCOTT
EDINR. 21 Jany 1815

[Written on outside of this letter]

Look at the seal of this letter if you have not happened to break it—it was found on Flodden field.

[Polwarth]

TO ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD

MY DEAR LADY STAFFORD,—I am much honoured by your attaching any value to the Lord of the Isles, which I think will be the last poem I shall attempt upon any scale of length or subject of importance. I have long made up my mind to end with Bannockbourne.

Accept my best wishes and warm congratulations on Lady Charlottes alliance with the house of Howard. It is an event which, independent of the particular interest which I must always take in what concerns so nearly your ladyships family, and Lady Charlotte in particular, is extremely agreeable to my aristocratic prejudices, which are much hurt by the decay of the ancient nobility of Britain. I think the Duke of Norfolk may be interested by the inclosed impression of a seal found upon the field of Flodden, which the farmer sent, along with a fat turkey, to a friend of mine about three days since. My friend eat the turkey, but, having no stomach for antiquities, gave me the seal. It is very small and of silver, not a ring, as I would have expected. I have not yet begun a search among our Scottish books of heraldry, but intend to commence one very soon. I think, however, the arms are English, so I shall be at fault. It may
(4-21) be more modern than the battle, but was certainly found
(4-21) on the field.

22 LETTERS OF 1815

(4-22) The last days of poor Caberfae were really heaviness
(4-22) and sorrow - an indistinct perception of the heavy loss he
(4-22) had sustained in his sons death, which was frequently
(4-22) exchanged for an anxiety about his health, and wonder
(4-22) why he did not see him - so it is a mercy that the curtain
(4-22) is dropped. All the Highlands ring with a prophecy that
(4-22) when there should be a deaf Caberfae the clan and chief
(4-22) shall all go to wreck, but these predictions are very apt to
(4-22) be framed after the event. I saw the hearse and coaches
(4-22) pass just now to take his body north. I believe it goes
(4-22) to Cromarty by sea, for in the snowstorm which seems
(4-22) gathering the roads must become impracticable. I trust
(4-22) Lady Hood will be soon home. She will have hard cards
(4-22) to play from the involved state of the property; but with
(4-22) her excellent sense and noble spirit much may be done,
(4-22) especially if Sir S. has strengthened his purse a little.

(4-22) I had a delightful voyage this season round Zetland,
(4-22) Orkney, and the northern extremity of Scotland, then
(4-22) through the Hebrides, over to Ireland, as far as to see the
(4-22) Giants Causeway, and so home by the firth of Clyde.
(4-22) The most extraordinary cave I ever saw is in Sutherland,
(4-22) near Loch Eribol. We examined it with great care and
(4-22) some risque, and I sent a sort of account of it to the
(4-22) Edinburgh Register. I grumbled very much to think
(4-22) that half a days sail would have placed our yacht under
(4-22) the cannon of Dunrobin; but our party was too large to
(4-22) be intruders, for I was an humble attendant upon a
(4-22) Committee of the Commissioners for the Northern Lights.
(4-22) We were six weeks at sea, visiting everything that we
(4-22) thought remarkable, and I seldom have spent time more
agreeably.

The Staffordshire oaks are making a vigourous show upon Tweedside, and furnish me with a perpetual memorandum—did I want one—of your ladyships' goodness.

I hope to be in town in the course of next March, as I wish much to renew my acquaintance with my English friends, whom I have not seen for so long a time. I need not say with what pleasure I look forward to paying my respects at Cleveland House. I beg my most sincere and respectful compliments to Lady Charlotte on the late happy event. Mrs. Scott joins in respects to the Marquis, and I ever am, dear Lady Stafford, your very sincere and respectful humble servant, WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH, 21 January 1815.

[The Sutherland Book]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

MY DEAR FRIEND I have been rather unwell with a cold and the severity of the weather prevented Siddons from coming to see me but I wrote to him immediately on receiving your letter and received the following answer which prepares you for a letter from the manager himself. I had also to negotiate with him a proposal about Kean coming down here to which the beginning of the letter alludes. I have not the least doubt that Siddons will be most anxious to bring forward the Beacon, though I am afraid he is not at present very well supported by a company. I should however not say
much of the matter having been at the theatre only once this season. But I have no doubt that the merits of the piece will triumphantly carry through any defects of the performers.

I am glad the Lord of the Isles found his way to Hampstead and was fortunate enough to give you amusement. I have often wishd you would take the Bruce for heroe of a drama. He is an uncommon fine fellow and we have a much better and clearer account of him than of most historical heroes.2

You will readily I think acquit me of the most distant wish to add another fool to the order of fiddling rhiming and painting knights an order of chivalry for which I never have had particular respect. I am of Mrs. Page's opinion " these knights will hack. I will not change the article of my gentry". I take it the world would say with Falstaff " I like not such grinning honour as Sir Walter hath.". As for Walter poor fellow I hope he will marry for love and work for money : I should certainly be pleased that my daughter in law had some little property or fortune to help the menage but I think it is by far the least important consideration. Frugality and domestic affection make a much better fortune than that of a second Miss Tilney Long supposing the possessor deficient in these qualities. It makes the husband's industry a labour of love and the happiest marriages I have seen have been those which began under circumstances which required oeconomy.

We still keep our purpose of being in town to burnish the chain of friendship as the Indians say and particularly the valuable tie which connects us with Hampstead.
Sophia will be delighted to be your honored guest for a few days and I will be charmed with the opportunity of making her acquainted with you. Charlotte joins in kindest compliments to Mrs. A. Baillie and Mrs. Dr. Baillie. And I ever am very truly and affectionately yours

WALTER SCOTT
31 January 1815 EDINR.-

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

SIR WALTER SCOTT 1815 25

TO MESSRS. CONSTABLE & CO.

DEAR SIRS,- I was favoured with Mr. Cadell's note and proposed to call to thank him for the trouble he had had about Mr. Murray's business which is very pleasantly settled & much better I think than it could have been any other way. Mr. Kermack must have some proper compensation for his trouble in the matter. But I have had two blank days at the court and am loth to break them by coming out.

Respecting the draught for copies Ld. of Isles I perceive from your account rendered it is greatly too large & will reduce it one half which including the value of royal copies both 4to. & 12mo. will be I should think not very distant from the mark. But I doubt this will render a renewal necessary with perhaps some addition of 50 or 100 of an accommodation of yours due this month. I think in the event of my not getting to London early in March it may be also necessary to renew 189-due in the beginning of that month but I have no doubt of clearing off about 500-due in April which will reduce this sum of accommodation to between 400 & 500
being greatly less than you hold of ours.

As to the date of authors drats. for half profits I consider that when the sale of a work is rapid the author is entitled to them at 6 months and that it is with view to such accommodation that he limits his right in the editions. For in the case for instance of Ld. of Isles (if the 8vo. sell like the 4to. or nearly so) the publishers must within less than six months from the publication be possessd of negotiable bills to the amount of nearly quadruple the authors bill which will be then due. It is true they will lose 2 1/2 discount upon the bill for profits but then they have the additional credit upon the print & paper which is 2 1/2 on a much larger sum.-On the other hand I think it just and equitable that if contrary to probable hope & expectation a large proportion of the book remains on hand when the bill for profits becomes due so that the funds from it should have been paid are not converted into money or bills then the author ought to give the bookseller such further day as they shall agree or else take the value in books. I think in short advantage & disadvantage should be equitably divided between them. Under these impressions I shall draw my present bill for 300 at 6 months or to shorten trouble you can send me your note therefore to accot. by J. B.- understanding that if the sale disappoints you by the time the bill becomes due I will be very willing to give further day. And indeed if I live out through the exertions I have made & am making I will be disposed and enabled to give my booksellers even greater accomodations than I can afford at present. But to be a free man and do justice to all mankind is my first object to attain which as I have been unremitting in industry I must also be strict
in my commercial transactions.

I suppose J. B. would mention to you that Longman & Co have enlarged their interest in the Register very considerably. Yours truly W SCOTT

EDINR. [1 Feby 1815]
[Stevenson]

TO LADY ABERCORN

EDINR., 15th February 1815

MY DEAR FRIEND, - I was favourd with your kind letter & Charlotte has orderd the table-linen. Mr. Wright can settle with the merchant with his convenience & I shall desire the man to send him his note. He will be in no hurry for his money being a person of eminence in his line.

I shall be very curious to see Moore's poem - his songs are most of them exquisitely beautiful and he seems almost to think in music the notes and words are so happily suited to each other. He is certainly a man of very considerable poetical talent but I think has not been very fortunate in being so much in fashionable life where a man who frequents [there (?), them (?)] without fortune or rank is very apt to lose his time without adding to his reputation. I am very glad his poem is likely to fix his independence. As for the Lord of the Isles - it has done very well indeed - the people are tearing the printer to pieces for the next edition. Your Copy was sent the day after the Prince's to whom I thought it necessary to send
one. I think it went under Mr. Freeling or Mr. Croker's
frank—-one went to Lady Stafford at the same time and
arrived safe-I trust you have yours long since. We have
almost settled our expedition to London in the course of
next month. I shall be much delighted to see some of the
friends there to whom I have been such a stranger for six
years. My first thoughts will of course turn to St. James'
Square.

I spoke to Mr. Thomson about the picture. He did
not like it it seems and is doing another. I wish he may
be as successful as in one he presented me with which is,
really and without any allowance being required, a very
fine thing indeed. It is a view of Crichton Castle near
Edinburgh once a favourite haunt of mine but not
slavishly correct as to the surrounding landscape.

We have Salt the Abyssinian traveler here just now
a remarkably pleasant conversible man if I can judge
from one interview. He corroborates my old acquaintance
Bruce in all his material facts although he thinks
that he considerably exaggerated his personal consequence
and exploits and interpolated much of what regards his
voyage in the Red Sea. He is to dine with me on
Thursday-Does your Ladyship think it would be an
acceptable compliment to present the beef without
roasting according to the fashion of the court of Gondar.

The Duke of Buccleuch is as well as a man can be
under the dreadful dispensation which it has been his lot
to endure. I have been much with him and have great
occasion to admire both his firmness of mind and depth of
feeling. He is fortunate in Lady Anne Scott his eldest
daughter who is really worthy of the excellent mother she has lost and whom I have often heard call her "her comfortable daughter". She is now a real comfort to her father and discharges the duties incumbent upon her as head of his family with the utmost propriety. But Dalkeith and still more Bowhill will be long places of sad and solemn recollection to all who remember the late excellent Duchess.

I have a better apology for writing an unintelligible letter than the bad pen which your Ladyship pleaded and which I should never have discovered unless you had told me of it. For I have the whole bustle of a law court going on about my ears at this moment with "Mr. Scott will you let me look at that process" and "Mr. Scott will you be so good as to touch Mr. Hume to speak to the Lord President" etc. etc. etc. So I believe I had better stop in good time before I write absolute nonsense. Wherever I am for the time I cannot cease to be your Ladyship's truly attached and most faithful and obliged friend

WALTER SCOTT

I have got a most beautiful drawing of Pitt from Hoppner's fine painting. It is in India ink and really looks as if it could speak. I am delighted that Lawrence likes the Lord of the Isles. I would rather please one man of feeling and genius than all the great critics in the kingdom.

[Pierpont Morgan]

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT 29

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

CASTLE STREET, EDINBURGH, 1815
MY DEAR MRS. CLEPHANE,—Lord C. dines with me tomorrow, chiefly that I may introduce him confidentially to our little friend Donaldson. Will you and the young ladies look in in the evening at eight o'clock, and if Miss Clephane can come, I hope she will prevail on Miss Dalrymple to honor us. I think Lady Hood and Miss Frances Mackenzie will be with us and no one else, unless perchance Will: Erskine. Yours ever most truly,

[Northampton] W. SCOTT

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

EDINBURGH, 17 february 1815

MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,—Nothing could give me more pride & pleasure than your kind assurance that I have been in some degree fortunate in my last effort. I think (but do not swear for then I should certainly deceive you) that it will be my last poetical attempt upon any broad scale and I am very happy in thinking that it may not on the whole disparage its predecessors. When I adventured forth as a man of rhyme being rather too old and my views on life too much established to incur the dangers of a Mr. Seabright, I resolved to bind Horaces three-fold brass around my breast in order to repel all those petty vexations which assail in a peculiar manner those authors who as they do not work for their bread I have observed cling with more feverish sensibility to their literary reputation. Accordingly I have endeavoured with some success never to trouble myself about fashionable applause or censure or parodies or commendatory verses or being praised in one review or blamed in another. I therefore hope I am the more entitled to indulge myself in the pleasure arising from the approbation of those
whose judgement is as unquestionable as their genius. I wish I had time to have laboured the Bruce more as I am sensible I could have done more for him. But some melancholy circumstances which happen'd in the course of my task rather indisposed me for that species of revisal which is so necessary for correctness. I do not believe there were twenty lines in the poem written twice over & I am sensible if I had transcribed the whole fairly I could have thrown more spirit into both narrative and dialogue but as Corporal Nym says "things must be as they may" - And now to speak of what has given me much more pleasure than all my own poems put together (none of which I have ever read since they were printed) I would tell you if I could how much I was obliged to you for Patronage 1 and the pleasure I have received from an often repeated perusal. I question if the same knowledge of human life was ever displayed in a fictitious narrative and of this I should be in some degree a judge having mixed freely with various ranks of society & being bred to a profession which represents views of them all. The character of Lord Oldborough in particular delighted me. It belongs to those higher stiles of composition which can only be touch'd by a masterly hand and has not only the merit of entire novelty, for where has such a sketch ever been drawn, but likewise that of a force and spirit of which I am uncertain if even any [of] your own compositions afford such striking proofs. Some points come particularly home to my feelings from their resemblance to the character of the late Lord Mellville who took an early kind and gratuitous interest in my success in my life & in his years of retirement gave me much of his friendship and confidence. Should his story ever be told what a tale it will make. But the story is too recent and too many of the actors are yet upon the scene.
His death too had much of what has been called the romance of real life. He had come to town to attend the
funeral and protect the family of the Lord Presid. of our Court of Justice one of his first and foremost friends as well as one of the best & wisest men whom Scotland ever produced. Their houses adjoin each other closely-
Lord M. had gone to bed directing his mourning to be laid out for the funeral next day—but in the morning he was found a corpse taken away by a death as sudden as that of his friend. It was an awful morning god knows for those who loved & honourd them both & found when assembled to render the last honours to the one what an additional blow fate had struck in depriving them of the other—these circumstances you have probably heard, if not they will interest as belonging to a man who though I think it likely you may differ from some point of his publick politics had like Lord Oldborough the fate to suffer by the basest scandal respecting an alleged peculation of which he was as capable as I am of picking the pocket of my brother in office Mr. David Hume who is now sitting quietly on his stool beside me and apprehensive of no such matter. To understand this you will please to be informed that I am writing while specially attending my duty as a Clerk of Court—a fine occupation for a literary man combining a comfortable salary, light attendance, and no labour or responsibility.

I am now thinking of a visit to London after an absence of six years—what changes I must prepare for among my friends—I cannot help now and then thinking of the lines in the drinking song

For many a lad I loved is dead
And many a lass grown old.

To make some amends I am carrying up to see some of her English friends a Scotch girl of fifteen who shews that my wife & I are now old married folks. I wish her to see the lions and the tower and Westminster Abbey and the wild beasts and the rest of the Royal Family before she grows too wise or rather too conceited to enjoy vulgar pleasures which after all are the standing dishes of life as well as beef steaks potatoes & highland mutton. Lord help the poor folks that get too fine for any of these good things. How much it would add to the pleasure with which I look forward to my London trip if I could think there was the slightest chance of seeing Mr. Edgeworth and you, but of this I fear there is not the least chance. I was on the Northern coast of Ireland this last autumn for an instant and saw the celebrated Causeway and the scenery around Bengore-head. But we were a large party six in number & therefore too numerous to make any excursions inland. We had a very nice yacht and crew entirely at our command and spent six weeks in cruising among the Scottish isles where I saw some astonishing pieces of scenery. I never was so much struck by the effects of verdure and cultivation as when we found ourselves one fine morning in the Loch of Derry with its banks richly fringed with cornfields & trees contrasted with the scenes of solemn and sombre desolation which we had witnessed for some weeks before. We intended to go up to Derry to see the town & I promised myself particular pleasure from seeing the remarkable scene of the celebrated siege for although my feelings lean a little to the Stuarts, I think the defence of Londonderry one of the finest passages in Irish history & really longed
to see the spot where the boom was broken upon that memorable occasion. But a shifting and baffling wind prevented our going up the Lough to my great regret. We have some idea of taking our yacht again next summer in which case we shall certainly visit Eblana commonly called Dublin. The vessel is maintained for the service of the Northern beacon lights and my companions are commissioners for the management of that service so that they have a duty to discharge while I amuse myself. If we do not make out our voyage it will go hard but I travel from Dublin to [Cavan ?] by land while the vessel goes round in which case I will have what I have so long wishd an opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of the Edgeworthtown family. I ever am my dear Miss Edgeworth your truly honord & obliged humble servant, WALTER SCOTT

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE

[Mr. Kemp A/c of Lord of the Isles 8vo.for Author.]

DEAR JOHN,-I inclose Constables personal accot. agt. me. There are some articles in it as Lays of Minstrel etc which should not be subject of charge [to] the author but as it has been long due they may press for Interest & we will hold it at ^125 as finally renderd to which must be added 10-10- paid by Messrs. C. to Mr. Kermack for trouble in my affairs abt. the annuity. I am ignorant of any other claims agt. me. When you go over the accounts about the profits of Ld. of the Isles I should wish these personal claims debited agt. me so as to make a clear sea on all sides.
I inclose a letter of Mr. Constables explanatory of the interim account renderd. Yours truly W. S.

[endorsed 1815, about Feby.]
[Stevenson]

TO SIR THOMAS LAUDER DICK

DEAR SIR,-I am honoured with your letter and should have been particularly happy in an opportunity of being useful in adjusting a compleat edition of Lord Fountainhall's interesting Manuscripts. I But I do not know of any in the Advocates Library but those which you mention. I think it likely I may have mentioned that a large chest belonging to the family of another great Scottish lawyer Sir James Skene of Currie hill was in our Library and had never been examined. But I could only have been led to speak of this from the similarity of the subject not from supposing that any of Lord Fountainhall's papers could possibly be deposited there. I am very glad to hear you are busying yourself with a work which will throw most important light upon the history of Scotland, and am with regard. Dear Sir, Your most obedt. Servant,

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 19 february 1815.

[Dick-Lauder]

TO DANIEL TERRY
MY DEAR TERRY,-Thank you a thousand times for the beautiful drawing which arrived in great safety some three or four days ago though I like a sneaking fellow put off my thanks till I could have them franked, & now after all send them without. Believe me it is most truly acceptable both for the sake of him whom it represents, as coming from you, & as being a drawing which in the opinion of some very good judges who have seen it does the highest credit to the artist. So we have hung it in the little drawing room under a very noble picture of Chrichton Castle of which Thomson the Minister of Duddingstone made me a present the other day. We will talk about all this in a few days (say three weeks) within which period I hope to be in London. Mrs. S. & your friend Sophia now a great tall girl are the companions of my voyage. I will take the earliest opportunity of looking after you taking it for granted that I am pretty sure of finding you at home at n A.M. as usual. I will also have an opportunity of thanking Mr. Young for his kind intentions in my favor tho' to profit by them in their extent would sound very much like robbing in foro conscientiae. Abbotsford has cost me so much money that I am scarce buying any books just now, not to keep a stud of hobby horses all at once. Yet I cannot resist the opportunity to purchase No 164 (1) Downfall of Earl of Huntingdon & 165 1st & 2nd part of King Edward 4th should they not go at very extravagant prices. 57 Guy of Warwick also has its charms & also 97 Hans Berepot, but I leave them in your judgment as to price or matter about which I need not be very solicitous having laid out very little money in this way
these two years. Abbotsford begins to be noticed by the charitable even admired—plenty of partridges & no lack of hares tho' I did not trouble them much last year.

owing to my voyage through the Isles. If you get the plays have the goodness to make them into a white paper parcel & address them to me under an upper cover to Fr. Freling Esqr Post Office General who always franks letters for me & whose franks carry any weight. You will receive under one of them tomorrow a little reprint of mine of a curious old satirist. I believe only 100 copies were printed. Mrs. Scott sends kind remembrances & is happy in the prospect of soon seeing you. Ever most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE 2

EDINR., 26th Feby. 1815

DEAR JOHN,—I have been thinking over the plan which I have lately pursued, and talked over this morning, of making our good stock carry off our heavy by attaching so much of it to future editions of moving publications so far as they have not already paid a toll of this nature, and which must clear the stock in time, while we enjoy the benefit of credit upon print and paper of the new editions at the same time, and in a way advantageous both to us and the Booksellers. But it has occurred to me that there is a better and more summary mode of winding up, and which would effectually end these matters.
(4-37) Suppose Constable and Longman would take our whole stock (say £10,000, being £5000 each) at the following terms:

(4-37) Bills for 12 months to be immediately granted for £2000
(4-37) Do. 15 months " " 2000
(4-37) Do. 18 months " " 2000
(4-37) Do. 21 months " " 2000
(4-37) Do. 24 months " " 2000

(4-37) £10,000

(4-37) Should they be disposed to do this, J. B. and Coy. shut shop instantly, and leave the field clear, turning over to the purchasers the works of every description which they have now the advantage of publishing, on the sole terms of printing in the Canongate, and giving the authors half profits. I am morally convinced that, with the literary views I have before me, there will not be nearly so much advance of credit or capital on the booksellers' part in this way as in that which I had settled. I wish, if this strikes you as a feasible proposal to make our friends, you would come up to breakfast to-morrow. Subordinate parts of the plan can easily be settled should the general principle suit, and it will render the London journey unnecessary. In future publications, unless in very particular circumstances, or with reasonable grounds of displeasure, which there is no chance of occurring, I will certainly consider these houses as my publishers, expecting only in courtesy some share of their countenance in P. 0.

(4-37) As I shall always publish in future for half profit, there is no fear of my having the least temptation to change publishers, supposing me to have (as I have not) any wish to do so. I think within the same period the booksellers...
will probably take off the same quantity of stock upon the
former plan, but this would cut the matter short, and
promises, I think, advantages to both parties.-Yours, etc.,
W. S.

Sunday 3 oclock

[Constable and Kilpatrick]

TO LADY MACLEOD, DUNVEGAN CASTLE, SKYE 1

DEAR MADAM,-I have been postponing from day to
day requesting your kind acceptance of my best thanks
for the beautiful purse of your workmanship with which
I was some time since honoured. The hospitality of
Dunvegan will long live in my recollection, and I am not
a little flattered by a token which infers that my visit
was not forgotten by the Lady of the castle. I venture to
send (what has long delayed this letter) a copy of a poem
which owes its best passages to MacLeod's kindness and
taste in directing me to visit the extraordinary scenery
between his country and Strathaird, which rivals in
grandeur and desolate sublimity anything that the
Highlands can produce. The volume should have
reached you in a quarto shape, but while I sought an
opportunity of sending it, behold the quartos disappeared,
and I was obliged to wait for the second impression, of
which I now send a copy. I shall be proud and happy
if it serves to amuse a leisure hour at Dunvegan. It has
had one good consequence to the author, that it has served
to replenish the purse with which the Lady MacLeod
presented him. Yet he has so much the spirit of the old
Bard, that he values the purse more than the contents.
Should MacLeod and you ever come to Edinburgh, I will scarce forgive you unless you let such a hermit as I am know of your living in the neighbourhood of his recess, and I would have particular pleasure in endeavouring to show you anything that might interest you. I do not despair of (what would give me the most sincere pleasure) again being a guest at Dunvegan. My eldest girl sings Gathail gu la-excuse Saxon spelling-and I hope to send you in a few weeks a very curious treatise on the second sight, published (not for sale) from a manuscript in 1691 which fell into my hands. Hector Macdonald has promised me the means to send it.

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT

I beg my respectful compliments to Miss MacLeod, my kindest remembrances to the chieftain, and my best wishes to the little tartan chief and nursery.-Believe me, with much respect. Dear Madam (for I will not say Mrs. MacLeod, and Lady MacLeod is out of fashion). Your honoured and obliged and truly grateful,

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH, 3d March 1815.

[Canon Macleod]

TO JOSEPH TRAIN

MY DEAR SIR,-I was in the country when I ordered your copy of the Lord of the Isles to be sent off,- unfortunately the Bookseller had not enough to answer my order and disappointed you and one or two of my other friends. I was therefore obliged to wait the second edition of which I have now the pleasure to send two
copies by the coach, begging your own acceptance of one, and hoping you may find the other an acceptable gift to some of your friends.

Mr. Porter lately appointed a Commissioner of Excise is a friend of mine. I would be happy if through his interest I could be at any time useful to you in which case you will have the goodness to point out the object and opportunity of serving you. I am going to London in about a fortnight for six weeks or thereabouts.

I must conclude in some haste. Dear Sir Your obliged servant

EDINBURGH, 12th March 1815.

TO HAY DONALDSON, W.S., CHARLOTTE STREET, EDINBURGH

MY DEAR SIR,-I am today favoured with your letter and do, not a moment delay in replying to it. My hopes that at one time or other your exertions and attention to the Roxburghshire business might be the means of introducing you into further connections with the Duke of Buccleuch in his law matters were not founded upon any thing further than the probability that the family who really need an active law agent might resort to one whose talents they had an opportunity of being acquainted with and I know that such would have been the wish of that invaluable member of the family whom they have lost because she herself said so. But as I never had the least communication to that purpose with the Duke for
(4-40) of course it could not be a thing of my seeking but must have arisen from his own voluntary confidence-I do not suppose there is any immediate prospect of the kind and I think you should act as if there were none. The refusing such an important piece of business would be a great sacrifice on your part witht. any certain prospect of its being ever recompensed and I am sure the circumstance of your conducting a cause agst the D. in the way you conduct all your business would not impede any resolution he might take in your favour. I do therefore most strongly advise you not to forego the present opportunity but by all means to take the business if it offers. I have always thought that it requires a strong and well defined prospect of future advantage to determine a man of business to refuse employment in the way of his profession. This cursed news turns the very cream upon my stomach. I trust they will put down this Apollyon and make short work with him. The Castle of Vincennes and a burial by torch light would be my doom for him.

(4-40) We will be in town next week. On 25 next month I shall receive some money for my brother which I will impress with you.

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT 41

(4-41) I am sorry the Duke does not look after Roxburghshire but of course he knows his own views and wishes better than I can presume to do. This I know that it is easier holding than drawing. But he has more than enough to do and think of. Believe me very truly yours

(4-41) WALTER SCOTT

(4-41) ABBOTSFORD 17 March 1815
TO DANIEL TERRY

(4-1) EDINGH 24 March 1815

(4-1) MY DEAR TERRY,—The bearer Mr. David Anderson who takes the trouble of delivering you this letter is upon a tour to London to use his eyes in looking about him as much as he can; if there is anything in your department to which you can introduce him, you will confer an obligation on me: he is a young Scottish barrister & I think promises well. It is at his own particular request I that I make him known to you & he will probably consult you about the subject of his particular curiosity. I should be very glad to hear from you first what you are about yourself & what prospect there is of my seeing you this summer at Abbotsford. Why should not you make a rally to Edinburgh during the time your theatre shuts. I promise you would be well received, for the folks here express great regret for your absence. Abbotsford stands where it did. Spot is alive if I can trust my eyes & the partridges will be plenty notwithstanding the snow for the breeding season promises well. John Kemble is here & draws good houses. We are all on tip toe to know something of your new meteor Mr. Kean. I will you let me know about him? I hope you don't omit calling on Miss now Mrs. Baillie now & then? the best acquaintances are most easily lost by neglecting them. Should you find any curious little books in my way don't forget me: my purse begins to fill again after the Abbotsford evacuations. I had some thoughts of coming to town but I think if there comes a peace as it must come
on some terms or other we shall have the Emperor of
Russia & the King of Prussia at London & I will reserve
my journey & cash to see them hold Carnival with the
Prince Regent. Yours truly W. SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

CORNER OF WHITEHORSE STREET,
PICCADILLY,

Tuesday, [LONDON, April 1815]

MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I have been here these
three or four days1 always hoping trusting and expecting
that your Ladyship would be in town. But your house in
St. James' Square is otherwise occupied and I cannot learn
whether or when you are likely to be in town though your
Ladyship will believe I am most anxious to pay my
respects. Mrs. Scott and Sophia are with me and we
came up by sea very successfully and even pleasantly
bating three circumstances-

1st. That the wind was in constant and methodical
opposition.

2nd. That a collier brig ran foul of us in the dark and
nearly consigned us all to the bottom of the sea.

3rd. and last we struck on a rock and lay hammering
for two hours untill we floated with the rising tide. I
am tied down to this town just now as l'homme de confiance
of a fair Scotchwoman 2 who is about to be married into

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT 43
(4-43)your high circle and so we are up to the ears in settlements,
(4-43)etc. but for which circumstance I would have
(4-43)offered my personal respects at the priory. I beg to be
(4-43)respectfully remembered to the Marquis and am ever with
(4-43)the greatest respect and regard your Ladyship's truly
(4-43)faithful and obliged, WALTER SCOTT

[46x729]TO MISS CLEPHANE

(4-43)MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-I have been chiefly
(4-43)engaged with your matters since our arrival here and
(4-43)have seen Lord Compton repeatedly and the Marquis
(4-43)once. The last seems to be a good humoured old peer
(4-43)and both he and Lady Frances C. expressed the highest
(4-43)pleasure in the proposed alliance.1 Lastly I saw the
(4-43)Solicitor of the family Mr. Boodle and received from him
(4-43)the enclosed schedule of what the Marqs. had proposed to
(4-43)do upon the occasion independent of such assistance as
(4-43)the young people might receive from Miss C's fortune.
(4-43)I received the preliminaries like a practical plenipotentiary
(4-43)without committing myself by any answer-only I said
(4-43)that the particulars were candidly and frankly stated.
(4-43)With respect to the amount of the various provisions I could
(4-43)say nothing untill I saw the Marqs's rent roll and the
(4-43)burdens affecting it-also that I must hear from your
(4-43)friends in Edinr-In truth I think the provisions narrow
(4-43)for the rank to be maintained and I mentioned that
(4-43)generally. The Marquis and Mr. Boodle seemed to think
(4-43)something might be got from Scotland especially at
(4-43)outsetting as it is morally impossible that you two great
(4-43)folks can start with [ ] 2000 a year only. I said your
(4-43)immediate property only produced [ ] 200 that you had
(4-43)been advised to sell it but had hitherto declined and that

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I thought the times unfavourable for a sale. Nevertheless I hinted such a proposal might be rendered agreeable to me if proportional advantages should be secured to you in consequence of your advancing 6000 or 7000 to which the balance of the price might probably amount. If this money was wished to be applied to the immediate fitting out and aid of your establishment I said I should expect either that a similar sum should be secured upon the Compton estate for the younger children the interest being at your own disposal or that in case of widowhood 100 yearly of jointure should be granted for every thousand pounds of your money so sunk. I got no distinct answer to this proposition nor did I require any as I only wished to show in general that I was alive to your interest. In truth becoming a member of a family where there is so much land I rather think the sale of the farm would be eligible providing contingent advantages were granted in equal proportion. To be pinched at starting would be real evil and debts are often incurred by young housekeepers which hang about them all their lives so money must be had on one side or other.

I am not quite satisfied with the extent of the provisions. 1000 a year is a good jointure for a countess and the additional 1000 allowed in case of a family would not greatly aid. The 2000 a year as Marchioness is better and the children would be then provided elsewhere.

I wish much to have the Entail of Torloisk, a copy of your mother's marriage contract or the original, and rentals of your own little property and of Torloisk.

Wednesday 12 April [1815]

I got your letter yesterday when the above lines were
written and have the greatest pleasure in the prospect of your grandmother consulting your interest in the way you mention. It would be a most material point if she were to carry her intentions in your favour immediately into execution by becoming a party to these deeds and settling her estate on you and Lord Compton and the heirs of your union failing whom on any others she may chuse and reserving power to burthen the estate thus settled to any extent she may propose. You will see in a note which I shall send to Lord Compton this day and of which I enclose you a copy the view in which I consider this arrangement as well as the answer which I have on the first blush of the business judged fitting to make to the Marquis's proposal. I breakfasted with Lord Compton this morning and have of course seen much of him since I came to town and sans phrase I like him very much. He thinks feels and speaks like a man and that is no common compliment. I talked over the various objections I had to the Marquis's proposal and told him at the same time that they appeared to me of such a nature as a little arrangement and enlargement of the family views would early put out of the way. You need not be afraid of the Solicitor turning my flank in the matter for if I am plain in my proposals and views I will not be the less earnest in them. I think my memorandum will fully enable you to comprehend my meaning. You will of course show Mr. Boodles paper to your uncles and invite them to correspond with me on the subject which would be highly agreeable to me trusting that however unpopular I may be in that quarter they will do me the justice to suppose me earnest in your service and anxious to give and receive all the information which may be necessary to carry my good wishes into effect. Indeed if this is not
(4-45) done they must employ some other person in London
(4-45) which would only occasion vexation perplexity and
(4-45) expences. You see I was right when I said that the
(4-45) prospect opening before you would change their conduct
(4-45) towards you. I am certain you will find them quite
(4-45) amical. You must consider whether it will be prudent to
(4-45) show them my Memorandum in whole or to transcribe
(4-45) it omitting the supposed case of your Grandmother making
(4-45) a settlement of her estate. If Mrs. Douglas has openly

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(4-46) expressed herself to her family in the way she spoke to
(4-46) you there may be propriety in showing them the whole
(4-46) paper-if not the proposal may be disagreeable to them
(4-46) and they may fall on means to prevent its being acceded
(4-46) to by Mrs. D.-On the whole I think you had better let it
(4-46) be a private article of the treaty until you again hear from
(4-46) me. I should wish the proposal to come from the opposite
(4-46) [side] in this sort of way. supposing it addressed to me
(4-46) " Mr. S. objects to the jointure to be settled on Miss M. C.
(4-46) it is as much as the N. estate admits but if the heirs of
(4-46) the marriage are to be assured of succeeding to the
(4-46) Kirkness estate a corresponding advance will be made in
(4-46) the provision for the lady in case of widowhood "-With
(4-46) this proposal Mrs. D. would have the pleasure of benefiting
(4-46) you to a much greater extent than the income of the
(4-46) property she has resolved to bequeath to you at the price
(4-46) of carrying her intentions into effect a little sooner than
(4-46) she intended. At any rate it is a proposal with which
(4-46) she cannot be offended I think.

(4-46) Excuse this hasty scrawl as I am a good deal fatigued
(4-46) with the extreme heat of the day. Ladies on certain
(4-46) occasions owe their friends gloves but I shall have a claim
(4-46) upon Lady Compton for a pair of shoes honestly worn out
in her service between Portland Place (for on one or two general ideas I consulted our friend Morritt who is completely acquainted with what is done in such cases) Fludyer Street and Brook Street. I had Lord Compton for my guide indeed but I might as well have had the blind deity who took his stand on Benmore or Bentalla on a late occasion. However I told him he had my pardon for all his errors as belonging to his unhappy situation. Literally he led me wrong four times (talking of you all the while) until I consulted my pocket chart of London and took the pilotage into my own hands.

We got up to town in five days though the wind was contrary all the while. My wife and little girl did not suffer much discomfort. They beg kindest remembrances.

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and congratulations for the approaching affair is quite public.. I shall be anxious to hear what you think of the memorandum which I sent under separate franks. If you could be so good as send or call in Castle Street when you are going to write you would bestow a line on my little people. Yours most affectionately


[Northampton]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-I enclose my original drat. of the remarks which I have this day after a long conversation with Lord C. copied and sent to the M. of Northampton. The only subject of discussion or debate between Lord C. and me was this-I readily agree with
(4-47) him as to the propriety of selling the Fife farm for it is 
(4-47) quite a different question in the present circumstances 
(4-47) from what it would be had Scotland remained your 
(4-47) headquarters. A small detached property would be 
(4-47) managed at a certain expense and probably ill managed 
(4-47) and the money would afford a larger immediate income 
(4-47) and thus set your house-keeping up more comfortably. 
(4-47) But if any part of this money be laid out in furniture etc. 
(4-47) as perhaps it may be necessary to take □ 1500 or □ 2000 
(4-47) for that purpose I contend that I must have a contingent 
(4-47) annuity to you of □ 100 for every □ 1000 so sunk. L. G. 
(4-47) himself is contented with this but seems to think that the 
(4-47) M. may think that he has gone as far as he can. I had a 
(4-47) very long discussion with him on this and other points. 
(4-47) Of course I abide by my own opinion and made my 
(4-47) proposal as you will see it in the rough drat. 
(4-47) 
(4-47) I am clear if your Grand mother comes forward some 
(4-47) further provision ought to be and will be made.1 If I 

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(4-48) could but be assured of your having □4000 a year as 
(4-48) Dowagr. Marchioness, I should think I had done well. 
(4-48) I mean taking all your provisions together. 

(4-48) Excuse my blotted copy I have no time to transcribe. 
(4-48) Pray hurry the papers to me and I think you had better 
(4-48) have a fair copy made of my remarks enclosed leaving out 
(4-48) the last paragraph for the reason mentioned on the 
(4-48) margin and show it to the Clephanes. I am ever my 
(4-48) dear Miss Clephane affectionately yours 

(4-48) April 13th 1815. WALTER SCOTT 
[Northampton]
TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(4-48)DEAR SIR,-I presume the Lord of the Isles is by this
time afloat & as I find cash needful here to pay off some
old scores and some new ones I take the liberty to draw
upon you for 420- at 3 mos. date to accompt of profits
of this edition. This bill I will renew for six months
when due which will give you nine months to get in your
cash as it cannot be expected this edition will go off so
soon as the last. When we meet we can square the
accompt regularly debiting me also with my book acct.
long due which may be set agt. profit on royal copies.

(4-48)There is no news here public or literary but I think

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(4-49)almost a certainty of war. My dispute with the
Commissioners of Income tax has been arranged to my
satisfaction which is very pleasant especially as our old
friend the Property tax is returning upon us in his
plenitude of power. John Ballantyne is here bustling
about as usual. If he should be detaind late in London
I will desire him to apply to you for renewal of 317-
due on the 9th. May being I think the last of your
accomn. bills to us. But I shall be better pleased to pay
it with its fellows.

(4-49)Don Roderick being out I think to reprint it as it makes
part of Jo. B’s stock and I propose making considerable
additions applicable to the present moment. I shall
make a tripartite division of it that is supposing you chuse
so much of the concern, between Longman & you &
Murray whose sale of such politics as mine are likely to
be is considerable. There is plenty of time to consider
about this but I should wish to hear your thoughts as to
the extent of the impression. I think of 1500 or 2000 copies but remit [this] & all other particulars to the gentlemen who shall be concerned. Believe me Dear Sir Very truly Yours

WALTER SCOTT

WHITEHORSE STREET PICCADILLY LONDON

21 April 1815

TO MISS CLEPHANE

My DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-I have just this minute received the letters with all the inclosures and write here though in a Booksellers shop rather than wait a moment. I have dragged in Morriss to give me a frank. Lord C. has been dogging me like my shadow expecting and hoping an answer and I have a most cruel letter from the Marquis which I will enclose by this or tomorrow's post as time serves.

There is no more to be said about Kirkness and therefore I have given the matter up with a good grace in a letter for Mr. H. C. For God's sake take all in good part that is said or done in that quarter as I fear we will be un-kirknessed altogether. I trust implicitly to your discretion for avoiding all scenes or subjects of discord at this moment. It would be of infinite prejudice and the term of endurance being short take a manful heart and uncharge it. Tell Mrs. Clephane (your kind mother) that I do conjure her on her bended knees to take everything that is said and done as argent comptoreal. Rely
(4-50)upon it nothing shall be done that can be prejudicial to
(4-50)her. I would not lose sight of the feelings which you
(4-50)ought to entertain and I know do entertain as a grateful
(4-50)and affectionate daughter to give you the jointure of the
(4-50)Queen of Sheba if she had one- Pray never mind
(4-50)anything they say about me- let that fly stick in the wall
(4-50)and when the plaister's dry it will rub off- My only
(4-50)object is the most sincere wish to serve you with head and
(4-50)heart and I do not care one sixpence about any slight they
(4-50)can throw on me for my attempts to do so. The letter
(4-50)of Lord N. will show there has been no dissenting about
(4-50)money matters but only a necessary discussion which
(4-50)cannot be terminated until the rentals on both sides are
(4-50)forthcoming. I expect yours with impatience and pray
(4-50)write me a line as often as you can. By the way I must
(4-50)tell you that in the long discussion I had with Lord C upon
(4-50)your matters there was a heavy storm of thunder and
(4-50)lightning. You know I am not very sensible of such
(4-50)disturbances so I took no notice but his good Lordship
(4-50)never heard a word of the matter till he was going away
(4-50)and saw the street flooded with water.

(4-50)Unquestionably if Torloisk can be settled on you
(4-50)and Lord Compton for your lives and the survivor and
(4-50)upon the children of the marriage after your decease
(4-50)it is the natural and proper settlement.

(4-50)I do not believe the family are very rich and I understand

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(4-51)the estate is encumbered-But there is quite
(4-51)enough of money to support the dignity very handsomely
(4-51)and much land which is allways rising. I see I must do
(4-51)the best I can without expecting much backing from
(4-51)Scotland on the part of your friends. The point about
which I am most anxious is a chance (which I trust in
God will not be realized but yet which it is my duty to
consider) of Lord Comptons predeceasing you at an early
period of your union and before you have succeeded to
the estate either of Kirkness or Torloisk. In this case
I must do the best I can-I do not think 1000 enough
and I foresee I shall be able to get over and above a life
rent equal to the interest of the price of your Fifeshire
farm supposing it sold-400 or 500 a year more would
I think be enough at least it is so much as I shall be able
to get. In case of your being Marcss. dowager I should
think securing you 4000 in all would be very fair and if
we could say 2000 in the possible event of a Countess
dowagr. Would be a corresponding sum. But in short
I will do my best and give Mr. H. Glephane no more
trouble in the matter than to secure myself against the
possible complaint of having excluded him from our
councils.

Pray remind Mrs. Clephane that when ladies employd
Knights errant to champion their causes they always sat
quiet in their arm-chairs to be burned or acquitted
according to circumstances. The more passive you all
are the better and communicate to me all your wishes.
W. S.

PICCADILLY 21 April [1815]

[27th April 1815]

I HAVE missed the post and cannot help myself till
Monday there being none tomorrow in this God fearing
and religious capital. I will see Lord G. after breakfast
tomorrow perhaps before for I thought it necessary to
accustom Lady Francis Compton to the voracity of a
Scotchman at breakfast that she may not be surprised
at the cousins whom the Isle of Mull may send upon an occasional visit and at breakfast you know I can match any highland man of them all. She is a spirited old lady fond of dogs and horses and had a pair of loaded pistols to defend her house in person when it was threatened in the corn bill riots.

Charlotte is much obliged for your kindness in calling upon our little people. Sophia has been at some of the gay parties and was much noticed and caressed. I had a long and most gracious audience of the P. Regent who gave me the entree to his library where there are some most curious papers respecting 1715 and 1745 and the space between. They belonged to the Cardinal Duke of York. Baron Adam who was present says the impression upon his mind was a doubt whether the P.R. or I was the greater Jacobite.

I think you should shew the M. of N’s letter to the Clephanes and ask Mr. Henry to shew you mine not that there is anything in it. They may trust I will not be iliberal in my dealings with the family but I will not throw away my cards neither nor would Lord Compton thank me for I suppose he will like as well to have 2500 instead of 2000 for your joint income as well as I shall.

[Northampton]

TO J. WHISHAW, EDITOR OF "MUNGO PARK'S JOURNAL" 1

DEAR SIR,—I am glad the anecdotes I rememberd concerning my poor friend M[r]. Park seemd to you in the slightest degree interesting. I have often endeavouurd
to recollect the passages you mention but they were communicated near the close of an evening of conviviality & although I am positively certain of the scope of the conversation I cannot at this distance of time rely on my memory as to the particular narrative which led to it. Two trifling circumstances occur to me respecting his habits.

SIR WALTER SCOTT 1815 53

The first— that his practise as a surgeon among our lonely hills was so far from being profitable that it was really expensive. I have known more cases than one in which Mungo after riding five or six miles by night among pathless hills gave his medicines as well as attendance for nothing instead of taking the miserable half guinea from some poor shepherd or his wife.

2d. Notwithstanding his determination again to visit Africa the terrors of his former captivity had not ceased to impress his imagination. When he was affected with indigestion or any other stomach complaint he used to start from his sleep supposing himself still a prisoner in the tent of All.

I shall never forget the spot & the morning when I last parted with this firm sagacious and intrepid character.

He had slept at my house at Ashestiel & in the morning we rode together over the wild chain of pastoral hills which divide Tweed from Yarrow. On the road he told me his purpose of going straight from Edinr. without again returning to take leave of his family. We were then at the top of Williamhope-ridge & the mist floating dimly below us down the vale of the Yarrow seemed an emblem of the dark & uncertain prospect before him. I remember pressing upon him the dangers of his journey with a military force which I then thought (though falsely as you
have shewn) the most unsafe mode of travelling since it was inadequate for conquest & yet large enough to excite suspicion. He refuted my objections by referring to the subdivision of Africa into petty districts the chiefs of whom were not likely to form any regular combination for cutting him off & whose boundaries were soon traversed. He referd also to their habit of seeing cofles or caravans of all nations pass through their territories on paying a small duty so that the march of such a party as his own had nothing in it to alarm them with ideas of spoil or invasion. In this sort of discourse we passd the hills & came to a road where our paths separated-

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small ditch divided the road from the moor & in going over it Mungo Parks horse stumbled & nearly fell. As he recoverd him I said " thats a bad omen Mungo " to which he answerd laughing " freits [i.e. omens] follow those that look to them." With this proverbial expression we parted never again to meet on this side of the grave.

I observe that you are puzzled with the word fuff l which he applies to the noise of the lion[es]. It is a very expressive Scottish word applicable in its primitive sense to the explosive noise which a cat makes in flying at a dog.

You observe with great truth that Park was rather shy & reserved in his general habits. In addition to this I may add that he always felt rather embarassd by indirect inquiries which strangers to avoid the apparent rudeness of blunt interrogation often made concerning his travels. But said he ther[e] are two risques from this false delicacy either that I may not understand their question or that
they may misconstrue my answer & in either case my conversation will be reported inaccurately. He contrasted this with the conduct of the venerable Professor Fergusson 2 who using the privilege to which his high talents & advanced age so well entitled him spread the map of Africa before Park the first day he dined at Hallyards made the traveller trace out his whole journey inch by inch & questioned him upon the whole as he went along with characteristical precision.

These things are scarce worth writing or reading. But I have a peculiar veneration for the memory of my unfortunate friend and even trifles connected with that topic have a peculiar claim to my remembrance. If you can extract any thing out of these trifles for your second edition they are much at your service & I am with much respect Dear Sir Your obliged humble Servt

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT

PICCADILLY 24 April [1815]
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO MR. WILKIE, MELROSE 2

[24th April 1815]

DEAR SIR,-I received your letter two days since & have since seen Lord Melville. I told his Lordship I would write to you to come up directly & he assented-so the sooner you set off the better that you may be here before I leave London. Of course you have taken care to be well grinded to pass your ordeal with credit. You need
(4-55)not make yourself uneasy about funds if they should happen to be a little short.

(4-55)Expecting to see you soon I would take it kind should this find you at Melrose if you would walk as far as Abbotsford & see how matters are going on-& particularly if the transplanted trees by the water-side are come into leaf & likely to thrive & if they are well staked down against the wind. If Tom can make up a small basket of good poultry and early potatoes if there are any

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(4-56)it would be very acceptable to the family with whom we reside here & perhaps you could manage to take care of it if you come up by sea. Let him write a line by you at any rate and say how all goes on.

(4-56)I remain with apologies for this trouble Very sincerely Yours

(4-56)WALTER SCOTT

(4-56)WHITEHORSE STREET PICCADILLY LONDON

[Percival Serle]

TO HENRY MACKENZIE

(4-56)My DEAR SIR,-I am favourd with your kind letter-
(4-56)Mr. Irvine whom I took the liberty to mention to you as a candidate for the situation you mention has since changed his views & is leaving or has already left this country to become a settler in Canada so that any interest which I could have taken in that appointment is at an end. I am not the less obliged to your kindness in putting the
(4-56)circumstance under my recollection.

(4-56)I am somewhat at a loss what to say about my supposed natural children. I really have not any real or literary which require legitimation and I think you must allude to some report which has not yet reached my ears farther than by your kind congratulations on the supposed increase of my literary family. I The interest which you take in these matters of mine will be always a reason with me for thinking more highly of them than I should otherwise tempted to do.

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(4-57)Every thing here is warlike though some folks still maintain that there will be an arrangement with Bonaparte. I cannot say I see the least appearance of it especially as the Grenville party are understood to be decided for war. In the drama Kean's laurels are rather overshadowed by those of Miss ONeil1 who is really a charming actress though not equal as some of her admirers pretend to Mrs. Siddons when in her brilliant days. She is the sweetest Juliet I ever saw or can conceive & excels rather in these feminine & soft characters than in those where force and dignity is required. Mrs. Scott joins me in best and kindest compliments to Mrs. Mackenzie & family and I ever am My dear Sir Your very faithful & obliged humble Servant

WALTER SCOTT

(4-57)PICCADILLY 29 April 1815.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON
MY DEAR RICHARDSON,-Our magnificent scheme is clip’d in the wings. I have got some business on my hands on Saturday of a nature which will not admit of my leaving town that day. The forecloser is Lord Mellville who has appointed that day for our rail-road affairs and I shall have my throat cut by the Mr. of Napier if I do not meet the parties concerned. On Sunday I propose breakfasting and spending the day at Hampstead and shall draw up at your door at ten precisely. We propose to retreat at night and I think you will have enough of us. Betwixt [now] and that time I shall certainly see Mrs. Baillie and endeavour to arrange the pleasure of paying homage to her at a more quiet day. I am almost worn out with visits and visitations.

I send you the patent for the arms. It occurs to me that the Avisas should be blue and yellow. Yet they are coloured red and white. Yours very truly,

WALTER SCOTT

Monday PICCADILLY [? 1815]

TO JOHN MURRAY

DEAR SIR,-The day being so execrable and my rheumatics troublesome I have deputed John Ballantyne to ask you whether you would like to have a share in Don Roderick which I am about to reprint with a considerable addition. The property is with the Ballantynes but as
I have an interest in it I have desired them to offer you a third of the impression at the same terms with the other two publishers as I think it will suit your sale better than any of them and as I would be happy to have your name on the title. Yours very truly          W. SCOTT

PICCADILLY GARDENS [May 1815]

[Sir Alfred J. Law]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

[Extract]

MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-I wrote a long letter this moment finished to Mrs. Clephane and sent it by the post and now continue to scribble one in answer to yours of 29th this instant received. . . .

I am sure my dear young friend nothing will give me greater pleasure than that any pains I can take in this affair may conduce to your honour and happiness-I do trust under God that this will be the case for the family are highly spoken of as a race of steady and honourable men who do honour to their rank and country. The Marquis I should suppose frugal for he has his difficulties to struggle with and subdue. He has proceeded far in retrieving and enlarging the estate and very naturally has a prudential eye to strengthen and secure what he has reclaimed. I will litigate no point with him in such a manner as to produce irritation because even if I should carry my immediate object it might eventually affect your happiness by chilling your reception into the bosom of a
family whose affection must be of such importance to you in future life. But what I may be forced to give up I will at least have the pleasure of sacrificing with a good grace. Lord C. seems of opinion and I think justly that it would serve nothing going into particulars until I can exhibit the rentalls of the properties (that of Kirkness is I suppose out of the question) the entail and the contract of marriage.

I will remain in London till the deeds are signed as you may probably want me to be a trustee or at any rate to prevent the possibility of mischief. This is no inconvenience to me but rather otherwise for we live in the home of a kind old friend who will not listen to our proposal of leaving her so that we are in every respect as well or better accommodated than in Castle Street. We have a very gay time of it if eating drinking and evening parties can make it so—but I have sent Sophia out to Hampstead to spend a few days with Joanna Baillie to save her Tweedside complection.

... I shall most sincerely rejoice when you are out of the reach of all this tracasserie and I am sure my dear young friend you have by this time seen enough of the wretched consequences of family dissention to make you for your whole life regard it as the service of domestic unhappiness. You have to take your ground in a new family and among new friends. I trust and hope you will find them all you can wish but they must be above humanity if they have not failings and prejudices of one kind or other to these my dear Miss Clephane you must accommodate yourself as far as it is possible both because in doing so you will best shew your affection to your
husband and because establishing yourself in the good opinion of his family especially as being so closely and intimately connected with them must necessarily lay the deepest and most sure foundation for domestic felicity. Lord G. will probably make you acquainted with the characters of the principal members of his own family - at least he will be nattered and delighted with your enquiries concerning them made with the purpose of rendering yourself an agreeable addition to their family circle. I have often thought that the two great commands to love God and our Neighbour have their relative and distinct rewards for if the homage which we owe to the Supreme Being prepare us to enjoy happiness in the next world, the social charities and affections of humanity form the most sure guides to happiness in this. But you will think I am getting very prosy only I know you will excuse if because I am on this occasion a papa sort of a person and determined to exercise my full right to be dull and dogmatical.

To turn from wisdom to folly all our foreign wanderers are hurrying home - Lady Davey cured other admiration of the French and Lydia White with the humour of forty fancies as Grumio says pricked upon her cap for a feather. Never were there seen such monsters in apparel as France has sent back to us - Let your Mantua maker exert her fancy as she pleases you will be hardly too fantastic for the fashion.

I am glad you like Hay Donaldson who really is all that you have said and to a thorough knowledge of his profession adds much feeling and delicacy. He is a tried man and may be relied upon. I mentioned to Lord 1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT 6l
Compton the propriety there was in Mr. Donaldson appearing as his man of business upon the occasion with which he is quite satisfied- It vindicates Donaldsons interference in the most complete manner which might otherwise give cause of offence. I am quite charmed with Mrs. Clephanes steadiness and composure but her affection will I know carry through much in your account which she might not submit to in her own. Yours ever most faithfully

WALTER SCOTT

I have kept this letter by me till today and am now finishing it on my return from the drawing room where I have kissed hands. You would laugh to see me in a dress coat bag and sword as I am at this present writing.

4th May 1815.

[Northampton]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-I beg your acceptance of my, best congratulations on Mrs. Douglas's change of sentiments-which cannot but have an excellent effect upon all the negociation and gives a certain ascertained consequence to your own fortune when about to enter a great family. I am glad Mrs. D. C. has thought of consulting Lord Reston 1 who with some narrow prejudices and hard corners about him is nevertheless a man of excellent sense and great worth and legal capacity. I have received a letter from Mr. Henry Clephane about Mrs. M. D.'s resolutions and referring me generally to Maclean Clephanes instructions which I am delighted with, since it will render it unnecessary to put
much direct business correspondence with him until I can have the whole settled - I expect the pacquet today, yesterday being no day of delivery, I will not be startled on the length of the papers and will peruse them with an interest that will prevent the possibility of their being tiresome. It was stupid in me not to send my address but I trust there is no chance of the papers miscarrying - if I knew where the M. Steuart is to be found to whom they are addressed under cover I would enquire after them.

Wednesday.

The papers came safe yesterday and I have gone over them and had a long conversation with Lord Compton in order to have his advice in shaping my proposals so as to be most acceptable to the Marquis. In consequence of his opinion joined to my own I intend to abide by my proposal for $100 for every $1000 of the price of Powguild or that may be raised upon it in case the capital is to be sunk - if it is to be preserved of course we will have only 5 pr. cent. The settlement of Mrs. Douglas C. will authorize a demand of $1000 a year aditl. jointure but ord G. thinks and I also think it will be right to qualify this proposal by saying that the addition shall be conditional in case Mrs. D. C. shall not exercise her reserved power of sale for which I trust there is not the least danger. I have sent the papers to Mr. Boodle and I expect to have an appointment with him one of these days when I will deliver my project. But before that I will send you a copy. With $3000 a year Powguild or a corresponding annuity, the reversion of Torloisk and of Kirkness I conceive you will have between
5000 and 6000 a year which is an ample provision and if I can carry it so far I will be most happy.

I do not think the clause in the entail can be altered but I do not conceive that its operation will be at all prejudicial as will appear from the following list of supposed cases. 1st During the life of the Marquis Lord Compton being a commoner in the eye of law and signing himself Maclean Compton, the clause cannot operate, and.

When Ld. C. becomes a Marqs. his son supposing he has but one might doubtless claim the estate under the clause when he attains the age of 21. But it is not to be supposed he will do so because his father will be interested in providing him otherwise and because he could not take the name and arms of Maclean alone. Again supposing there is a younger son it seems to me that he could not claim while there was an elder brother still a commoner in the eyes of law. Again supposing matters to remain in this situation untill the death of the present Ld. C. whom we suppose to have succeeded to the title of Marquis of N. it seems then clear to me that his widow having ceased to be the wife of a peer could not be deprived of the estate by any of her sons although after her death she would be succeeded in the property not by the elder but by the second son. All this I will consider more at leasure when I get back the papers from Mr. Boodle but it does appear to me that nothing can occur to disturb your possession during your lifetime and indeed I trust and believe you will never [have] a child so different in disposition from yourself as to claim a right so very ungracious. My kindest compliments attend Mrs. Clephane to whom I will write with my paper of proposals and believe me ever
TO MRS. CLEPHANE

MY DEAR MRS. CLEPHANE,-I am just come from a consultation of great length with Ld. C. and his lawyers and have drawn up with their concurrence a sketch of proposals to be sent down to the Marquis whose answer will enable us finally to close matters on Tuesday and to put the conveyancers in motion. It will be necessary that you suggest as soon as possible the persons whom you may desire to act as Trustees for her pin-money and jointure etc. I have the pleasure to inform you that the free income of the Northampton estate is 18000 per ann: at least-no bad prospect for our young lady-In fact if Lord N. chooses a yet greater fortune will devolve upon Ld. C. probably 20,000 a year, and it is an improving property.

I have the pleasure to say that the M. has agreed the jointure shall be 3000 instead of 2000 in consequence of Mrs. Douglas Clephanes becoming a party to the settlement under this condition however (to which I could offer no objection) that the jointure should be restricted to 2000 if Mrs. D. C. should sell the estate in virtue of her reserved power to do so. I told them that I considered this as a most improbable event but of course lawyers are obliged to provide for that which is possible.
as well as for that which is probable. I presume the estate of Kirkness will be settled (under the reserved powers) upon Lord & Lady C. in conjunct fee and life rent and on the survivor and on the heirs of the marriage with power to burthen it for the provision of younger children. If there should be no children of the marriage Mrs. Douglas Clephane will perhaps direct its further destination or she may choose to leave it wholly at her granddaughters disposal. I should wish to learn her intentions on this point and of course Miss Clephane will take the most early and graceful mode of acquainting the old lady of how much consequence her affectionate patronage has proved at the present moment.

It will I think be absolutely necessary to sell Powguild as the times are. To keep it under tenants at will may ruin it utterly and to let it to an improving tenant for 19 years would greatly diminish the chance of selling well hereafter as every purchaser of course wishes to have a free entry. Using the privilege of cutting

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and coming upon this estate we would propose to sell it in the course of the season after due advertisement. The price after deducting 1st capital to answer the incumbrances and 2dly 6000 to be vested in trustees for the use of Ld. and Ly. C. during their life and for the benefit of the younger children, is to be considered as applicable to fitting them out in the world and will I should hope run from 1500 to 2000 at the very least. I have thought it necessary also to preserve a power of applying even the reserved 6000 to any beneficial purpose with concurrence of the trustees so that there may be a little fund at command upon proper occasions- I have stipulated for 1200 instead of 1000 in the event of Ld. C's death
before his fathers. This with the interest of the reserved

6000 will make the jointure under this melancholy

supposition and I find upon conversing with Ld. C

confidentially that there is no chance of making more of it.

I will have a reply to this on Tuesday. I have put

strongly under the M's eye the inadequacy of the sum of

2000 for the young peoples maintenance declining

however to make any positive stipulation but referring

it to his own good sense and affection. It is very probable

he will not bind himself to give more but Ld. C is an only

son and of course we must trust something to paternal

affection and for good will. I have also stated the

inadequacy of provision for educating children but with

the same deference to his Lordships sense of what is due

to his own representatives. Lastly I also proposed that

Lady C's pin-money should be increased as she succeeded

to her own property which was thought reasonable.

I have not time to copy my long paper as it must get

down to Northamptonshire by this post if possible.

Everything was arranged so far as could be arranged

without the M. in the most pleasant manner and the

lawyers seemed sensible of the reasonableness.

Lord C. behaved very handsomely with great candour

and disinterestedness as well as a very competent knowledge

of business. The old Solicitor is a fowl which as the

Laird of Logan says is the most polite way of calling a

man a goose.

Adieu, I have to draw a case for John Clerks opinion

respecting the operation of the obnoxious clause supposing

the entail to stand good, which I fear will prove the case.

This is necessary for the satisfaction of Lord C's man of
(4-66) business who put a great many questions which we agreed
(4-66) it was best to have ascertained by opinion of counsel as it
(4-66) was too delicate for me to require them. to rest on my
(4-66) exposition. Kindest love to Miss Clephane and believe
(4-66) me most truly yours  W. SCOTT

(4-66) May 1815.
[Northampton]

TO RIGHT HONBLE. JOHN MACMAHON

(4-66) SIR,- It becomes my grateful duty to acknowledge that
(4-66) I have this morning received from Mr. Baron Adam the
(4-66) elegant & valuable box with which it has pleased His
(4-66) Royal Highness the Prince Regent to honour me. While
(4-66) I shall carefully preserve and transmit to my children
(4-66) this invaluable token of His Royal Highness's regard I
(4-66) may presume to add that I did not require such a
(4-66) memorial to preserve the respectful sense which I entertain

SIR WALTER SCOTT  1815  67

(4-67) of the condescension & kindness with which His Royal
(4-67) Highness has distinguished me nor I trust will those who
(4-67) may follow me as its possessors require such a memento
(4-67) of the duty which they owe to His Royal Highness and
(4-67) to their country. I beg you will have the goodness to
(4-67) express in the most dutiful and proper manner my warm
(4-67) sense of this distinguished honor and that you will believe
(4-67) me Sir your most obedient. humble Servant

(4-67) WALTER SCOTT
(4-67) PICCADILLY 23 May 1815.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]
TO MISS CLEPHANE

(4-67)MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,—I have your letter this morning and I just write these few lines to beg you will not consider these embarrassments too deeply. Believe me Lord Compton regards them as of no sort of consequence but as the necessary and inevitable effects of business ill-looked after and suffered to fall into perplexity. I saw Mrs. Douglas's letter to him. If there is any thing hostile in the old lady's mind the feeling was never more misapplied but I trust there is nothing but what a very few words may clear up. Ld. C. has already determined to make an offer which I think a very handsome one indeed but if they think it inadequate we will try arbitration as better than actual litigation between near relations.

(4-67)In the meanwhile I have the draught of the Scottish deeds forwarded by Mr. Donaldson and after revising it I have given it to Mr. Boodle to be considered by him and by the Counsel he may chuse to consult. The English deeds are to be ready for revisal this week when I intend to lay them before an eminent Chamber Council called and entitled Mr. Sidebotham in order that I may have his opinion if the tackle be rightly twisted. This is necessary as I am no English lawyer and as the deeds are to be drawn by Lord C's solicitor. They will then be written fairly out for signing and sealing. I imagine Lord C's journey to Scotland may commence in about a fortnight—at least I see nothing to the contrary. As I have now happily brought so near all that I can do for you here I have resolved to set sail on Sunday first by which time all the deeds will be revised and adjusted and my gracious presence may be useful in getting matters
settled in Queen Street. I think I can easily satisfy Andw. Clephane which way the wind of his own interest sets for a lawsuit would be as disadvantageous to them as it would be unpleasant to you.

Also I will save you all further trouble of corresponding upon disagreeable subjects with Lord C. Once more you may rely upon it that he sees nothing in this matter that is not highly creditable to you personally and besides as a man of the world he is not startled or surprised at seeing people tenacious of their own interest.

With respect to Mrs. Maclean Clephane I am confident that whatever you wish on her account will meet Lord C's ready and glad assent and I will gladly communicate your wishes on the subject whenever my return shall enable you to explain them fully. Do not let your own feelings torment you there is nothing else to do so. As I sail on Sunday I cannot receive another letter in answer to this nor does any appear necessary. I hope to have a few lines from Donaldson in the course of the week. It will be indeed practical for Lord C. to retain sight of this intelligent and active agent for his future concerns in Scotland.

I breakfasted this morning with my old friend Terry the performer where I met Naesmyth in high feather and delighted with the sights he had seen through your interest. I have given him an Open Sesame to one or two more. London gets more absurd than ever. I was at Lady Salisburys on Sunday evening when a certain Madame Simon designing herself Musicienne et Femme de lettres was the exhibitor of the party. She recited played...
sang and gesticulated as if she had the combined spirits

of ten mad French to animate her single person and to

say truth was the most preposterous animal that I ever

saw going at large. My kind love to Mrs. Clephane. I
do not write because I have much to do and nothing to

say but as above said. I must dress for a grand Dejeuner
today at 5 o’clock it will be the third time [I] have dejeune
today. Yours most affectionately W. SCOTT

6th June [Postmark 1815].

TO JOHN MURRAY

MY DEAR SIR, - I regret your accident much,1 of which
I only learnt the extent from the papers. I hope you will
soon get well & I am heartily sorry I cannot bid you
goodbye in person. I intend to revise my letters on
Scottish history 2 for you but I will not get to press till
November for the country affords no facilities for
consulting the necessary authorities. I hope it may turn out
a thing of some interest though I rather intend to keep
to its original purpose as a book of instruction to children.
Yours very truly W. SCOTT

Saturday PICCADILLY [10 June 1815].3
We sail tomorrow if we can carry anything for you.
[John Murray and Smiles]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

MY DEAR SOUTHEY,- Allow me to bespeak your friendship
and countenance in behalf of the family of Mr.
Henry Mackenzie author of the Man of Feeling and the
best papers in the Mirror, Lounger, &c. Mrs. & the Miss Mackenzies intend to take up their habitation for the season among your lakes if they can find a residence which will suit them and they will be joined by Mr. Mackenzie in the course of the autumn. They are an accomplished and amiable family whom I have known long and continually and who are in every respect worthy of being known to you and it is one sign of their desert that they are very ambitious of that honor.

I left Wordsworth in London a few days since flourishing like a green bay tree—we had some pleasant parties together though not so many as I could have wished. The Excursion had run off very well and the White Doe was also likely to show her speed. By the way I think it is the most beautiful thing he has written. There is no other news except what is political—O Lord, O Lord, that we should be back at our old heigh-ho for want of a little ordinary precaution—and to hear the nonsense which the people talk in London about the alteration of that man's nature and disposition is enough to make a dog sick—A rascal got up and told the people of Westminster that the murder of the Duc D'Enghien was merely the execution of the sentence of a Court Marshal and that

Capt. Wright killed himself—this was said and the fellow was not pelted to death with pippins and potatoes but on the contrary applauded and huzza'd.

Is there any chance of seeing you on the Border this season—it is neither far off nor foul road and you owe me a visit which I need not say will be more welcome if Mrs. Southey comes along, to whom my wife begs to be kindly remembered. Ever dear Southey Yours most
TO MISS [ELIZABETH] BOND 2

MY DEAR Miss BOND,-I was favourd with your letter and from my long knowledge of printers and booksellers I should have been much surprized had you got out of their hands without abundance of plague and vexation.

I take the opportunity of John Ballantyne going to London to request he will account to you for my subscription and also Lady Douglas's ([1. 1.]) which has been in my purse two years I dare say. Lady Douglas lives in Bruton Street where her book may be sent. Lady Louisa Stuart used to live in Gloucester Street but the court calendar will tell you exactly. It will be unnecessary to send these to Scotland.

All my little people are well and are really very comfortable children, fond of each other and of papa & mama and now at an age to contribute much to our happiness (to mine in particular for I neither read nor write so constantly as I used to do and go little into company).

Upon looking at your postscript as I read your letter in great haste & was anxious to reply I observe the books are in Edin. I shall take care of Lady Douglas's & Lady
(4-72)Louisa's copies until Lady D. comes down to Scotland in the autumn. Believe me ever with sincere regard,
(4-72)Your most respectful humble servant

(4-72)WALTER SCOTT

(4-72)EDINBURGH, Wednesday [N.D. (c. 1815)]
[Maggs Bros.]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

(4-72)ABBOTSFORD, July 1815

(4-72)MY DEAR MRS. CLEPHANE,-Having an opportunity to thank you and to send back my careful friend MacLean by a vehicular conveyance which restores Adam Fergusson to town, I can just say how much we prize Oberon, and that we shall endeavour to render his fairyland as comfortable as we would wish it to be to a pledge of your regard. I will take care of what you have requested of me and will certainly accelerate my journey to be present on Monday at a ceremony in which I take the most sincere interest. With love to the young ladies and best respects to Lord C. I adjourn all talk of business till we meet. I will be in town on Sunday, so you can send me a note that day with your farther commands which will find me in Castle Street. The children are screaming about Oberon, and the chaise approaches the cottage porch. Ever most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

[Northampton]

TO SAMUEL ROGERS
My DEAR ROGERS,-I received your letter with the contents which will be very convenient to our poetical friend. Traitors Gate 2 is an old friend of mine but it is now much ruined in point of appearance by an operation of government who have stationed in the entrance not a giant of romance but "a Giant with one idea" for so Coleridge used to call a steam engine. Adieu God bless you and pray think of your promise to look Northward ever yrs WALTER SCOTT

PICCADILLY Sunday 1815 12th July [June] 3
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

MY DEAR RICHARDSON,-I am going to give your unwearied goodnature a bit of trouble. I have determined to take a trip to Paris via Brussells to see this grand finale. My companions are young Alexr Pringle of Whitebank & Robert Bruce Advocate. I understand we shall want passports & am uncertain whether they can be had without coming to London which would be a horrid bore. Will you solve me this doubt & get the passports if they can be had. If descriptions are necessary Robert Bruce 2 is tall say 5 feet 11. Brown hair light eyes, long face, stout made. Pringle about 5 feet 6 light hair & eyes round face & slightly made. My own I need not add- If said passports can be had Mr Freling will frank them to me directing to Edinr. If not you will tell what next can be done. Brussells is our first object next Paris- I write in haste having just taken this sudden frisk into my head resolved to see this second Brentford whose monarchs like those in the Rehearsal
(4-74)Ere a pot of good ale you can swallow
(4-74)Are here with a whoop & gone with a hollow.3

(4-74)Mrs. Scott joins me in kindest & best respects to Mrs.
(4-74)Richardson who we hope is now quite stout. Believe me
(4-74)very truly yours

(4-74)WALTER SCOTT

(4-74)15 July 1815 ABBOTSFORD

(4-74)I shall be in Edinr on the 24th.
[Abbotsford Copies]

SIR WALTER SCOTT 1815 75

TO JOHN MURRAY

(4-75)August [July](1) 1815

(4-75)MY DEAR SIR,-I have your note & am glad you like
(4-75)the idea of a new Gaudeamus poem.2 The instant it is
(4-75)finishd I am bound for Brussels & thence to Paris & may
(4-75)possibly return through London. I assure you I have not
(4-75)lost sight of your interest or what you may think so in
(4-75)future labours my engagements being now well nigh
(4-75)closed. I will certainly write the highland article on my
(4-75)return but in general I would wish it to be understood
(4-75)that I only write at articles which have no offence in them.
(4-75)I do not want to burn my fingers either with politics or
(4-75)severe criticism especially as the latter would come with
(4-75)better grace from any one else than Yours very truly

(4-75)W. SCOTT
This will be delivered possibly by a young person who is in some degree under my charge. If he finds difficulty in getting cash for a draught on Edinr. for £20 which I have sent him I will be obliged to you to assist him.

Southeys article on Lord Wellington does him the highest honor. Remember me to Lord Byron when he visits your parlour & also to Gifford Mr. Hammond &c.

[John Murray]

76 LETTERS OF 1815

TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

MY DEAR HARTSTONGE,—I have been a very idle correspondent and now owe you two at least though I rather think three of your kind letters [went] without acknowledgment. One covered £5 for the Mausoleum of poor Burns which I have transmitted to their collector only the other day though for I received it in London where I idled away two months among my old friends this season.

It was the first time I had been there for six years and time had made its usual changes. Poor George Ellis 1 one of the kindest and best as well as one of the most accomplished of human beings died two days after I reached town and made a great gap in the pleasure I had proposed myself. Since my return here I was strongly tempted once more to embark in our smart cutter and visit the sweet Liffey and Dublin, when we proposed to send round the vessel to Cork and travel ourselves by land taking the Wicklow Mountains and the Lake of Killarney in our way, but the extreme desire to hear a British drum beat in the streets of Paris has predominated over my wish to see green Erin. She I hope will remain in Peace and Happiness for many years and easily
accessable. But the sight that is now in Paris is such as
only occurs once in five hundred years and so by the time
this reaches you I shall be on my way to Brussels and
from thence after visiting the memorable fields of Waterloo
I shall make my way to Paris under the escort of some of
our detachments, for I have a notion that will be the
safest mode of travelling and I have enough of acquaintances
among the military to render it the most pleasant.
I expect a great deal from this trip but yet I am rather
uncertain whether I shall not wait at Brussels the fate of
the remnant of Bonapartes army; from all I have heard

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of these gentry and something I have seen of the Prisoners
in this country I believe the peace of Europe can never
be considered as quite settled while any considerable
portion of them remain embodied so completely had that
restless and ambitious spirit contrived to fit his tools for
his purposes.

One great loss I shall have by my change of plan,
which is that I cannot have an opportunity to make
my personal acquaintance with Miss Edgeworth. I wrote
her a long letter and her father another before I went
to London which I trust came safe. No one can yield to
to me in respect and admiration for her unrival'd talent of
sketching characters from nature and I envy you sincerely
the pleasure other acquaintance. The Ode to Duchesse
D'Angouleme is very good indeed pray who is the author. I
. .2 my old acquaintance the Ode to Desolation since
I saw the first sketch at Abbotsford.3 I have no time
for criticism at present, the purpose of this being almost
to let you know that I am alive and always
sensible to your continued kindness. Believe me ever
Most truly yours WALTER SCOTT
26th July, 1815.

My Dear Lord Duke,- I promised to let you hear of my wanderings, however unimportant; and have now the pleasure of informing your Grace, that I am at this present time an inhabitant of the Premier Hotel de Cambrai, after having been about a week upon the Continent. We landed at Helvoet, and proceeded to Brussels, by Bergen-op-Zoom and Antwerp, both of which are very strongly fortified. The ravages of war are little remarked in a country so rich by nature; but everything seems at present stationary, or rather retrograde, where capital is required. The chateux are deserted, and going to decay; no new houses are built, and those of older date are passing rapidly in to the possession of a class inferior to those for whom we must suppose them to have been built. Even the old gentlewoman of Babylon has lost much of her splendour, and her robes and pomp are of a description far subordinate to the costume of her more magnificent days. The dresses of the priests were worn and shabby, both at Antwerp and Brussels, and reminded me of the decayed wardrobe of a bankrupt theatre; yet, though the gentry and priesthood have suffered much, the eternal bounty of nature has protected the lower ranks against much distress. The unexampled fertility of the soil gives them all, and more than they want; and could they but sell the grain which they raise in the Netherlands, nothing else would be wanting...
On Wednesday last, I rode over the memorable field of Waterloo, now for ever consecrated to immortality. All the more ghastly tokens of the carnage are now removed the bodies both of men and horses being either burned or buried. But all the ground is still torn with the shot and shells, and covered with cartridges, old hats, and shoes, and various relics of the fray which the peasants have not thought worth removing. Besides, at Waterloo and all the hamlets in the vicinage, there is a mart established for cuirasses; for the eagles worn by the imperial guard on their caps; for casques, swords, carabines, and similar articles. I have bought two handsome cuirasses, and intend them, one for Bowhill, and one for Abbotsford, if I can get them safe over, which Col. Price Gordon has promised to manage for me. I have also, for your Grace, one of the little memorandum books which I picked up on the field, in which every French soldier was obliged to enter his receipts and expenditure, his services, and even his punishments. The field was covered with fragments of these records. I also got a good MS. collection of French songs, probably the work of some young officer, and a croix of the Legion of Honour. I enclose, under another cover, a sketch of the battle, made at Brussels. It is not, I understand, strictly accurate; but sufficiently so to give a good idea of what took place. In fact, it would require twenty separate plans to give an idea of the battle at its various stages. The front, upon which the armies engaged, does not exceed a long mile. Our line, indeed, originally extended half-a-mile further towards the village of Brain-la-Leude; but as the French
indicated no disposition to attack in that direction, the troops which occupied that space were gradually concentrated by Lord Wellington, and made to advance till they had reached Hougomont—a sort of chateau, with a garden and wood attached to it, which was powerfully and effectually maintained by the Guards during the action. This place was particularly interesting. It was a quiet-looking gentleman's house, which had been burnt by the French shells. The defenders, burnt out of the villa itself, betook themselves to the little garden, where, breaking loop-holes through the brick walls, they kept up a most destructive fire on the assailants, who had possessed themselves of a little wood which surrounds the villa on one side. In this spot vast numbers had fallen; and, being hastily buried, the smell is most offensive at this moment. Indeed, I felt the same annoyance in many parts of the field; and, did I live near the field, I should be anxious about the diseases which this steaming carnage might occasion. The rest of the ground, excepting this chateau, and a farm-house called La Hay Sainte, early taken, and long held, by the French, because it was too close under the brow of the descent on which our artillery was placed to admit of the pieces being depressed so as to play into it,—the rest of the ground, I say, is quite open, and lies between two ridges, one of which (Mont St. Jean) was constantly occupied by the English; the other, upon which is the farm of La Belle Alliance, was the position of the French. The slopes between are gentle and varied; the ground everywhere practicable for cavalry, as was well experienced on that memorable day. The cuirassiers, despite their arms of proof, were quite inferior to our heavy dragoons. The meeting of the two bodies occasioned a noise, not unaptly compared to the tinkering
and hammering of a smith's shop. Generally the cuirassiers came on stooping their heads very low, and giving point; the British frequently struck away their casques while they were in this posture, and then struck at the bare head. Officers and soldiers all fought hand to hand without distinction; and many of the former owed their life to the dexterity at their weapon, and personal strength of body. Shaw, the milling Life-Guardsman, whom your Grace may remember among the Champions of the Fancy, maintained the honour of the fist, and

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killed or disabled upwards of twenty Frenchmen with his single arm, until he was killed by the assault of numbers. At one place, where there is a sort of precipitous sand or gravel pit, the heavy English cavalry drove many of the cuirassiers over pell-mell, and followed over themselves, like fox-hunters. The conduct of the infantry and artillery was equally, or, if possible, more distinguished, and it was all fully necessary; for, besides that our army was much outnumbered, a great part of the sum-total were foreigners. Of these, the Brunswickers and Hanoverians behaved very well; the Belgians but sorrily enough.

On one occasion, when one regiment fairly ran off, Lord Wellington rode up to them, and said: "My lads, you must be a little blown; come, do take your breath for a moment, and then we'll go back, and try if we can do a little better"; and he actually carried them back to the charge. He was, indeed, upon that date, everywhere, and the soul of everything; nor could less than his personal endeavours have supported the spirits of the men through a contest so long, so desperate, and so unequal.

At his last attack, Bonaparte brought up 15,000 of his Guard, who had never drawn trigger during the day. It was upon their failure that his hopes abandoned him.
I spoke long with a shrewd Flemish peasant, called John Dacosta, whom he had seized upon as his guide, and who remained beside him the whole day, and afterwards accompanied him in his flight as far as Charleroi. Your Grace may be sure that I interrogated Mynheer Dacosta very closely about what he heard or saw. He guided me to the spot where Bonaparte remained during the latter part of the action. It was in the highway from Brussels to Charleroi, where it runs between two high banks, on each of which was a French battery. He was pretty well sheltered from the English fire; and, though many bullets flew over his head, neither he nor any of his suite were touched. His other stations, during that day, were still more remote from all danger. The story of his having an observatory erected for him is a mistake. There is such a thing, and he repaired to it during the action; but it was built or erected some months before, for the purpose of a trigonometrical survey of the country, by the King of the Netherlands. Bony's last position was nearly fronting a tree where the Duke of Wellington was stationed; there is not more than a quarter of a mile between them; but Bony was well sheltered, and the Duke so much exposed, that the tree is barked in several places by the canon-balls levelled at him. As for Bony, Dacosta says he was very cool during the whole day, and even gay. As the canon-balls flew over them, Dacosta ducked; at which the Emperor laughed, and told him they would hit him all the same. At length, about the time he made his grand and last effort, the re-doubled fire of the Prussian artillery was heard upon his right, and the heads of their columns became visible pressing out of the woods. Aid-de-camp after aid-de-camp came
with the tidings of their advance, to which B. only replied. Attendez, attendez un instant, until he saw his troops, fantassins et cavaliers, return in disorder from the attack. He then observed hastily to a general beside him, Je crois qu'ils sont meles. The person to whom he spoke, hastily raised the spy-glass to his eye; but B., whom the first glance had satisfied of their total discomfiture, bent his face to the ground, and shook his head twice, his complection being then as pale as death. The General then said something, to which Buonaparte answered, C'est trop tard-sauvons nous. Just at that moment, the allied troops, cavalry and infantry, appeared in full advance on all hands; and the Prussians, operating upon the right flank of the French, were rapidly gaining their rear.

Bony, therefore, was compelled to abandon the high-road, which, besides, was choked with dead, with baggage, and cannon; and, gaining the open country, kept at full gallop, until he gained, like Johnnie Cope, the van of the flying army. The Marechals followed his example; and it was the most complete sauve qui peut that can well be imagined. Nevertheless, the prisoners who were brought into Brussels maintained their national impudence, and boldly avowed their intention of sacking the city with every sort of severity. At the same time they had friends there. One man of rank and wealth went over to Bony during the action, and I saw his hotel converted into a hospital for wounded soldiers. It occupied one-half of one of the sides of the Place Royale, a noble square, which your Grace has probably seen. But, in general, the inhabitants of Brussels were very differently disposed; and their benevolence to our poor wounded fellows was unbounded. The difficulty was to prevent them from killing their guests with kindness, by giving them butcher's
meat and wine during their fever.

As I cannot put my letter into post until we get to Paris, I shall continue it as we get along.

12th August,-Roye, in Picardy.-I imagine your Grace about this hour to be tolerably well fagged with a hard day on the moors. If the weather has been as propitious as here, it must be delightful. The country through which we have travelled is most uncommonly fertile, and skirted with beautiful woods; but its present political situation is so very uncommon, that I would give the world your Grace had come over for a fortnight. France may be considered as neither at peace nor war. Valenciennes, for example, is in a state of blockade and we passed through the posts of the allies, all in the utmost state of vigilance. With patroles of cavalry and videttes of infantry, up to the very gates, and two or three batteries were manned and mounted. The French troops were equally vigilant at the gates, yet made no objections to our passing through the town. Most of them had the white cockade, but looked very sulky, and were in obvious disorder and confusion. They had not yet made their terms with the King, nor accepted a commander appointed by him; but as they obviously feel their party desperate, the soldiers are running from the officers, and the officers from the soldiers. In fact, the multiplied hosts which pour into this country, exhibiting all the various dresses and forms of war which can be imagined, must necessarily render resistance impracticable. Yet, like Satan, these fellows retain the unconquered propensity to defiance, even in the midst of defeat and despair. This morning we passed a great number of
the disbanded garrison of Conde, and they were the most horrid-looking cut-throats I ever saw, extremely disposed to be insolent, and only repressed by the consciousness that all the villages and towns around are occupied by the Allies. They began by crying to us in an ironical tone, Vive le Roi; then followed, sotto voce, Sacre B--, Milles diables, and other graces of French eloquence. I felt very well pleased that we were armed, and four in number; and still more so that it was daylight, for they seemed most mischievous ruffians. As for the appearance of the country, it is, notwithstanding a fine harvest, most melancholy. The windows of all the detached houses on the road are uniformly shut up; and you see few people, excepting the peasants who are employed in driving the contributions to maintain the armies. The towns are little better, having for the most part been partially injured by shells or by storm, as was the case both of Cambrai and Peronne. The men look very sulky; and if you speak three words to a woman, she is sure to fall a-crying. In short, the politesse and good-humour of this people have fled with the annihilation of their self-conceit; and they look at you as if they thought you were laughing at them, or come to enjoy the triumph of our arms over theirs. Postmasters and landlords are all the same, and hardly to be propitiated even by English money, although they charge us about three times as much as they durst do to their countryfolks. As for the Prussians, a party of cavalry officers dined at our hotel at Mons, eat and drank of the best the poor devils had left to give, called for their horses, and laughed in the face of the landlord when he offered his bill, telling him they would pay as they came back. The English, they say, have always paid honourably, and upon these they...
Indemnify themselves. It is impossible to marchander,
for if you object, the poor landlady begins to cry, and
tells you she will accept whatever your lordship pleases, but
that she is almost ruined and bankrupt, &c. &c. &c.

This is a long stupid letter, but I will endeavour to
send a better from Paris. Ever your Grace's truly obliged,

WALTER SCOTT
[Buccleuch and Lockhart]

TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

PARIS 15 Augt. 1815

MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I inclose the plan of the battle
of Waterloo which is pretty accurate. Me voila a Paris
where I arrived yesterday. It is a strange sight being
quite filld with Foreign troops who occupy almost to the
exclusion of the natives every place of public resort. In
the mean time there is much suppressd discontent & the
aspect of public things is not comfortable. Count
Labedoyere 1 whose arrest your Grace may have observed
in the papers has made confession of a desperate
conspiracy which must have laid this capital in blood &
ashes. A great many uniforms of the allied troops were
provided in which the federe's of the suburbs were to
disguize themselves and begin by setting the town on fire
in separate parts. They conceived that the confusion
would have afforded them opportunity to massacre the

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foreigners especially the potentates & their Generals as
well as the Bourbons and their adherents. Since this
discovery all the guards have been doubled & great
exertions of diligence have been made by the police. It is to be hoped Master Fouche who is at the head of these matters will keep things quiet if it was only for the sake of his new married wife. It is pitiable to think how dependent the legitimate government is on the good faith of such a fellow. But so it is—there is no soundness left in the nation at all & not even the usual honour of thieves among themselves. They are a moral phenomenon or rather a most immoral one.

I shall be glad if my own observation affords me more comfortable anticipations than those which I have derived from the report of others. Meantime if your Grace has any commands wherewith to honour me am at the Hotel de Bourbon Rue de la paix & there as everywhere am My dear Lord Your truly attachd & obliged

WALTER SCOTT

Postscript. Labedoyere is condemnnd to death. It is believed that he and Ney & Clauzel 2 will certainly be executed. Clauzel has written a long letter to the D. of Wellington begging his protection but the D. says it is enough to have been cheated by him once. He says in this epistle that the English were best at close fighting the French at manouvreing- D-- him says the Duke. We outmanouv[red] him at Salamanca and best at marching continued the text-" hang him " said the D-"he was with Soult when we marchd round them." From what I heard at Head Quarters I doubt the fact averd by old Chevalier & the royalists that Labedoyere was engaged in a new plot of the description within mentiond. But there is no knowing what to trust

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this epistle that the English were best at close fighting the French at manouvreing- D-- him says the Duke. We outmanouv[red] him at Salamanca and best at marching continued the text-" hang him " said the D-"he was with Soult when we marchd round them." From what I heard at Head Quarters I doubt the fact averd by old Chevalier & the royalists that Labedoyere was engaged in a new plot of the description within mentiond. But there is no knowing what to trust
to the doubling the guards & a great increase of precautionary measures are certain facts.

[Buccleuch]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,-I trust you have by this time both my second & third packet containing the poem complete & the two first letters of Paul. My first packet from Brussells I conclude has miscarried as it should have reachd you about the 6th. I have both your letter & Johns & see all is going on well so far. I hope you have been able to make shift for the 25th as I fear my letters would hardly save distance. But I have done my best and could do no more. I intend to send no more copy till I get to Abbotsford which will be now very soon as I only wait to see the grand review. There is so much risque of miscarriage particularly on the subjects on which Paul must write that I will not trust his lucubrations till I get to some faithful post master. Besides there is a tumult in this town from morning till night beyond what it is possible for you to imagine. Fleet street at noon is a dead calm to it. I am making large notes which is all I can do in the tempest. Imagine all the soldiers of all the nations of Europe holding a carnaval in so large a metropolis & yet the police is wonderfully maintaind by these superb fellows the gens d'armes-the national guard are precisely our blue Volunteers & every now & then you meet Ro: Miller in complete uniform. I suppose about 500 are on guard every day besides the immense corps de guard maintaind by the allies. Walking home at night I have been challenged by a dozen centinels in half the
languages of Europe. The French are tiring sorely for the return of their cousins to Tipperary but their cousins seem as yet in no hurry to leave them. The works of art are vanishing fast from the Louvre. Yesterday I observed that they had begun to loosen with wedges the Venus de Medicis & the Dying Gladiator which I suppose is symptomatic of their removal. They have also begun to work on the celebrated Bronze horses which were brought from Venice but this excited such a mob that they were forced to turn out the guards. The scaffolding remains around the arch on which these horses are placed & I have no doubt that they will descend one of these fine mornings.

Compliments, to John— it will be in vain to attempt writing to me after receipt of this letter as I shall be on the move before the reply can reach me.

About editions &c I give C. & you carte blanche.
Reserve a few copies of the Field of Waterloo for me.
Your criticisms you will find in some measure anticipated & for the rest things must be as they may.

There is a perpetual whirl wind & tempest of gaiety going on among the strangers—that is amongst us. On Sunday was an immense to-do at Versailles and all Louis XIVths water works were set a playing to amuse a set of folks whom I believe Le grand monarque would have thought very indifferent company. Tonight Lady Castlereagh gives a great ball to the Emperors King of Prussia etc etc. Were the French half so devoted as they pretend to be they might make a Saint Bartholomew of some of these shines. But

The soldier dwells at our door—cheeks.
And tat's ta great vexation.

Ever yours truly

W. S.

PARIS, 30 Augt. [PM. 1815]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR SIR,-I am much obliged to you for your letter and quite agree with you as to the contents & have no objections of course to increase the impression to any extent which you may think adviseable providing the other gentlemen have no objection. The works are of a transient interest & therefore should not be underprinted surely.

I have been in excellent health since I was here and living very pleasantly in this city or I should rather say this immense garrison. The troops begin now to break up & move towards more distant quarters but there is still more than 100000 men in the vicinity of Paris.

I inclose a little ring with a medallion of the great Lord-they are very fashionable here and I beg you will ask Miss Constable's acceptance of it-it is of no value but what is momentary but I hope it will be one of the first to reach Edinburgh where it may be a novelty.

I think of leaving Paris on Saturday & shall return by the way of Dieppe-through London of course, but I will not stay above two days there.1 Yours very truly
(4-90) W. SCOTT

(4-90) PARIS 5 Sept. 1815

(4-90) Private.

(4-90) (With Compts. from J. B.)
[Stevenson]

TO LADY ALVANLEY

(4-90) [5th September 1815]

(4-90) Sent with lines written on a beautiful summer evening spent at St. Cloud, 12th August, 1815. 2

(4-90) DEAR LADY ALVANLEY,- The enclosed came into my head last night during two or three hours that I happened to lie awake to my own inconvenience and that of my friends as has since proved. That your Ladyship may not withhold your sympathy I send you and the young Ladies the melancholy fruits of my broken rest for with the generosity of Dogberry if I were as tedious as a King I could find in my heart to bestow it all on your Ladyship.

(4-90) Ever your much obliged

(4-90) W. S.

(4-90) HOTEL DE BOURBON

[Abbotsford Copies]

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TO [JAMES BALLANTYNE]
(4-91) [September? 1815]

IN great haste to save the courier to whom alone I dare trust a packet I send the last part of Waterloo—which of course sends abroad Don Roderk. Let a copy be sent to Dr. Clarke the Princes Librarian before publication.

Yours etc                                      W. S.

The first part went with the Sundays courier. I apprehend my Brussells packet miscarried as I have not heard from you.

[Signet Library]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

PARIS, from the 10 Augt. to 6th September [1815]

MY DEAR FRIEND I owe you a long letter but my late travels and the date of this epistle will be a tolerable plea for your indulgence. The truth is, I became very restless after the battle of Waterloo and was only detained by the necessity of attending a friends marriage from setting off instantly for the continent. At length however I got away to Brussells and was on the memorable field of battle about five weeks after it had been fought. Of course I saw few of the more ghastly witnesses of the fray although the field which is of very limited extent had been cumberd with about thirty thousand dead bodies besides twelve or fifteen thousand horses. A friend told me that the scene on the 19th reminded him strongly of the field of battle in Ethwald. But all the bodies had been burnd and buried before I came there. The smell however was in many places most noisome and the field was strewd with old hats old shoes a vast number
The little chateau of Hougomont, which had been desperately defended by the guards and actually burnt over their heads notwithstanding which they continued to hold the garden, shewed some very interesting reliques of this stubborn conflict. It is a beautiful quiet sequestred country mansion with a very wee little garden arranged with clip'd hedges and alleys. But the house was burnt and the scathed and blighted fruit-trees which yet partly cling to the walls and had partly fallen along with them gave a peculiar character of interest to the scene. The garden wall built for the purposes of domestic comfort was pierced with holes for the discharge of musquetry and a little wood which surrounds the Chateau had its trees all shattered to pieces with cannon shot. I had the good luck to meet John D'Accosta the peasant who was Bonapartes guide. He gave me pretty much the same account you have seen in the papers and conducted me to all the stations which Napoleon occupied during this the last of his fields. The last was in a part of the road which having high banks on each side was pretty well sheltered from such balls as might come in an oblique direction but sufficiently exposed to those which took the straight line. He was not however in any great danger as the English fire was at that time directed against the masses of his Guards while employ’d in their last and most desperate effort to retrieve the day. It is strange he should not have charged at their head for everybody says they would in that case have behaved better. As it was they gave a cheap victory for they would never wait the bay’net. Not so his cuirassiers, those men of iron and steel whose hearts were as much proof as their armour. There were never men
behaved with more devoted courage and so was seen for of twelve regiments so armd which came into the field it could never be found that three hundred men had escaped. They rode at the British squares round them and round them attempting to penetrate on every side with the most determined perseverance although the fire was the best supported and most tremendously destructive that was ever known. The British heavy cavalry finally fell upon them and despatchd almost all who had escaped the fire of grape shot and musquetry. There is a sort of precipitous gravel pit into which the Life Guards and Scotch Greys forced a great number of these cuirassiers who lay there a living and struggling mass of men and horses piled together in common destruction. If our army had been all British the day would have been soon decided. But the Duke, or as they call him here from his detestation of all sort of foppery the Beau had not above 35000 British—the rest were foreigners of whom the brave Belgians behaved very ill and so did a part of the Hanoverians particularly a cavalr regiment calld the Cumberland Hussars. All this was to be supplied by treble exertion on the part of our own troops. The Duke was everywhere during the battle and it was the mercy of heaven that protected him when all his staff had been killd or wounded round him. I askd him among other questions if he had seen Bonaparte. He said " No but at one time from the repeated shouts of Vive l'Empereur " he thought he must be near. This was when John d'accosta placed him in the hollow way. I think so near as I could judge there may at that time have been a quarter of a mile between these two great generals.
The fate of the French after this day of decisive appeal has been severe enough. There were never people more mortified, more subdued and apparently more broken in spirit. They submit with sad civility to the extortions of the Prussians and Russians and avenge themselves at the expense of the English whom they charge three prices for everything because they are the only people who pay at all. They are in the right however to enforce discipline and good order which not only maintains the national character in the meantime but will prevent the army from suffering by habits of indulgence.

I question if Prussians will soon regain their discipline and habits of hardiness. At present their powers of eating and drinking which are really something preternatural are exerted to the very utmost. A thin Prussian boy whom I sometimes see eats as much in one day as three English ploughmen. At daybreak he roars for chocolate and eggs—about nine he breakfasts more solemnly a la fourchette when besides all the usual apparatus of an English déjeuner he eats a world of cutlets, oysters, fruit &c &c and drinks a glass of brandy and a bottle of Champagne. His dinner might serve Garagantua at which he gets himself about three parts drunk a circumstance which does not prevent his renewing the charge upon cold meat with tea and chocolate about six o'clock and concluding the whole with an immense supper. Positively the appetite of these men puts me in mind of the Eastern tale of a man taken out of the sea by a ships crew who in return ate up all the provisions of the vessell. He was I think flown away by a Rock—but from what quarter of the heavens the French are to look for deliverance from their devourers I cannot presume to guess. The needless
wreck and ruin which they make in the houses adds much to the inconvenience of their presence. Most of the Chateaux where the Prussians are quartered are what is technically called rump’d that is to say plundered out and out. In the fine Chateau of Montmorency in particular the most splendid apartments highly ornamented with gilding and carving were converted into barracks for the dirtiest and most savage looking hussars. I have yet seen-imagine the work these fellows make with velvet hangings and embroidery. I saw one hag boiling her camp-kettle with part of a picture frame-the picture itself is probably gone to Prussia. With all this greediness and love of mischief the Prussians are not bloodthirsty, and their utmost violence seldom or never exceeds a blow or two with the flat of the sabre. They are also very civil to the women and in both respects behave much better than the French did in their country. But they follow the bad example quite close enough for the sake of humanity and of discipline.

As for our people they live in a most orderly and regular manner. All the young men pique themselves on imitating the Duke of Wellington in nonchalance and coolness of manner. So they wander about every where with their hands in the pockets of their long waistcoats or cantering upon cossack ponies staring whistling and strolling to and fro as if all Paris were theirs. The French hate them sufficiently for the hauteur of their manner and pretensions but these grounds of dislike against us are drowned in the actual causes of detestation afforded by the other powers.

This morning I saw a grand military spectacle, about
15000 Russians pass in review before all the Kings and
dominations who are now resident at Paris. The
Emperors King of Prussia Duke of W. with their
numerous and brilliant attendance of generals and staff-
officers were in the centre of what is called the Place of
Louis Quinze almost on the very spot where Louis XVI
was beheaded. A very long avenue which faced the
station where they were placed was like a glowing
furnace so fiercely were the sunbeams reflected from the
arms of the host by which it was filld. A body of
Cossacks kept the ground with their pikes and by their
wild appearance added to the singularity of the scene.
On one hand was the extended line of the Tuilleries seen
through the gardens and the rows of orange-trees-on
the other the long column of troops advancing to their
music, Behind was a long colonnade forming the front
to the palace, where the chamber of representatives use
to hold their sittings and in front of the Monarchs was
a superb row of buildings over which you distinguish the
bronze pillar erected by Napoleon to commemorate his
victories over Russia Prussia and Austria whose princes
were now reviewing their victorious armies in what was
so lately his capital. Your fancy my dear friend will
anticipate better than I can express the thousand
sentiments which arose in the mind from witnessing such
a splendid scene in a spot connected with such various
associations. It may give you some idea of the feelings
of the French once so fond of spectacles to know that
I think there were not a hundred of that nation looking
on.

Yet this country will soon recover the actual losses she
has sustained for never was there a soil so blessd by
nature or so rich in corn wine and oil and in the
animated industry of its inhabitants. France is at
present the fabled giant struggling or rather lying
supine under the load of mountains which have been
precipitated on her but she is not and cannot be
crush’d - remove the incumbent weight of six or seven
hundred thousand foreigners and she will soon stand
upright happy if experience shall have taught her to
be contented to exert her natural strength only for her
own protection and not for the annoyance of her
neighbours.

I am cut short in my lucubrations by an opportunity
to send this letter with Lord Castlereagh's dispatches.
So I have no time to enter upon the subject of De Montfort
which is of less consequence, as I will endeavour to
see you and Lord Byron or both in passing through
London. I leave this city for Dieppe on Saturday but
I intend to go round by Harfleur if possible. I will be
only one day in London in passing through to Scotland
but will call in Grosvenor Street to learn tidings of your
motions. I beg best compliments to Mrs A. Baillie Mrs
and Dr Baillie and particularly to Sophia's patroness. I
heard from Abbotsford yesterday - all well, ever your
truly obliged and affectionate WALTER SCOTT

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

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TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

My DEAR HARTSTONGE,-I received your kind letter
today and answer it immediately afraid of the sin of
ingratitude which in the article of correspondence (I hope in no other) easily besets me. Many thanks for Lord Castlehavens Memoirs 1 you will do me the greatest favour when you can send me a reprint of Irish History or Tracts relating to Antiquities—the greatest possible and I will try to acquit myself with what comes in my way. Par exemple I send you an ode on the Battle of Waterloo half worth the Battle itself and enclose one for Miss Edgeworth. I put both under Mr. Taylors cover enclosing one for himself, but I promise you something better by & bye. I must tell you in the mean time what I am doing here. You must know that Time having in his slow and certain course overtaken a great many long dated Booksellers bills you remember (at least I have not forgotten) that your kindness abridged one of them I have found myself enabled to purchase a large farm adjoining to Abbotsford, so that I shall stretch forth the wings of my Pegasus even unto the great Lake to which we walked together one memorable morning when I waded into the same to fish out a Frigate of little Walters. Time creeps away on us and little Walter is now near as tall as I am and shoots hares Black cocks moorfowl and partridges better than I could do twenty years ago. I intend when I get possession of my purchase to make a little fishermans cabin on the side of the lake and establish two old folk there whom I have a regard for, keeping a small Room to drink tea in and a cot for Walter or I or you if you like it to swing in of an odd time and watch the wild geese that settle upon the Lake in Autumn & winter and I will have a boat which in memory of Dean Swift I will call Dragon :1 apropos of Dean Swift Tom Double which you had the goodness to send me is written not by him but by his friend Dr. Davenant son of Sir
William Davenant, bred a physician but who made some figure as a statistical and political writer in the reigns of King William & Queen Anne. I will think of a supplementary Vol. to Swift especially as I have been given to understand Lord Gosford has expressed readiness to assist me with his Manuscripts & seemed hurt and surprized I had not applied to him. But how could I know whether such an application would be agreeable or no or whether he possessed any thing worth asking.- I hope all the Manuscripts were found entire and safe, specially those of Major Tickle the kindest of the kind-on reflection I will send Miss Edgeworths copy of Waterloo by another conveyance and include in this packet one for Major Tickle.

I grieve to find you speak in such desponding terms of the state of the country. So charming a country so rich a soil such warm hearts and active fancies as Ireland produces is surely intitled to a happier state (as a country) than she has yet enjoyed. That time will I trust come.

I enclose a copy of Mr. A. Vere Hunt whose ode to the Duchesse D'Angouleme I like very much. I wish you had come to Paris but except for the first coup d'oeuil the chefs d'oeuvre will be seen to more advantage in their own proper places.

I should be very glad of an opportunity of collating the correspondence of Swift with Vanessa belonging to 1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT 99

Judge Osborne with that which I have printed & should be very earnest to embrace it. With my best thanks

Yours very truly

W. SCOTT
I should be glad to see the verses addressed to Sophia, if they are good I have not heard of them.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

MY DEAR MORRITT, - Few things could have given me more real distress than to see Mrs. Morritt under such severe suffering and the misery you sustain in witnessing it. Yet let us trust in the goodness of Providence which restored the health so deservedly dear to you from as great a state of depression upon a former occasion. It is deeply indeed to be regretted that any thing should have occurred of so painful a nature as Col. Stanleys illness to agitate Mrs. M. while her own health is so very precarious. It has however happened in nervous cases that a strong emotion which withdraws the patient as it were from himself have been rather of service than otherwise Our visit was indeed a melancholy one and I fear added to your distress when God knows it required no addition. But as I had not the least idea of Mrs. Morrists illness & could hardly have said where a letter would find me I readily dispensed with what I knew you in the ordinary state of your family would have regarded as an unnecessary ceremony. I dare say nothing more on this painful subject excepting to send Charlotte's kindest regards & most sincere sympathy in your present distress and our sincere hope that it may be soon relieved by an improvement in our dear Mrs. Morritts health.

I can send you but little news. The contrast of this quiet birds nest of a place with the late scenes of confusion.
and military splendour which I have witnessd is something of a stunning nature and for the first five or six days I have been content to fold my hands and saunter up and down in a sort of indolent and stupefied tranquility my only attempt at occupation having gone no farther than pruning a young tree now and then. Yesterday however and today I began from necessity to prune verses and have been correcting proofs of my little attempt at a poem on Waterloo. It will be out this week and you will receive a copy by the Carlisle coach which pray judge favourably and remember it is not always the grandest actions which are best adapted for the arts of poetry and painting. I believe I shall give offence to my old friends the Whigs by not condoling with Bonaparte. Since his sentence of transportation he has begun to look wonderfully comely in their eyes. I would they had hangd him that he might have died a perfect Adonis. Every reasonable creature must think the ministers would have deserved the cord themselves if they had left him in a condition again to cost us the lives of 10000 of our best and bravest besides thirty millions of good money. The very tirrets and frights which he has given the well meaning people of this realm (myself included) deserves no less a punishment than banishment since the " putting in bodily fear" makes so material a part of every criminal indictment. But no doubt we shall see ministers attackd for their want of generosity to a fallen enemy by the same party who last year with better grounds assaild them for having left him in a situation again to disturb the tranquility of Europe.

My young friend Gala has left me after a short visit at Abbotsford. He is my nearest (conversible) neighbour and I promise myself much comfort in him as he has
(4-100)a turn both for the sciences and for the arts rather
uncommon among our young Scotch lairds. He was
delighted with Rokeby and its lord though he saw both

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT 101

(4-101)at so melancholy a period and endured not only with
good humour but with sympathy the stupidity of his
fellow traveller who was not by any means dans son
brillant for some time after leaving you. We visited
Corby Castle 1 on our return 1 to Scotland which remains
in point of situation as beautiful as when its walks were
celebrated by David Hume in the only rhimes he was
ever known to be guilty of. Here they are from a pane
of glass in an inn at Carlisle

(4-101)Here chicks in eggs for breakfast sprawl
Here Godless boys God's glories squall
Here Scotchmen's heads do guard the wall
But Corby's walks attone for all.

(4-101)Would it not be a good quizz to advertize the poetical
Works of David Hume with notes critical historical and
so forth. With an historical inquiry into the use of eggs
for breakfast a physical discussion on the causes of their
being addled, a history of the English church music
and of the choir of Carlisle in particular, a full account
of the affair of 1745 with the trials last speeches and so
forth of the poor plaids who were strap'd up at Carlisle
and lastly a full and particular description of Corby
with the genealogy of every family who ever possessd it,
I think, even without a more than usual waste of margin
the poems of David would make a decent twelve Shilling
touch. I will think about it when I have exhausted mine
own century of inventions. I do not know whether it is
perverseness of taste or old associations but an excellent
and very handsome modern house which Mr. Howard has lately built at Corby does not in my mind assimilate so well with the scenery as the old irregular monastic hall with its weather beaten and antique appearance which I remember there some years ago.

Out of my Field of Waterloo has sprung an odd wild sort of thing which I intend to finish separately and call it the Dance of Death. I shall probably publish it in the Edinr. register but as it is very short I will send you a copy separately. These matters take up my time so much that I must bid you adieu for the present. Besides I am summoned to attend a grand chasse and I see the children are all mounted upon the ponies. By the way Walter promises to be a gallant horseman.

It is needless to say that our kindest love and best wishes attend Mrs. Morritt and that we anxiously hope and desire to have better news of her health than your last letter conveyd. Believe me ever most truly yours W. SCOTT

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR SIR,-I inclose 420., proceeds of your first note. You will attend not to endorse it yourself for obvious reasons. The other will be sent so soon as these high floods enable me to send across the river to Galashiels.

I am surprized I have not yet had my last proof of
TO CAPTAIN FERGUSSON OF THE ROYAL NAVY
H.M. SHIP NIMROD PORTSMOUTH

MY DEAR SIR,-Nothing could give me more pleasure than learning that you had succeeded to the command of a vessel and I sincerely hope that like Nimrod of old you will prove a mighty & successful hunter before the Lord. Smugglers are but small game but when better things are not to be had Cologne gin and Dutch herrings are no bad articles. You give me more credit than I deserve in supposing I had much to do in your restoration to active service. I only poked people who were more able than myself to serve you & in particular you owe much to Sir Pulteney Malcolm who exerted himself much to remove the obstacles which occurred to your appointment. I saw him often in Paris where we lodged in the same Hotel & learnt with great pleasure the probability of your being speedily put in commission.

I am much mortified indeed at not having had a skirmish with Adam at Paris where we would have made

ABBOTSFORD 5 October [1815]
[Abbottford]

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT

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ABBOTSFORD 5 October [1815]
[Abbottford]

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT
the Welkin ring with some jolly fun.

I hope that in some of your cruizes you will get into Leith roads and let us have a sight of your vessell. We will all expect to be treated with Pork & pease pudding. Charlotte and all the children send kindest remembrances and join with me in rejoicing in your success. I am particularly pleased when I think of the satisfaction your father must have felt upon the occasion. Adieu my dear Captain Fergusson all good fortune & happiness attend you - take care of dark nights & lee shores & believe me you have not a more sincere freind and wellwisher than Yours affectionately WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 13 October 1815

TO ROBERT SHORTREED, SHERIFF SUBSTITUTE OF ROXBURGHSHIRE

MY DEAR SIR, - I was much obliged by Mr. Thomas sending me the two famous airs of Jock of the Side and Dick of the Cow, which are very cleverly taken down. I beg you to make my acknowlegements and I will be happy when he gives me an opportunity to pay them in person.

Mr. Alexander Campbell a man of great musical talent and an excellent singer is going forward into Liddesdale to try if he can find any original melodies and I will be much obliged to you to give him a recommendation or two to help him through his journey. If a good Scots song can pay for hospitality he is well qualified to give it.
I think he may possibly pick up something in our dales though they have been well harried. I am ever sincerely

yours                             WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Friday [18 Octr. 1815]
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,-I must trust to your prudence in the management of your matters at Carfrae. You see the great necessity of not going too far in communication.

I do not at present see how I would be much helpd by a loan from Mr. H. At present I have indeed heavy interest to pay but the principal cannot be calld up whereas were I to become bound for a sum borrowd from Mr. H. it might in case of your death (which God forbid) be calld up and add to my difficulties upon such an event. I therefore wish you to lay me & the Company altogether out of the question in the present arrangements. What Mr. H. chuses to lend let him lend to YOU & then you will have the advantage of it. But this is all subject for consideration & I think I could show in five minutes talk the impropriety of my engaging myself farther.

Of course the weekly allowance continues the same & the ball: of the 400 a year will be paid half yearly or quarterly. Mr. H. may not chuse to have his daughters fortune engaged in trade at all. In that case he will secure the capital as he pleases & pay you the Interest. But he could scarce lay it out to such advantage as to secure to you & yours a moiety of the Company
But as I said before I must trust to your prudence for managing all these matters.

I return the proof sheets. My wife is ill of the rheumatism and Mrs. Maclean Clephane is here which will prevent my sending copy till Monday. Besides John has been pushing me for the Regr. to which I sent a thing which will be the better of your criticisms. I am also while the humour hits going on with Harold the Dauntless the 2d vol of Triermain so I have yarn enough on my hank. You will acquaint me with your motions & what thou doest do quickly-dont let there be talkie talkie about your matters till there is a determination. Beware of this-it is your weak side-You will let me know when I am to see you-I think I have made all plain enough & that you cannot have mistaken any thing that I stated. Yet I am always anxious on such occasions. Yours truly

W SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Saturday [21st October, 1815]

TO LADY COMPTON

MY DEAR LADY COMPTON,-I do not presume to hope that the enclosed pamphlet will prove a very satisfactory apology for my ungracious silence but it has occupied a good deal of my time since my return from France. The last two or three days have been more agreeably engaged by an unexpected but I need not add a most wellcome
visit from Mrs. Clephane and your sisters whom I have walked forth and ridden forth and driven forth and soused and wetted and given as Tony Lumpkin says a taste of every bog within the nearest five miles. Mrs. Clephane is in excellent health and spirits and Miss Anna Jane looking very well and my newer acquaintance Williamina the picture of health and good humour. They are come from Harrogate and are on their way to the "lovely isle" there to winter. I wish they had been to pitch their camp in Edinburgh for the winter but that your lady mother does not intend. Miss A. Jane begs me to say she is half way in a long letter which she will send from Edinburgh.

Nothing could give me greater pleasure than the account which you give of your present situation and your happy establishment in the bosom of Lord Compton's family. The social affections are those on which we have after all to rely for the purest and most valuable portion of our happiness and I am rejoiced to think you have such a share of them as your kind heart and affectionate feelings well qualify you to enjoy. If any clouds should hereafter arise on so bright a horizon (and what earthly horizon can be perpetually free from them) I trust in your own prudence and good sense and Lord Compton's wisdom and affection to dispel such as can be dispelled and to endure the rest as a necessary ingredient of mortification sent to qualify many blessings. You see you have not escaped from the grave lessons of your old Scotch friend though you have acquired so many more valuable relatives.

I passed within twenty miles of you with no little
regret in the course of last month and although I was in great haste to rejoin my own family after an unusual absence I should certainly had I been alone have availed myself of the invitation with which the Marquis honord me in Spring and offered myself as a visitor were it but for one day. But having still with me my fellow traveller on the continent (my friend neighbour and kinsman young Scott of Gala) I thought it would be too like the descent of a Scottish clan upon you before you were well settled in your new establishment. Moreover the races were going on at Northampton in which Lord Compton as member would be necessarily implicated. So on the whole I passed on the other side of the way with considerable regret. By the bye I saw Warwick which is the finest thing of the kind I ever saw thought of or could conceive. If you have not already seen it, pray dear Lady Compton make a party there as soon as ever you conveniently can. I made great friends with the old housekeeper who is quite unique in her way too and I advise your Ladyship to do so or you will only see half what is to be seen. As I hope the impression I made on the old lady's heart may be lasting (though not dangerous) I think you had better mention me to her for I assure you she has two ways of showing the place-esoteric and exoterick (I hope I have speltl these cursed words right) I like to be learned upon occasions).

But you will expect I should tell you about France and not about Warwick castle. I dont believe however there is anything so well worth seeing of the kind in their whole kingdom. At least the provinces through which I travelled were completely devoid of all remnants of feudal grandeur so completely had these unlucky Bourbons
destroyed the power of the nobles—they went on like a whimsical architect who should take out of an ancient hall pillar after pillar in order to concentrate the whole weight of the edifice upon one central prop,—that prop turns frail from age—decays—and down comes the whole affair upon the heads of the inhabitants—

My journey to France was however most highly interesting. If I saw no old castle and little romantic scenery I beheld the ocean of humanity in a most glorious storm of confusion—towns just reeking from storm and bombardment—fields of battle where the slain were hardly buried—Immense armies crossing each other in every direction—villages plundered a la mode de Prusse—soldiers of all kindred and nations and tongues—Emperors kings princes dukes and generals without end—and our Scotch highlanders mounting guard within musket shot Of the Tulleries.

Who is't mount guard at Versailles and at Marli Who but the lads wi' the bannocks o' barley.

In short you saw everything and anybody at Paris excepting Frenchmen and Frenchwomen who to say truth shewed a feeling of modesty under their disasters and made themselves scarce.

I was very well situated to see everything that was worth being seen having particular introductions to the D. of Wellington who was extremely kind to me and being an old acquaintance of Lady Gastlereagh who had very pleasant parties to see whatever was worthy of visiting in the forenoon and was always at home to her friends after ten in the evening. So on every side I had an Open Sesame. But the finest of all sights required no charm being constantly accessible to people of all classes and
that was the famous Louvre which no one will ever see again in the same state of perfection. The coup d'oeuil was the most magnificent in the world for the gallery is near a quarter of a mile in length and was then crowded with paintings all of the very first order. But I think on the whole the dispersion of this celebrated collection will be favourable to the arts. You saw too many chefs d'oeuvres at once and became like the glutted epicure who could only endure a bit out of the sunny side of a peach. All the pictures could not hang in the best lights and if that had been possible all could not be regarded with the attention to which they were entitled. So that in point of taste alone I think the separation of their masterpieces fortunate for the art and its admirers. In a much more important respect it is a most useful measure for in the first place it gave the French through a very sensitive point, their national vanity namely, a lesson of retributive justice and besides the depriving that immoral and vainglorious people of the reputation of possessing the finest collection of the arts possible. There are so many of the unthinking that would be glad of so good an apology to make their headquarters at Paris the most worthless and dissolute city in the universe that even at a great loss to the fine arts (and it is impossible but what they must be gainers) I should have rejoiced at the toasted cheese being forcibly withdrawn from the mouse trap.

Pray remember me as kindly as possible to Lord Compton and heap coals of fire on my head by letting me know how you are and what you are doing-how many black letter volumes you have perused in the library and whether you can answer all my questions.
about the Comptons of ancient days. For myself I leave
the account of my extensive mansion, splendid establishment
and nourishing family to Mrs. Clephane and Anna
Jane sensible they will gain by the description. Mrs. Scott
offers her best compliments and I ever am my dear Lady
Compton Your faithful and affectionate friend

ABBOTSFORD 25 October 1815        WALTER SCOTT

I beg to offer particularly my respectful compliments
to Lady Francis Compton in case your Ladyship thinks
they will be acceptable. I hear with regret she has lost
a four-legged favourite of my acquaintance which is a grief
in which you know I can sympathise sincerely.

[Northampton]

TO MR. STEVENSON

DEAR SIR,-This will be presented to you by a young
man from Roxburghshire son of Mr. Robert Shortreed
Sheriff Substitute of that county my old and valued
friend. His studious disposition and attachment to
mathematical science have induced his father to think
of educating him as a civil engineer and he attends the
college this winter for that purpose. I am aware of
the value to be derived from your advice and direction as
to the progress of his studies and I trouble you with this
letter to request you will favour him with your opinion
on these points. Probably when I come to town I may
trouble you still further on this young gentlemans behalf,
as when he is grounded in science it will be necessary that
he should be practically indented into his profession and
you may perhaps be able to point out an opening for
that purpose. If such a thing should occur in your own
department & if upon acquaintance you find Mr.
Shortreed likely to be a creditable & useful pupil of which
I have little doubt, I beg as a particular favour that you
will oblige an old shipmate by keeping him in your eye.
Believe me truly Dear Sir Your faithful humble Servant

ABOTSFORD 27 October [1815]         WALTER SCOTT

Mr. Stevenson Civil Engineer Leith Walk.
Favourd by Mr. Shortreed.
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

1815          SIR WALTER SCOTT         111

TO MRS. ROBISON

[Novr. 1815]

DEAR MRS. ROBISON,-I am greatly obliged by your
kindness in sending me the very curious letter on the
state of France and the remnant of the Dictator's Asbestos
shirt. As its purpose was to resist the Operation of fire
I conceive sometimes he must regret the want of it in the
next world-I beg you to accept my best thanks for so
valuable an addition to my knicknatiry collection and am
With respect Dear Madam Your obliged humble servant
WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Friday

[Walker-Love]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

MY DEAREST MORRITT,-The enclosed affair 2 would
have reached you long since but for a little bustle attending
Mrs. Scott's going into Edinburgh, which left me for
some days without a domestic. It is not so good as I
wish it. But after repeated trials it is as good as I can
make it, and my friends here seem satisfied enough. I
have another copy for you, with a new edition of Don
Roderick, and some additional trifles. In one respect
these matters have answered well; for since I acquired
possession of some of my copyrights, and adhered to the
plan of retaining the property in the new publications,
money has tumbled in upon me very fast, and I am
enabled to make a very nice little purchase adjoining to

Abbotsford, which will cost about 3000. I know it will
do your kind heart good to know I am increasing my
territories on Tweedside, and at so easy a rate. You who
gave me so kind a shove when I was pinched with my
long-dated bills, will I know rejoice that your friendship
has not been throwing water into a sieve. The place is
at present a sort of Kamtschatka, but marches along with
my own, and has capabilities especially for planting and
forming grass parks, which let here very high.

I shall soon (ascending to Parnassus from Mossknow)
send you a little 2nd vol. to Triermain called Harold the
Dauntless, an odd sort of tale which I have taken into my
course of writing, for indulgence of a certain propensity to
the marvellous which I think you share with me. I have
written it rather roughly, but con amore, and I believe it
will amuse you. Above all, I hope these trifles will find
Mrs. Morritt well enough to take some interest in them,
which would give them so high a value in the eyes of the
author. I learn from Lady Louisa that Mrs. M. is a
good deal better, and hope most sincerely the information
is accurate. We think often and anxiously about you by our fireside. It is now comparatively lonely, as Mrs. Scott is gone into the great musical festival, and Sophia attends her. Now, like Jeremy, I have an indifferent good ear for a jig, but your solos and sonatas give me the spleen, so I e'en remained behind to prune my oaks - now dwarfs-into such shapes as may become them when they shall be giants. Then I shall have such a piece of work lining out my new plantations and enclosures, and selecting trees at the Selkirk and Melrose nurseries. In short I persuaded myself I was better here. Walter is shooting wild ducks, partridges, and hares most manfully; though rather young to carry a gun yet, as he is very stout.

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT 113

and manly of his age, I have given him a long and strong Spanish barrelled fowling-piece, which will not burst should he load it to the muzzle, and is too long for him to shoot himself unless absolutely by malice prepense. He generally brings in some game, and will not derogate from his forefathers, who were excellent horsemen and good sportsmen in their day.

Adieu! remember me most kindly to Mrs. Morritt, and pray let me know the first spare moment how you both do.-Ever most truly yours,

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 2 Novr. 1815

[Major Morritt and Familiar Letters]
DEAR LADY LOUISA,—I need hardly say that your
applause is always gratifying to me, but more particularly
so when it encourages me to hope I have got tolerably
well out of a hazardous scrape. The Duke of Wellington
himself told me there was nothing so dreadful as a battle
won excepting only a battle lost. And lost or won, I can
answer for it, they are almost as severe upon the bard
who celebrates as the warrior who fights them. But I
had committed myself in the present case, and like many
a hot-headed man, had got into the midst of the fray
without considering well how I was to clear myself out of
it. The approbation of your royal correspondent is very
flattering, because it flows from those feelings which one
naturally wishes to touch and to awaken. Paul, I for
whom I was but partially responsible, is likely to fall
upon my entire shoulders. But it would have required
Briareus, or Briars as my little boy just now called him
(I suppose thinking of his claws rather than his hands),
to get handsomely through all I have been doing since
I came home. In the first place, there was the Battle,
with several smaller pieces which I intend to print with
the Vision of Don Roderick, of which I will send your
Ladyship a copy when I get to town. Et puis—but that
is a great secret, there is a second volume in the press,
by the author of Triermain. A strange piece of work it
is, I promise you, being called and entitled Harold the
Dauntless, a sort of tale of errantry and magic which,
entre nous, I am very fond of, though ashamed to avow
my frailty. When I get to town I will send the first canto
under the seal of secrecy. Besides, as each great painting
has its original sketch, I have given the Edinburgh Annual
Register some lines on the Battle of Waterloo called the
Dance of Death, a hurly-burly sort of performance; so I
leave you to guess, my dear Lady Louisa, if I could form any other designs upon the public at present. If you ask me why I do these things, I would be much at a loss to give a good answer. I have been tempted to write for fame, and there have been periods when I have been compelled to write for money. Neither of these motives now exist—my fortune, though moderate, suffices my wishes, and I have heard so many blasts from the trumpet of Fame, both good and evil, that I am hardly tempted to solicit her notice anew. But the habit of throwing my ideas into rhyme is not easily conquered, and so, like Dogberry, I go on bestowing my tediousness upon the public.

Make my most respectful compts. to the family at

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT 115

Bothwell and particularly to Lady Douglas I will esteem myself very fortunate if I can make out my visit to Bothwell at Xmas which I trust I will find possible although very likely my brethren in office who have taken a good deal of trouble on my account during the vacation may expect me to remain and do duty in town during the Xmas holidays: ever my dear Lady Louisa Your most faithful and respectful humble servant

1815 ABBOTSFORD 2d November 1815 WALTER SCOTT

Mrs. Morritt was very ill indeed when I saw her—and I own I have but very little hope of her effectual convalescence—

[Familiar Letters and Abbotsford Copies]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE, 10 BRIDGE STREET, BLACK-FRIARS, LONDON
DEAR SIR,- I am favourd with your letter & am quite willing that an Edition of Waterloo not exceeding 3000 be printed in London with the Edinr. imprint trusting you will not forget that therein I make some little sacrifice to meet your wishes. But I agree it would be a pity to hurt the sale & Mr. Caddell proposes besides to send off the 1000 which make part of Roderick which will help to stop the gap.

I agree with you that it will be quite safe & prudent to print 6000 instead of 3000 Paul & shall direct it to be done accordingly. It is a work of momentary interest & the more that can be made of it at first the better.1

I beg you will remember me kindly to Mr. Longman & I am in some haste very truly your faithful Servant

ABBOTSFORD 3 Novr. 1815

WALTER SCOTT

I forgot to mention that I have on my hands a few 4to. Rodericks & that I intend along with these & on the same terms to print up the Waterloo & other new parts of the collection & make my new brass sell the old kettle: of course I offer these to the publishers of the 8vo. Roderick-they are very few in number & will be precisely the same terms of paper print & half profit.

N.B. I have bought a nice farm close beside Abbotsford upon the strength of these great doings.

[Stevenson]
TO ROBERT CADDELL

(4-116)DEAR SIR,-I have written to Mr. Constable acceding to his proposal of printing an edition of Waterloo not exceeding 3000 in London & also authorize you to appropriate the 1000 sheets of Waterloo which were to have made part of Rodk. to supply the immediate demand reprinting the same for the Roderick collection. I shall wish at the same time to print some quarto Waterloos to answer a few quarto Rodks. still on hand which I shall of course [offer] to the publishers on the same terms as the 8vo. As the edition will be very limited there is little doubt of its going well off. About this you will speak with Mr. John Ballantyne who knows the number on hand. I am Dear Sir Your obedt. Servant

(4-116)WALTER SCOTT

(4-116)ABBOTSFORD 4 November [1815]

(4-116)Mr. Caddell of House of Constable & Co. [Stevenson]

TO REV. R. POLWHELE

(4-116)ABBOTSFORD, NOV. 4 1815

(4-116)MY DEAR SIR,-I have been a long and distant wanderer from home; and, though I reached this cottage six weeks ago, I only got "Isabel" 1 yesterday. She was in my house at Castle-street, in possession of an old housekeeper, who, knowing perhaps from youthful experience the dangers which attend young ladies on their travels, kept
her, with some other captives until my wife, going to town

to attend a grand musical festival, made a general jail
delivery, and sent (among many, though none so welcome,
packets) the fair maiden of Cotehele. What I liked so
much in the MS. gained of course by being made more
legible; and, did it rest with me, I would rank "Isabel"
with "Local Attachment;" that is, with one of the poems
of modern times which has afforded me the most sincere
pleasure.

I will not fail to put into the hands of Mr. Jeffrey the
copy you have sent for him, and to request him to read
it with attention. The rest must depend on his own
taste. But I will deliver the work with my own hand.
No time is yet lost; for Mr. Jeffrey, like myself and other
gaping sawnies, has for some time been in France. I am
ignorant if he be yet returned; but at any rate the sitting
of the courts, which calls me from my oaks of a fathom's
growth, will bring him also to Edinburgh.

Allow me to inclose you a small poem on the greatest
of all events which has dignified our eventful time. I was
gradually induced to commit myself upon this very
perilous ground, first by wishing to give something to the
fund more handsome than usual for the poor fellows and
their relatives who suffered; and then from a sort of pride
which was unwilling to retreat from a peril once
encountered. In you the verses will find a lenient critic;
for you can well appreciate the difficulty of a theme
unmanageable in proportion to its magnificence, and
rendered still more difficult in proportion to its lateness.
It is done and dared, however, and there let it pass
My stay in France, which was pretty long for what we called a flying visit, has still more endeared my own country: and the manly rectitude of its morals, and simplicity of its habits.

Adieu, my dear Sir. I hardly hope the enclosed will prove an excuse for some delay in correspondence; but under an accumulation of business both personal and official, and the natural disposition to lounge with my family when I had not seen them for several weeks, and with the absence of the Maid of Cotehele, daily expected, it may go some length to make my apology. Trusting to your experienced goodness, I venture as usual to subscribe myself, my dear Sir, very much your obliged and faithful servant, WALTER SCOTT

The beautiful verses to Sir Hussey Vivian also arrived during my Gallick tour, and in fact reached me only two or three days before "Isabel."

[Letters of Sir Walter Scott, 1832, and Polwhele's Traditions]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

[ABBOTSFORD]

I have been long in acknowledging your kind letter my dear friend and yet you have not only been frequent in my thoughts as must always be the case but your name has been of late familiar in my mouth as a household word. You must know that the pinasters you had the goodness to send me some time since which are now fit to be set out of the nursery have occupied my mind as to the mode of disposing them—now mark the event—
There is in the midst of what will soon be a fine bank of young wood a certain old gravel-pit which is the present scene of my operations. I have caused it to be covered with better earth and gently altered with the spade so as if possible to give it the air of one of those accidental hollows which the surface of a hill frequently presents. Having arranged my ground I intend to plant it all round with the pinasters and other varieties of the pine species and in the interior I will have a rustic seat, surrounded by all kinds of evergreen shrubs (laurels in particular) and all varieties of the holly and cedar and so forth and this is to be called and entitled Joanna’s Bower. We are determined in the choice of the ornaments by necessity for our ground fronts (in poetic phrase) the rising sun or in common language looks to the east and being also on the north side of the hill don’t you shiver at the thought—why to say truth George Waynes and I are both of opinion that nothing but evergreens will flourish there. But I trust I shall convert a present deformity into a very pretty little hobby horsical sort of thing. It will not bear looking at for years and that is a pity. But it will so far resemble the person from whom it takes name that it is planted as she has written for the benefit as well of posterity as for the passing generation.

Time and I says the Spaniard against any two and fully confiding in the proverb I have just undertaken another grand task. You must know I have purchased a large lump of wild land lying adjoining to this little property which greatly more than doubles my domains. The land is said to be reasonably bought and I am almost certain I can turn it to advantage by a little judicious expenditure for this place is already allowed
to be worth twice what it cost me and our people here think so little of planting and do it so carelessly that they stare with astonishment at the alteration which well planted woods make on the face of a country. There is besides a very great temptation from the land running to within a quarter of a mile of a very sweet wild sheet of water of which (that is one side of it) I have every chance to become proprietor. This is a poetical circumstance not to be lost sight of and accordingly I keep it full in my view.

Amid these various avocations past present and to come I have not thought much about Waterloo only that I am truly glad you like it. I might no doubt have added many curious anecdotes but I think the pamphlet long enough as it stands and never had any design of writing copious notes.

I do most devoutly hope Lord Byron will succeed in his proposal of bringing out one of your dramas. That he is your sincere admirer is only synonymous with his being a man of genius and he has I am convinced both the power and inclination to serve the public by availing himself of the treasures you have laid before them. Yet I long for " some yet untasted spring " and heartily wish you would take Lord B. into your councils and adjust from your yet unpublished materials some drama for the public. In such a case I would in your case conceal my name till the issue of the adventure. It is a sickening thing to think how many angry and evil passions the mere name of admitted excellence brings into full activity. I wish you would consider this hint and I am sure the result would be great gratification to the public.
and to yourself that sort of satisfaction which arises from receiving proofs of having attain’d the mark at which you aimed. Of this last indeed you cannot doubt if you consult only the voices of the intelligent and the accomplisht. But the object of the dramatist is professedly to delight the public at large and therefore I think you should make the experiment fairly.

Little Sophia is much obliged by your kind and continued recollection. She is an excellent good child sufficiently sensible, very affectionate, not without perception of character—but the Gods have not made her poetical and I hope she will never attempt to act a part which nature has not called her to. I am myself a poet writing to a poetess and therefore cannot be suspected of a wish to degrade a talent to which in whatever degree I may have possessed I am indebted for much happiness. But this depends only on the rare coincidence of some talent falling in with a novelty in stile and diction and conduct of story which suited the popular taste and were my children to be better poets than me they would not be such in popular estimation simply because the second cannot be the first and the first (I mean in point of date) is every thing while others are nothing, even with more intrinsic merit. I am therefore particularly anxious to store the heads of my young damsels with something better than the tags of rhimes and I hope Sophia is old enough (young though she be) to view her little incidents of celebrity, such as they are, in the right point of view—Mrs. Scott and she are at present in Edinburgh the rest of the children are with me in this place, my eldest boy is already a bold horseman and a fair shot though only about fourteen years
old. I assure you I was prouder of the first black-cock he killed than I have been of anything whatever since I first killed one myself and that is twenty years ago.

This is all stupid gossip but, as Master Corporal Nym says, "things must be as they may." You cannot expect grapes from thorns or much amusement from a brain busied with thorn hedges at Kaeside for such is the sonorous title of my new possession in virtue of which I subscribe myself

7 Novr 1815, ABBOTSFORD & KAESIDE

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

MY DEAR MRS. CLEPHANE,-I am honoured with your letter this morning, which made me somewhat more easy on your account than I had been while listening to the high winds of last week, and thinking of the Firth of Clyde and the Tresharnish I archipelago-I am to be in town on the 17th sans faute, in case you think it would be in any respect convenient or agreeable to you that Donaldson and I should meet before your leaving town. I trust we may manage to steer through all that is now before us without any coup d'eclat. I had a most pleasant and comfortable letter from Lady Compton from which I think she is taking root there as she is entitled to do-abroad, which, considering the Marquis's increasing affection to her may not be so well.

But this must be in time and place-if it should please
God that she gives him another tie to life and to his son
in the person of a representative, there will be little
prudence in leaving Britain. I have set my heart upon
their getting a room or two at Compton just for an
occasional retirement, and I really think it will answer
better. Lord C. has his family interest to keep up in many
ways and a retirement from his native country will seem
like abandoning those objects for which men of his rank
make great sacrifices. But of all this in time and place.

I will not enlarge upon the pleasure your company gave
us at Abbotsford. I am now the favoured proprietor of

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those happy and fertile regions over which we wandered
to the lake, moyennant 3400, and I believe I have made
a tolerable purchase. Moreover there is a terrible match
at football to be played at Carterhaugh in December by
the parish of Ettrick against the parish of Yarrow, backed
by the Duke and the Sheriff—so the whole glens are to
be raised by beacons as of yore. I We are to hoist the old
pennon of the house of Buccleuch a curious banner with
the arms and war cry of the family and clan painted upon
it, and I am soliciting Lady Compton to help me to a good
air for a ballad to be called and entitled " The lifting of
the Banner." It has not so far as we know been out
since the battle of Dryfe-Sands 2 near Lochmaben where
Lord Maxwell was slain.

I trust I may see you in Edinburgh but you will
acquaint me with your motions by a note in Castle Street.
I am delighted with what you mention about Miss D.
In Lady C's very delicate and important situation,
without the benefit of personally communicating with
yourself, I really think the less chance there is of any
person interfering between Lord C's family and her just so much the better. She needs the assistance of no one to gain the affections of those around her and a female confidante is always more or less a mischief maker, however unintentionally. I have just heard poor Mrs. Morritt is dead. Morritt is greatly to be pitied in his present grief, but where health could not be hoped for the close of existence was scarce to be deprecated. Love to the young ladies. Yours ever. WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 12th Novr [1815]

[Northampton]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

DEAR MRS. CLEPHANE,—The banner will be visible any hour you please before 1/2 past 4 today or tomorrow whenever you chuse to call. Charlotte has got a bad cold and does not go to the play this evening. I enclose a verse of the song, but am not quite pleased with it. If you call tomorrow ask for Charlotte or Sophia in case I am out. Yours most respectfully. W. S.

From the brown crest of Newark its summons extending Our signal is waving in smoke and in flame, And each forester blithe from his mountain descending Bounds light o'er the heather to join in the game.

Then up with the banner let forest gales fan her, She has blazed over Ettrick eight ages and more In sport we'll attend her, in war we'll defend her With heart and with hand like our fathers before.
November 1815.

November 1815

Farewell my dear Madam, accept my kindest and warmest wishes for your welfare, and that of the young ladies until we have the pleasure of again meeting. Best thanks for the extracts. I will send the ballads etc. by first opportunity,

W. S.

[Northampton]

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TO LADY COMPTON

MY DEAR LADY COMPTON,- I only received your letter two days since and lo! an answer, something selfish in this you may easily guess for though few delight so much in receiving letters from the short list of friends among whom you rank so high I have never been accused of intrusive regularity of correspondence. But here is the mighty matter.

There is to be a great Foot-ball match upon the haunted plains of Carterhaugh-the parish of Ettricke against the parish of Yarrow the former backed by the Duke the latter by the Sheriff-and the word has already gone forth.

Gae warn the waters broad and wide
Gae warn them sure and hastilie
He that wonna venture arm and leg
Let him never look in the face o' me.

To do everything in proper style we intend to display
the banner of Buccleuch which is a very ancient and
curious pennon with the armorial bearings oddly
embroidered on one side and on the other the war-cry of
the name which was Bellenden from their usual place of
rendezvous. Now have I been called on to indite a song
for this memorable festivity which I must do of course or
lose my minstrel name and what I have to beg of your
Ladyships kindness is to exercise your unrivalled skill in
composing and adapting musick to immortal verse 1 and
find me out or make for me or eke and amend for me
some good rattling tune with a strain of wild character
in it which may suit the gathering of our Dalesmen. Were
I nearer you we would go over the matter together and
I would endeavour to meet you half way by adapting
the words to the musick but as this cannot be I must
guess at some sort of stanza which is likeliest to go to a
swinging tune—for example—(writing the verses ex
tempore as they occur)

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THE LIFTING OF THE BANNER

O'er the brown crest of Newark its summons extending,
Our beacon is waving in smoke and in flame
And each forester blithe from his mountains descending
Bounds light o'er the heather to join in the game.

Then up with the banner let forest gales fan her
She has blazed over Ettrick eight ages and more
In sports we'll attend her in war we'll- defend her
With heart and with hand like our fathers before.

Something like this might hit a good popular tune for
neither words nor music should be too fine for the honest
herds. A desperate contention is expected and much
sport for it has been known on similar occasions of much
less note that the foot-ball has been cut to pieces at twelve
o'clock at night because the game could not be decided.

The two odd lines about Versailles and Marli were
added by me to the old set of the Bannocks which you
will find in Johnstone. It is a favourite lilt of Sophia's
and I patched it one night when she was at a loss for
additional words.

I had a letter from Mrs. Clephane today from Edinr. so
they are not yet embarked for the lonely isle-I shall be
anxious to learn the success of your investigations at
Compton. There is a certain doggrel ballad by a
certain Dr. Grubb to the tune of St. George he was for
England-You will find it in Percy's Reliques in which
among other feats of a sorceress (as I think) it is said

She twind the Bullies into Rocks
Who came to invade Long Compton.

The pun between Bullies and Rocks and the old phrase
of bully-rock to signify a blood or brick of the first head
is obvious. But I have a notion the verse relates to some
Druidical relics about Lord Compton- Remember
me kindly to Lord Compton and most respectfully to the
Marquis Lady Northampton and Lady Francis, with
best thanks for their remembrances. Adieu-I will write

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more fully next letter when I shall have seen Donaldson.
Your Ladyships very sincere and affectionate friend

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 12 November 1815.
(4-127) Last week I purchased for about £3400 a very fine stretch of bog and heather closely adjoining to Abbotsford. So now I am "the Laird of the Cairn and the Scaur"-

(4-127) There were some Roman entrenchments on the ground rather curious...vases etc. are often dug up there.

(4-127) But there is still a finer tale for you. A monster long reported to inhabit Cauldshiels Loch a small...sheet of water in this neighbourhood has been of late visible to sundry persons. If it were not that an otter when swimming seems a very large creature I would hardly know what to think of it for a very cool-headed sensible man told me he had seen it in broad daylight—he scouted my idea of an otter and said the animal was more like a cow or a horse. I by a sort of instinct in spite of my incredulity took a rifle gun for two days and walked to the lake. My own new territories were near it and I am in treaty for 100 acres more bordering on the lake itself and embracing half its circumference when we shall know more of the matter.

[Northampton]

TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

(4-127) MY DEAR LORD DUKE,- I wish Hogg to give me a little of his best assistance to celebrate the Lifting of the Banner and enclose a note to this purpose which some of your Graces people must get up to him without loss of time as it would lie too long at Selkirk. The Banner is clearly as ancient as the time of Walter the first Earl at least & I suppose was one of the colours of the regiment.
which he led to the Belgick wars. But it may have been
yet more ancient and the mode of disposing the armorial
bearings without a shield as in the Douglas Banner at
Carre countenances this belief in which case we must
suppose either that the coro[on]et was added or that the
present banner was made upon the model of one yet
more ancient & substituted for it when the family was
ennobled. I have little doubt that the last was the case.
At any rate we will have it joyously mounted on the 3
Decr. which I understand to be the great day of Wapinschaw.1
I am with best and kindest respects to Lord &
Lady Montagu & all at Bowhill most respectfully your
Graces obliged & faithful

WALTER OCOTT
OF ABBOTSFORD & KAYSIDE
EDINR. 19 November [1815]

I will bring the banner with me in all honour & safety-
Can I do any thing else for the furtherance of fun.

[ Buccleuch] 

TO JOHN MURRAY

MY DEAR SIR, - I have safely received on my arrival at
this town my great package from France with all its
contents. On the other side I send a cheque for the
advance of 17 odds I have made it 18 for even money.
Thus you see like Falstaff I pay money which I borrow
now and then. Much obliged by all that you have so
kindly sent. Miss Williams tone is unexpectedly fair &
correct upon French matters.2 I will return to Blackwood
on your account the Amours secrets of Bonaparte as I
brought a copy from Paris.3 Now here is a matter in
which I trust you will be interested. Archie Park-

brother of Mungo-has been totally ruined by the death of a brother in the banking line for whom he was so imprudent as to be security-and from the comfortable situation of an independent forest farmer is likely to be reduced to utter indigence. He is a fine high spirited fellow, and as remarkable for his skill in all sort of farming matters, sheep & cattle, arable & woodland as his brother Mungo for his spirit of adventure. He is also perfect as a fisher, shooter & horseman-in fact no country occupation is foreign to him-and with a commanding figure and manner, he is perfectly good-humoured and steady in his temper. So qualified his present object is to get a situation as a gentleman's bailiff or overseer where his experience, knowledge and honesty would make him a real treasure. Now pray make his situation known as widely as you can-there is no saying where or how a blessing may light, & it will cost you but showing this part of my letter. I am most anxious about him I ought to add that he is married to a very decent woman & has a family and is aged about fifty or upwards. Lord Byron may among his friends hear of some one who would like an overseer, five parts Dandie Dinmont with one part of civilization. If I knew Mr. Wishaw's address I would use the freedom to write to him ; for perhaps among the gentlemen of rank & fortune composing the African Association some one may be found in want of an overseer who would prefer a brother of Mungo Park. If you can send me good news in this matter you shall have a neat highland article sans faute, what ever stands still.

Remember me kindly to Lord Byron to Sotheby to
Hammond & to all four o'clock friends—Waterloo presses to another edition, the profits of which I intend for poor Archie Park & his family, which will help to keep the wolf from the door. Yours most hastily

EDINR. 20 Nov. [1815]               WALTER SCOTT
[John Murray]

TO MRS. LAIDLAW OF PEEL

MY DEAR MRS. LAIDLAW.—Any remembrance from you is at all times most wellcome to me. I have in fact been thinking a good deal about the Parks & especially about my good merry friend Archie upon whom such calamity has fallen. I will write to a friend in London likely to know about such matters to see if possible to procure him the situation of an overseer of extensive farms or improvements for which he is so well qualified. But success in this is doubtful and I am aware that their distress must be pressing. Now Waterloo has paid & is likely to pay me a great deal more money than I think proper to subscribe for the fund for families and wounded and I chiefly consider the overplus as dedicated to assist distress or affliction. I shall receive my bills in a few days from the book sellers & I will send Mr. Laidlaw one for □ 50 at three months the contents to be applied to the service of the Parks family. It is no great sum but may serve to alleviate any immediate distress & you can apply it as coming from yourself which will relieve poor Parks delicacy upon the subject. I really think I will be able to hear of something for him, at least it shall not be for want
(4-131)of asking about for I will tag him as a postscript to every letter I write.

(4-131)Will you tell Mr. Laidlaw with my best compliments not that I have bought Kayside for that fame will have told him already but that I have every reason to think I have got it for £ 600 cheaper than I would at a public sale.

(4-131)Mrs. Scott & the young people join in best compliments & I ever am. Dear Mrs. Laidlaw, Very truly yours,

(4-131)WALTER SCOTT
(4-131)EDIN. 20 November 1815.

[Brotherton]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(4-131)DEAR SIR,- You are very wellcome to proceed with the new edition of Waterloo not exceeding 3000 copies, to be printed in London as you propose.

(4-131)I have bought a very nice farm closely adjoining to Abbotsford and so good a bargain that I have been offerd 600 profit. This will occasion my drawing upon the publishers of Paul for profit on the additional 3000. But of this you will be regularly apprized by J. Ballantyne who will draw the bills as formerly. I have got all my books now & Paul will appear instantly though the impression is heavy-

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(4-132)I am very glad to hear you are getting on well in London & am ever Dear Sir Your obedient Servant
TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

MY DEAR LORD,-If you are not provided with a piper
I will send out Maclean the piper of the Highland
Society-you have only to speak the word. The match
is admirably made and will be strongly contested-
The banner-staff had better be made at Bowhill-a
stout pole ten feet or twelve feet long with a spike at
one end to stick into the ground & at the other a lance-
head like a spontoon.1 The blade of the spear must
screw off the iron by which it is fastend to the staff
so as to let the banner be slipd on & then be
screwed on again. Any common smith will make
such a thing in an hour. I will certainly be with
your Grace on Sunday-more probably however on
Saturday evening. Charles Sharpe would have liked
to come with me but I gave no encouragement as
accomodation must be scarce at Bowhill. If I am to
proceed in the matter of the piper or anything else the
sooner I know the better. I want to print my own ditty &
Hoggs & bring out a few copies for the honest forest-lads.
And so

Come weal come woe we'll gather & go
And live or die wi' Charlie-

Ever my dear Lord with respectful compliments to Ld.
Montagu & the Ladies. Your truly obliged & faithful
I CANNOT refuse myself the opportunity of thanking you for the information and amusement I have derived and am deriving from your very interesting account of Persia; a history so much wanted in our literature, and which may be said to form the connecting link between that of Greece and that of Asia. I cannot enough admire the pains which it must have cost you, among many pressing avocations and duties, to collect and compose the materials of so large and important a work. I wish also to mention to you, that if you should have any thought of settling on Tweedside, Mr. Sibbald's very handsome villa at Gledswood is now in the market, and in all probability, owing to the circumstances of the time, may be had very reasonably. I have a very selfish view in giving you this hint, for Gledswood is only five or six miles from my cottage. I long for some opportunity of talking over Persia and Border anecdotes with you.

MY DEAR HARTSTONGE, - I write you hastily and anxiously in reply to one part of your letter. Believe me I do full justice (indeed how is it possible for me to do otherwise?) to the kindly feelings towards myself which
have induced you and Mr. Steele to whose kind and most
liberal assistance I have been in every respect so much
indebted to refuse assistance to Mr. Monck Berkeley 1 in his
proposed undertaking of combating some of my opinions
respecting Swift's life—But if my intreaty has any weight
with you or with Mr. Steele—supposing always Mr. Berkeley
to be a gentleman otherwise entitled to that degree of trust
I would most earnestly beg you would give or procure
his admittance to inspection of the papers he desires to
see. I rather suppose he will find nothing that confirms
his present hypothesis but I should be sorry he had it to
say that my influence real or supposed had been exerted
in excluding the light from a subject on which very
different opinions may reasonably be entertained. It is
the interest of literary men of all descriptions to promote
free investigation by any means in their power—it is the
most honourable attribute of their character and so far
am I from regarding any literary opinion which I may
have expressed as matter of controversial bitterness or
strenuous defence that I would most willingly and by
every means in my power give the person who might
doubt or dispute my position the means of judging them
fairly and fully. If I am wrong I will be the first to
acknowledge it—if right the truth will speak for itself—

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in either case I should be sorry to be the means of shutting
out conviction. Excuse me my good friend for pressing
this warmly upon you who I know feel for my literary
reputation much more keenly than I do. But that which
is not founded on truth cannot stand and what is so
founded has little reason to fear the closest investigation
and ought in manly fairness rather to invite it. Pray
add this to other obligations I owe you.
I cannot write to you any more at present being very busy with preparations for a grand football match at which we are to hoist the old Banner of Buccleuch which has been produced to the air for the first time this hundred years and more. Your young friend Walter is to bear it to the weapon show where we expect to muster many hundreds—Lord have mercy on their necks and legs, their shins are past praying for. We are to have sundry frolics on this occasion of which I may send you some notice next week. Yours truly, W. SCOTT

EDIN 27 November [1815]
[Brotherton]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

My DEAR MORRITT,—It was with very melancholy satisfaction but still with satisfaction that I received your letter. To know from yourself that you are well in health and resigned in your affliction to the will of heaven is all I could have hoped to hear.

Our social affections are given us to animate our duties while we are here and their objects are withdrawn from us that we may be taught to reflect that this transitory scene is not our resting place. If yours my dear friend are now so severely wounded your present suffering is in proportion to the domestic happiness which you have enjoyed for many years. And thus even the excess of your calamity carries with it a motive for resignation.

I am happy to hear that you have with you a friend upon whose affection you can rely and confide securely in that strong sense of duty which forms so marked a
point in your character that you will shortly find in
active exertion some relief from the intensity of your
present feelings. It is needless to say how deeply Mrs.
Scott and my young people sympathise in your distress
honored as they were by the kindness of the excellent
person whom you lament. It is no small satisfaction to
me as a father to see with what warmth my children retain
remembrance of these circumstances.

Lady Hood is here just now and I left her yesterday
shedding many tears over her own family distresses and
yours. It occurred to us both that some time hence and
before you are obliged to go up to parliament you might
find mental relief by spending some time in this place. I
would find you comfortable lodgings very near me so that
you would have a sort of home of your own while I hope
you would live as much in family with me as possible and
we live so very quietly that you would feel yourself under
no constraint. Your advice too and assistance would be
of the most material consequence to Lady Hood and I
know that holding out a prospect of serving a friend is to
you always the most powerful motive that can be proposed.
I propose this as a plan not to be immediately
executed but to be kept in view when your inclinations
prompt and your business permits you to leave Rokeby.
Do think of this and if possible bring Mr. Meyrick down
with you. We will love him for your sake and learn to
do so for his own. I am sensible that at first you will feel
repugnance at the idea of seeking to divert your thoughts
by exterior objects from the feelings which now wholly
occupy them and which will long hold the upper part
in your mind. But it is our duty as early as human
frailty will permit to hold ourselves open to such consolation.
as we may receive from change of place and of objects, and although we at first feel constraind and hurt by such a change yet the exertions which it naturally requires become gradually their own reward.

Mrs. Scott begs her kindest and most affectionate remembrances and I am ever my dear Morritt but more especially at the present moment Yours most truly and kindly

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 28 Novr. l815

TO MR. JAMES BAILEY

SIR,-I was yesterday favoured with your letter and take a most sincere interest in the subject which with your permission I will enter upon without preface as I happen to be a little hurried at present. In the first place I must say that the life of a man of letters is of all others the most precarious unless he is bred to some profession. He must depend either on patrons or booksellers and the former will be regulated by their own caprice the latter by their interest and the caprice of the public. The chance of gaining a situation in the public offices is at present peculiarly uncertain because they are retrenching on every point and doubtless where vacancies arise these will in most instances be filled from among the persons who are now to be turned adrift. Predominating interest will no doubt get the better of these claims but doing all that I could in your favour I could only hope to act through the influence of others having none of my own and therefore the chance of my being able to assist you
must necessarily depend upon their engagements or disposition to attend to my recommendation. On the first point I need not point out to you that almost every man in power has friends of his own to oblige and serve & on the second I am now turning something older than I have been and many of those who honoured me with their regard have passed from the scene in various ways & with others (as I am now seldom in London) my connection has been broken off by time and distance. So that unless I happened to be upon the spot at the time to solicit in your behalf I should fear that my application would meet with little attention and you in the mean time would be exposed to a state of uncertainty and distress. Without therefore something like a rational prospect of provision to leave your college where your own merit has secured you kind regard, interest and friends would be a desperate action. You would lose in a manner all the progress you have already made in gaining friends and establishing a character and must necessarily encounter all the distress of a precarious and doubtful existence in London so much to be deprecated both on account of feelings & morals.

It would be nothing but cruelty to point these things out to you without assisting to remove the pressing reasons you urge for leaving college on the 16 Decr.

I therefore enclose a cheque for £20 which I entreat you to consider as your own until better fortunes shall enable you with convenience to accommodate in the same manner any young man of Genius in temporary distress. The sum is small for I have been something of an unthrift lately with whims of planting and building and it shall be reinforced hereafter as circumstances may require.
In the meantime I would advise you to try to make your literary talents efficient to assist your income. I have received a specimen of the Aristophanes which I thought excellent. I am however (to my shame be it spoken) no Grecian having in my youth neglected the language which I now bitterly regret. Still I may give my opinion as one of the unlearned & I think it excellent. I am morally convinced either Gifford or Jeffrey (who you are aware conduct the Quarterly & Edinr. Reviews) would be glad of your occasional assistance on classical subjects and their remuneration is ample and liberal. I could throw in a word of recommendation for you to either of the Aristarchs. I have particular interest with the publisher of the Annual Register of Edinr. a man of great good taste & liberality and I am sure he would be grateful for communications in prose or poetry and make such a recompence as his situation admits. Then there is your teaching and various other chances in your favour. If your objections to the church are not absolutely insurmountable I would entreat you to struggle with them. The difficulty of providing for a mere man of letters having no professional character is extremely great whereas when he is once invested with such a qualification his literary character brings him into notice & soon (unless there is misconduct or unusual bad luck) procures him a provision probably a handsome one. If you allow me to quote my own case I will add that I myself detested the profession of the bar to which I was bred up. Yet had I resigned it what could my friends have done for me but get me some paltry sinecure—but remaining at the bar gave them the power of providing for me to the extent of my wishes. It is the same with the church-if in orders you will one day be provided
with a living-out of them probably your friends can only afford you barren praise & regret. Tutors are also selected from this class of society and I should imagine you would like to travel for two or three years with an intelligent young man. It is an employment which has often [been] the foundation of independance to men of letters.

There is likely one day soon to be an opening for a librarian in the Advocates Library here and I believe our body will proceed as far as they can on the principle of Detur digniori. A friend of mine whose wishes I am much inclined to favour has had views on the situation which I think will not be effectual. But at any rate there can be no impropriety in your keeping the matter in your view. The collection is a most princely one and we talk of making the emoluement 300 or 400. Close attendance is however required in the morning. The worst is that the place is not vacant as yet though soon expected to be so. The nomination lies with the Faculty of Advocates—in other words the corporation of Barristers in Scotland. The most particular testimonials as to morals temper and literature will be expected & as there will be many candidates success will probably turn on those who can produce the most numerous & most respectable. Should this be likely to suit you I will put you in the way of placing yourself in the ranks as a candidate. I have only to add that your being in orders should you have taken them before the place is vacant would be rather a recommendation than otherwise. I have no time to write more or even to read what I have written. I can only add that I am honoured by your thinking of me in the way you do & that you do me but justice in supposing that my will to
assist a young man of genius in your situation is only bounded by my power. I am Sir your most obedient Servant

WALTER SCOTT

[No date or address.]

[Nov. 30 1815 Postmark.]

Mr. James Baillie, 1 Trinity College Cambridge.

TO LADY COMPTON

MY DEAR LADY COMPTON,-A number of trifling things have hitherto prevented my telling you how very much I was obliged by the trouble you took to marry my verses to immortal notes. The music was much admired by all who had an opportunity of hearing it but I had no time to train a ballad singer or two to sing our joint minstrelsy upon the field. It was really a most gallant weapon—showing, not less than two thousand men assembled and I think about seven or eight hundred playd for seven hours with the most desperate exertion on both sides—At the dead of night of the preceding evening they proclaimed from the steeples that there was to be no law in the country for 24 hours luckily they were perfectly good humoured and not disposed to abuse this license. You remember the situation of the larger plain at the junction of Yarrow and Ettricke—that was the scene of action and after the day it looked almost like the field of Waterloo from the mode in which it was trampled
My boy Walter carried the Dukes standard and as he was dressed in forest green and buff with a green bonnet and an eagles feather in it, a large gold chain with a medal, and otherwise gallantly armed and mounted he really made a very handsome figure-He is you know a good horseman and really became the old banner well looking more like an Esquire of old days than a high school boy.

Our game was not well arranged. We had not reckoned on half the numbers that came and found grave difficulty in settling which should play on each side. Selkirk and Yarrow were the districts named but all the other dales-men joined. In the first game Selkirk overpowered Yarrow by force of numbers-In the second Torwoodlie meaning to restore equality caused the Galashiels men about fifty in number to change sides during the action whereby Selkirk lost after a struggle of four hours : this gave great offence to the Souters who burned Torwoodlie Toftfield and others in effigy the next night- After some dispute about the terms of a third game it ended in a solemn challenge between Lord Home and me to play it out on a future day 100 heather-bonnets against a hundred fir-tops and not a man more on each side.1 This was agreed to by tossing up hats and exchanging gloves as is our custom. So we were to take the field between Christmas and the N. Years day with our hundred knights of a side and each others gloves in our hatbands and he that wins it wears it- You can hardly conceive the sort of spirit which the people showed. Many came twenty miles and bivouacked in the heather all night. In the meanwhile our sport is gone off for Lord Home has just received orders to join his regt. at
Tipperary where I doubt he has "other sport to bide." -
If he could carry a thousand foresters with him they
would show Paddy good play - I am much disappointed
for my merry men were very confident. I had chosen
four captains two for Selkirk one for Roberton parish
and Berwick Water one for Ale-water and one for
Abbotsford and neighbourhood. Each was to bring
19 picked men with him and the Abbotsford Captain who

1815 SIR WALTER SCOTT 143

is the best player in the country declared that for his band
they should play holding hales i.e. goals between Carlisle
and Berwick which would require both strength of limb
and good wind - The worst of this is playing against
my old friends the Yarrow lads in whose parish I lived
so long but there is no help for it. They talk of a bet or
challenge coming from the Kelso gentlemen to play
Up the country men against Down the country men which is our
usual provincial division and embraces all our political
feuds. But I doubt they will not try us. In the mean
while much fun is passing. The Selkirkers have got a
song which if it be not borrowed from Burns (as I think
it is) runs away cleverly enough

Buy broom besoms
Ranking in a ra
Buy heather bonnets
Lost on Carterhaugh
Buy the truth of Toftfield
In a needle's ee
Buy a reputation
Tint by Torwoodlie.

The shepherds have one or two very good ones too-
We are you know a land of improvisator! and they were
(4-143)really singing some good squibs before they left the field.
(4-143)The Souters of Selkirk has been clouted in all sort of ways
(4-143)that the old single might be made to serve the... of
(4-143)the modern players and their patrons.

(4-143)Lord Home looks the Chief so well and is so kind and
(4-143)frank and good humoured that he was quite the person
(4-143)to bring rural sports to an amicable conclusion. The
(4-143)ladies had their ball at night as we had ours in the
(4-143)morning and we had a very joyous party at Bowhill.
(4-143)Your Ladyships friend Sophia danced till six in the
(4-143)morning as did the Banner bearer.

(4-143)So concludes the full true and particular account of
(4-143)the Great Match at Carterhaugh.

(4-143)The like of which was never seen
(4-143)Since the days of Tam-o-lean.

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(4-144)N.B. Lane would not rhime being a long lane which has
(4-144)no turning.

(4-144)My best respects attend Lord Compton-Ever my dear
(4-144)Lady Compton your faithful and affectionate friend

(4-144)WALTER SCOTT
(4-144)EDINR. 12 Novr. [Decr.1] [1815]

(4-144)I have this instant a letter from Anna Jane-All well in
(4-144)the lonely isle.

[Northampton]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT
MY DEAR MORRITT,—While you know what satisfaction it would have given me to have seen you here I am very sensible of the more weighty reasons which you urge for preferring staying at Rokeby for some time. I only hope you will remember that Scotland has claims on you whenever you shall find your own mind so far at ease as to permit you to look abroad for consolation and if it should happen that you thought of being here about our time of vacation I have my time then entirely at my own command and I need not say that as much of it as could in any manner of way contribute to your amusement is most heartily at yours. I have at present the melancholy task of watching the declining health of my elder brother Major Scott whom I think you have seen. Without having any very great intimacy which indeed was precluded by the difference of our habits and pursuits we have always lived in great harmony & concord and it is with no small grief that I now see him gradually giving way under complaints from which I cannot hope for any thing like perfect recovery.

SIR WALTER SCOTT 1815

My literary occupation is getting through the press the letters of Paul of whose lucubrations I trust soon to send you a copy. As the observations of a bye-stander perhaps you will find some amusement in them especially as I had some channells of information not accessible to every one. The recess of our courts which takes place tomorrow for three weeks will give me ample time to finish this job and also the second volume of Triermain which is nearly finishd—a strange rude story founded partly on the ancient northern traditions respecting the Berserkars whose peculiar habits and fits of martial
frenzy makes such a figure in the Sagas of Scandinavian
origin. I shall then set myself seriously to the Antiquary
of which I have only a very general sketch at present.
But when once I get my pen to the paper it will walk fast
enough. I am sometimes tempted to leave it alone and
ty whether it will not write as well without the assistance
of my head as with it—a hopeful prospect for the reader.
In the mean while the snow which is now falling so fast
as to make it dubious when this letter may reach Rokeby
is likely to forward these important avocations by keeping
me a constant resident in Edinburgh in lieu of my plan
of going to Abbotsford where I had a number of schemes
in hand in the way of planting and improving. I believe
I told you I have made a considerable addition to my
little farm and extended thereby my domains towards a
wild lake which I have a good prospect of acquiring also.
It has a sort of legendary fame for the persuasion of the
isolated shepherds who approach its banks, is that it is
tenanted by a very large amphibious animal called by
them a water-bull and which several of them pretend to
have seen. As the dimensions greatly exceed those of an
otter I am tempted to think with Trinculo "this is the
devil and no monster." But after all is it not strange
that in almost all the lakes both lowland and highland in
Scotland such a belief should prevail and the description

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popularly given uniformly corresponds with that of the
Hippopotamus. Is it possible that at some remote period
that remarkable animal like some others which have now
disappeared may have [been] an inhabitant of our large
lakes? Certainly the vanishing of the Mammoth and
other animals from the face of creation render such
a conjecture less wild than I would otherwise esteem it.
It is certain we have lost the beaver whose bones have
been more than once found in our Selkirkshire bogs and
marl-mosses. The remains of the wild bull are very
frequently found and I have more than one scull with
the horns of most formidable dimensions.

My new dominions possess peculiar interest for me as
they include a hillock called popularly Turn-again on
which spot it is said the Clan of Scott rallied after the
battle of Melrose which they fought against the Earl of
Angus-they halted on the shoulder of this hill after
having been driven from the field of battle about a short
mile of[f] and the Knight of Cessford and several of his
followers were killd following the chase too far. Which
circumstance makes the spot very interesting to me.

About a fortnight ago we had a great football match
in Selkirkshire when the Duke of Buccleuch raised his
banner (a very curious and ancient pennon) in great
form. Your friend Walter was banner-bearer dressed
like a forester of old in green with a green bonnet and
an eagle feather in it and as he was well mounted and
rode handsomely over the field he was much admired
by all his clansmen and the spectators who could not be
fewer than two thousand in number.

I have thrown these trifles together without much
hope that they will afford you amusement but I know
you will wish to hear what I am about and I have but
trifles to send to those friends who interest themselves
about a trifler. My present employment is watching
from time to time the progress of a stupid cause in order
to be ready to reduce the sentence into writing when the
court shall have decided whether Gordon of Kenmore
or MacMichan of Meikleforthhead are legal Superiors.
of the lands of Tarschrechan and Dalbeattie and entitled
to the feudal casualties payable forth thereof which may
amount to twopence Sterling once in half a dozen of years
-marry Sir they make part of a freehold qualification
and the decision may wing a voter.

I did not send the book you received by the Selkirk
couch. I wish I could have had sense enough to send
any thing which could afford you consolation. I think our
friend Lady Louisa was likely to have had this attention.
She has God knows been herself tried with affliction and
is well acquainted with the sources from which comfort
can be drawn. My wife joins in kindest remembrances
as does Sophia and Walter. I keep Walter for this year
at the High school but I am some what uncertain what
to do with him next year. I sometimes think that two
years of a good English school would found him well in
classical learning. But more of this in some other letter.

Ever yours affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 22 December [1815]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[29th Dec. 1815]

DEAR JAMES-I'm done, thank God, with the long yarns
Of the most prosy of Apostles-Paul 1 ;
And now advance, sweet Heathen of Monkbarns !
Step out, old quizz, as fast as I can scrawl.

[Lockhart]
TO WILLIAM ERSKINE

(4-148) MY DEAR ERSKINE, - I have a boon to ask of your
(4-148) learning. You know I am no Grecian but I want to
(4-148) quote the original of Homer upon an occasion which you
(4-148) will find on p. 291. The line occurs where Achilles is
(4-148) intreated for mercy by some poor Devil a son of Priam
(4-148) if I recollect right in his first carnage after Patroclus'
(4-148) death. Will you mark it in very legible Greek Characters
(4-148) on a separate slip of paper & inclose it to me. I send
(4-148) you the double proofs (they are uncorrectd) as you wishd
(4-148) to see the progress of the Apostle. Please return them at
(4-148) leisure. Yours ever

(4-148) W S
(4-148) [1815 1]
[Miss Erskine]

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TO JOHN MURRAY

(4-149) [1816]

(4-149) DEAR SIR, - I enclose the sheets corrected being loth
(4-149) to stop press - I have written the corrections as distinctly
(4-149) as I can & am obliged to you for giving me the opportunity
(4-149) of doing it upon a large scale for no printer can strive
(4-149) against the difficulties of unknown phraseology a cramp
(4-149) hand and little space.

(4-149) I will write more largely by next sheets - Paul has
(4-149) succeeded well here. Constable has but six hundred left
of his two thousand. Yours truly W. S.

Take the trouble to send the inclosd letter with a copy
of Paul to Mr. Loftly Swift Author of a poem on Waterloo. 
I have lost his address but his publishers will find him. 
I will send a copy to Blackwood on your accompt to
replace it.

[John Murray]

TO JOHN MURRAY

MY DEAR SIR,-I am glad you like the article. With
all my exertions I have not got through the correction to
save this post, and I wish to avail myself of the admirable
letters of Croker and Malcolm to round the reflections
on Waterloo. Tomorrow is no post but you will have
the remaining sheets on the first post sans faute. I am
writing during a long and confused pleading. Yours truly

[Sir Alfred J. Law]                             W. S.

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TO [JAMES BALLANTYNE]

DEAR JAMES,-I return your bills accepted. Beg to
observe that in the plan you proposed □ 1500 on Constable
& □ 1500., on me which with □ 3000 of Constables bills
was to make up the deficiency. But instead of this you
have drawn on me for the full □ 3000. I dare say you have
good reason but when there is any departure from our
arrangements I wish you would always mention them.

I hope to call today when I leave the Court—Still
cannot get the Hum Fum out of my head. Your anger
against the French reminds me of the resentment of the
Queen of Liliput at the mode in which Gulliver extinguishd
the conflagration & is much as reasonable.

Yours truly                             W. SCOTT

CASTLE STREET.

I quite approve of the inclosed plan if it can be executed.

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

DEAR CHARLES,—Primo. I hope you have not forgotten
that you dine here on friday at five.

Secundo. I send you a curious tract upon fairies.

Tertio. I have discoverd for you some curious particulars
respecting Scottish Quakers particularly of my
mothers great grandfather John Swinton in the article
Barclay in Kippis new Editn. of the Biographia Brittanica.1
If you have not the book I will send it—On consideration
I will send it on chance.

Lastly & to conclude Beloved I want your assistance
in planning a silver cup for the Sutors of Selkirk to be
given to the knaves by the Duke. He wishes to have
the birss 1 (a bona fide birss) disposed somehow as an ornament on the top on't. Now as the arms of the town are picturesque being a female figure with a child in her arms seated on a sarcophagus-I thought the birss might be put into her hand-but on trying it looks as if she was just going to flog the wean-then I thought of disposing it at the end of a sort of silver handle or sceptre-But that lookd like a broom & showd as if the poor woman had undertaken to be housemaid & childs maid at once-

Pray aid me with your wit for mine is pumpd dry. Ever yours

W. SCOTT

If you are to be at home tomorrow I will call.

With two Books.

[Horner]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

DEAR CHARLES,-As I am flattered by so good an antiquary looking at anything belonging to my forbears, I have looked up a letter 2 from Lord Cranstoune to Sir Gideon Scott of Highchester, the first Raeburn's elder brother. The poor lord seems to have been in sad trouble at the time. I have many, very many letters from people of note, but they are confused with the mass of my father's professional papers, which fill a whole garret.

I send you Elphinstone.-Ever yours,

W. S.

CASTLE STREET, Wednesday.
TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(4-154)[1816]
(4-154)
(4-154)DEAR SHARPE,- I return Kirkton for the chance of the
(4-154)Spirit moving you during my absence. Moreover I send
(4-154)you an old paper of accounts by the unfortunate Quaker
(4-154)of Raeburn. You will observe that his Nephew (the
(4-154)unhappy Walter Earl of Tarras) had been married to the
(4-154)eldest of the Buccleuch Heiresses & I suppose my Grannie
(4-154)had got this factorship as his part of the prize- But upon
(4-154)the union between the Duchess of Buccleuch with the
(4-154)D. of Monmouth he was obliged I suppose to render up
(4-154)his stewardship-Ever yours

(4-154)W. S.

(4-154)As for your prediction of the Quaker inspiration reviving
(4-154)among us after my day I can only answer with the bard

(4-154)Says the Old Jackdaw to the young Jackdaw
(4-154)Lord Damn you if you do.

(4-154)[? 1816]
[Horner]

TO REV. MR. POLWHELE, KEKTWYN, TRURO

(4-154)1816

(4-154)DEAR SIR,- I am very much nattered indeed by your
(4-154)obliging letter, and the praises which it contains, which,
coming from you, are very valuable. I did not forget that I had some title to request your acceptance of a copy; but the booksellers I suppose thought my list of my friends too numerous, as they curtailed it in one or two instances. Truly glad am I, that you are so kind as to give me an opportunity to make amends for their negligence; and the first opportunity that occurs to send such a thing to London, I will beg your acceptance of a copy somewhat superior to those generally sold to the public.

1816 SIR WALTER SCOTT 155

I will not fail to persecute Messrs. Cadell and Davies, until they are pleased to obey your obliging order. Perhaps I may dun them in person, as I believe I shall be in London in the course of a week or two; my motions, however, are rather uncertain. It would give me great pleasure were I to have any hope of seeing you while in town. I cannot close my letter without inquiring after Mr. Carlyon, whom I met very accidentally on the Banks of the Tweed, and was much pleased with. There is another friend of mine at present in Cornwall, the Rev. Mr. Marriot, lately tutor to young Lord Scott, my little chieftain; but obliged to leave a situation equally eligible and pleasant, and where he had a friend in every member of the family, from a tendency to pulmonary complaints. Should you meet him, may I hope you will give him a minstrel greeting for my sake; but, if he happens to be already known to you, I am sure further introduction will be unnecessary.

The Editor of the Edinburgh Review is my particular friend; but he and I often differ in points of criticism.

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(4-156)If I find he views your poems with the same eye that
(4-156)I have done for many years, I am sure he will give them
(4-156)an honourable niche in his temple of Fame, or rather his
(4-156)theatre of Anatomy. I have myself long ceased to write
(4-156)in a work, the political sentiments of which do by no
(4-156)means correspond with mine; indeed, I never did touch
(4-156)upon any poetical production, conscious that either my
(4-156)praise or censure might be easily misconstrued. The
(4-156)articles I used sometimes to furnish had chiefly relation
(4-156)to antiquities. Most truly yours,

(4-156)WALTER SCOTT
[Letters of Sir Walter Scoff, 1832]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(4-156)[1816]

(4-156)DEAR JAMES,—I can by no means engage to give these
(4-156)gentlemen all future editions of this work which would
(4-156)be something more unfavourable to me than selling it.
(4-156)You can only say that YOU mean to annex no further
(4-156)condition to it on your own part & that you have no reason
(4-156)to think the author will change his publishers without
(4-156)some good reason. They have no reason to doubt our
(4-156)good faith but as they say a bargain is a bargain, I will
(4-156)keep Stuff in hand and I give you no power to bind me
(4-156)either directly or indirectly. If they will not trust to good
(4-156)usage I know others who will. I wish my own bills at
(4-156)6 mots. in future but to accomodate Blackwd they may
(4-156)be renewable 6 mot. more at his expence. I inclose the
(4-156)bills,

W. S.

[Glen]
TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(4-156)[Early 1816]

(4-156) DEAR SIR, - The [ ] 100., received & the Memorial (4-156) found with great difficulty - Could you bring Mr. SIR WALTER SCOTT

1816 157

(4-157) Hogarth 1 here at 1/2 past four it would be the best time to (4-157) sign & seal. We go to Sir Giles in the evening. I think (4-157) you should write Murray yourself there is no use in (4-157) letting Blackwood be the agent of a thing he has nothing (4-157) to do with & I would mention to him distinctly that if (4-157) Mr. B. declined the 1/2 he should have it all himself if he (4-157) liked - Yours &c. W S [Glen]

TO JAMES FERRIER 2

(4-157)[1816]

(4-157) MY DEAR SIR, - Agreeably to your permission & assistance (4-157) I start tomorrow to take a little breath after a good (4-157) deal of hard work. You will receive in the course of a (4-157) few days some letters on the present state of France and (4-157) I heartily wish the perusal may give you a little amusement (4-157) in attonement of the trouble you are now taking.

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(4-158) I hope to be in town on Sunday at farthest & in the (4-158) course of next month I will have great pleasure in (4-158) scribbling my hieroglyphicke for your handsome signature. (4-158) Yours affectionately
MY DEAR LORD,-I have proceeded in my commission about the cup. It will be a very handsome one-But I am still puzzled to dispose of the birse in a becoming manner. It is a most unmanageable decoration-I tried it upright on the top of the cup-it looked like a shaving brush & the goblet might be intended to make the lather-Then I thought I had a brilliant idea-The arms of Selkirk are a female seated on a sarcophagus decorated with the arms of Scotland which will make a beautiful top to the cup-so I thought of putting the birse into the lady's other hand-but alas it looked so precisely like the rod of chastisement uplifted over the poor child that I laughed at the drawing for half an hour-Next I tried to take off the castigatory appearance by inserting the bristles in a kind of handle-but then it looked as if the poor woman had been engaged in the capacities of housemaid & child-keeper at once & fatigued with her double duty had sat down on the wine-cooler with the broom in one hand and the bairn in the other-At length after some conference with Chas. Sharpe I have hit on a plan which I think will look very handsome if tolerable executed namely to have the Lady seated in due form on the top of the lid (which will look handsome & will be well taken) and to have a thistle wreathed around the sarcophagus and rising above her head and from the top of the thistle shall proceed the birse. I will bring a
drawing with me & they shall get the cup ready in the mean time. I hope to be at Abbotsford on Monday night to stay for a week.

I have found several other Buccleuch papers chiefly relating to their quarrels with the Ken's-in one I am told for I have not perused it entirely the Laird of Cessford becomes bound to give his sword drawn holding it by the point with the handle to the Laird of Buccleuch in the Church of Melrose & thus make the amende honorable for the slaughter of his father in Edinburgh. I read & partly copied another long deed on the same subject where attonement was to be made in the Kirk of St. Giles & measures were taken for allying the families: the contracting parties were the tutors of the young Laird of Buccleuch on the one hand & the Knight of Cessford on the other. Thomas Thomson our Depute Register to whom I pointed out these deeds thinks they contain the most singular picture of border manners ever exhibited. some of them will be essential to General Kerr in proving his pedigree should that ever be essential to him. I have got a very steady & careful man to make accurate copies of these for your Grace & Lord Montagu & also one for myself so the damage will not be great and I think your Grace would wish the research to be as exact & full as possible. I found a very singular record of my own ancestry vizt. an order from the privy council (a sort of Lettre de cachet) to take the bodies of William & Walter Scotts (the last was my great grandfather) out of the custody of their father Walter Scott of Raeburn & their mother, upon petition of Sir William Scott of Harden Raeburns brother who states that Raeburn & his wife were infected with the heresy of Quakerism. Poor
Raeburn stands committed to Jedburgh jail with directions to admit no quakers to see him. He had been a denizen of Edinr. Jail for some time but it seems the quakers combined to get at him there—the children are allowd 2000 Scots for education & maintenance which must have been a horrid oppression being much more than the little estates of Raeburn & Eilrig [?].

could afford. The sons turned out no quakers to say the least—one was a desperate duellist & was kill’d 1 near Selkirk by the late Mark Pringles grandfather—and the other a keen Jacobite would have been hang’d in 1715 but for Duchess Anne of Buccleuch who beg’d or bought him off. But I now see to what I have been indebted for my singular gravity & decorum of conduct as well as the present Raeburn for the upright rigidity of his spine—good blood will out. All this is very little to Your Grace but the spirit moved me to tell it you—you [see] sir I have got an admirable excuse for all my voluntary escapades in future—

The hawk deserved his fate being caught flagrante delicto—My cat has eat two or three birds while regaling on the crumbs that were throwed for them—this was a breach of hospitality—but oportet vivere—and Micat inter omnes with which stolen pun and my respectful compliment to Lord Montagu and the Ladies I am very truly your Grace most faithful & obliged Servant.

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. Thursday

May all the good things that a New year can bring attend your Grace & your family—
I send under another cover what I have just received the two drawings of the front & reverse of the lid of proposed Cup—Your Grace will be so good as understand that the thistle—the top of which is garnished with the bristle—is entirely detached in working from the figure & slips into a socket. The following lines are humbly suggested for a motto being taken from an ancient

1816  SIR WALTER SCOTT

Scottish Canzonette—unless the Yarrow committee can find any better

The Sutor gae the Sow a kiss
Grumph! quo' the Sow, its a' for my birss—

TO LORD BYRON

MY DEAR LORD BYRON,—I had an early visit from a fair lady this morning who was in great anxiety lest a paragraph, which had appeared in one of our papers should appear to Lady Byron or you to have been inserted with her knowledge, or with the presumptuous purpose of converting your kindness into the foundation of a theatrical puff—Mrs. Henry Siddons, who thinks on this and other subjects very like a lady, seems particularly distressed at the indiscreet zeal of the friend, who, in a sincere wish to serve her, has injudiciously and, as she thinks, indelicately brought into view circumstances of private attention, which, while she feels the honour attending them, are not proper to be paraded before the public. I had no hesitation to say that I thought it impossible your Lordship or Lady Byron would attach
any consequence to this blunder of a good friend of mine, who is a zealous admirer of Mrs. Siddons and the Drama as well as of your Lordship, and would, to my knowledge, be the last man upon earth to be guilty of disrespect to you or indiscretion to her.

Having thus far pleaded my cause like a good Advocate before I was in possession of facts, I have just got the paragraph which I enclose, and unless the thoughtless mention of Lady Byron's name, I think you will not find much to complain of, since it only represents your Lordship as anxious to do your duty in securing to the public of London an actress of Mrs. H. Siddons' eminence.

However, she is unhappy lest your Lordship should misinterpret this unlucky paragraph into an abuse of Lady Byron's goodness and yours, and you will do a great kindness in reassuring her on the subject by a few lines addressed either to her or to me.

I have got a most enthusiastic letter from our Irish tragedian, almost mad with gratitude to your kindness. Hogg, after playing a great part in the grand drama of football, which was enacted in the open air by 2000 performers, has returned to his cottage among the hills, and is there, again, I suppose, smothered up with snow and living beneath the wreaths like an Esquimaux.

Jeffrey is well, drinking champagne and writing criticisms. I don't know any other person here that your lordship cares for.
My best respects attend Lady Byron and I am always, my dear Lord, most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 5 January [1816] all good things attend you through 1816

Should you meet Lady Compton in Society pray be acquainted with her—it is worth while for she is a very clever young woman and skilled in legendary lore—

The Right Honble Lord Byron etc. etc. etc.

Piccadilly London

[John Murray]

TO JAMES SKENE

EDINBURGH, 7th January 1816

MY DEAR SKENE,—I would long since have written to you on the subject of your journal, but I waited for Constable's return from London. He seems well disposed to enter into the transaction upon the footing of his taking upon him the whole risk and expense and dividing the full profits. To understand this, however, you must be aware that first the publisher subtracts from the gross sum about 27 or 28 per cent. as the allowance to the retail booksellers, so that the calculation is made upon what they call sale price. From what remains there is deducted the expenses of print, paper, engraving, etc., and something in the way of incidents or advertising.
All these, speaking roughly, come to more than a third of the gross amount, the rest is considered free profit and divisible. Upon the best calculation I can make, an author gains generally about one-sixth part of the whole, or half a guinea upon three guineas. I believe upon the whole it is the fairest mode of transacting business, and at present, when capital is ill to be come at, it is perhaps the only eligible one.

But the most difficult thing is to arrange the mode in which the engravings are to be executed, which I need not tell you I am totally ignorant of. Stroke engraving is intolerably expensive, and one is by no means sure of having it executed well even by employing the best engravers and paying the highest price. These gentlemen's temptation to make money is so great that they do not hesitate to employ their pupils on works to which they give their own name. Constable seems to incline to a sort of etching or aqua tinta affair, which looks showy enough and can be executed, he says, for five or six guineas a plate. As I wish you to judge for yourself, I caused him to send you a copy of Sir George Mackenzie's Travels 1 as a specimen of the style in which he thinks your journal should be published. He proposes one edition of five hundred copies of one of the volumes should be published, and would prefer the Tour through Sicily and Malta, though I believe he would take either you recommend. I have sent the volume of Mackenzie to Miss Skene, who will forward it by the first conveyance. As we must hope for your coming up in the spring, if you do not like this style of etching, which appears to me slight and a little too sketchy I own, I think you had better put off a settlement till you come up, for although I could take...
it upon me to act for you in matters of literary concern, yet I am by no means qualified to do so in point of vertu.

I cannot express to you how much I was disappointed by finding you had left Edinburgh just two days before my arrival. I was obliged to stay till I had completed a small purchase in the neighbourhood of Abbotsford, which lies convenient for me, and being the property of a country body I did not know what sort of figs might have seen through the bargain if I had left it before signing and sealing. Indeed, it was well I stuck by it, for twenty-four hours after, I had the offer of £600 profit on my bargain, which was more than an eighth part of the whole purchase money.

I have looked over the journals, and think them, as I always did, excellently fitted for publication; though the language may here and there want a little combing, it is plain, distinct, and impressive upon striking subjects. Whatever I can do to help the matter through as corrector of the press or otherwise, believe I will do it with pleasure. But still, if you are to come up in two or three months, as I hope and trust you will, I think the matter will be more satisfactorily set a-going under your own eye and little or no time lost. Should you, however, entirely approve of Mackenzie's book and plates, there can be no occasion for delay.

I hope you will have no objection to take a scamper to the Continent one of these days. I think of it seriously either this year or the year after, for as my children are getting up and my household can go on as well in my absence as presence, I would willingly, while I have some stamina left, take a view of the Rhine and Switzerland and as far in Italy as I could, returning by Spain and the
South of France. Should you think of this seriously we will go together, for you, like me, are I know of opinion with the old song:

"A light heart and a thin pair of breeches,
Go through the wide world, brave boys;"

and are not therefore disposed, when out of England, to bother themselves for want of English comforts.

My best and kindest compliments attend Mrs. Skene and the young people, and believe me ever, my dear Skene, most truly and affectionately yours,

WALTER SCOTT

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

MY DEAR JAMES,—I am quite in keeping with the period. Look at old John Dowie or Daniel M'Intosh. They are not men with the education of the present day, but men who bring the manners of our father's age into ours. Wattie Richie at Peebles played the wry trick of the claret in my presence. If I wrote every-day-manners who would read them. I send the books, the sheet, the MS., and eight pages for Bishop. I am quite aware of what you mean. You must give my interest time to evolve itself. W. S.

[Rosebery]
TO CHARLES ERSKINE

(4-166)[12th January, 1816]

(4-166)MY DEAR CHARLES,-I have today struck a bargain
(4-166)with Mr. Nicol Milne for certain acres of his Abbotslee
(4-166)land which squares my late acquisition very handsomely.
(4-166)Mr. Milne has behaved very well in the transaction &

1816

1816          SIR WALTER SCOTT          167

(4-167)has not I think made me pay very much for accomodation.
(4-167)Something you know is reasonable.

(4-167)Now I wish you of all loves to dine here on Saturday
(4-167)and close this matter with a sheet of your infallible
(4-167)Stamp paper. Come at three o clock if possible-
(4-167)Compliments to Mrs. Erskine. Yours truly

(4-167)W. SCOTT
(4-167)ABBOTSFORD Thursday

[Curle]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(4-167)DEAR SIR,-Inclosed is the article upon Emma.1 I have
(4-167)been spending my holidays in the country where besides
(4-167)constant labour in the fields during all the hours of
(4-167)daylight, the want of books has prevented my completing
(4-167)the highland article. It will be off however by Tuesday
(4-167)first as I must take Sunday to Monday into the account
(4-167)of finishing it. It will be quite unnecessary to send
(4-167)proofs of Emma, as Mr. Gifford will correct all obvious
errors and abridge it where necessary.

I have obtained a promise of a pension for poor Archie Park: pray say so with my best respects to Mr. Whishaw.

I have sent a commission to Wurz & Fruttel to procure me the Benedictine edition of the French historians. If they should advise you that they have succeeded and draw upon you for the price please advise me that I may put you in funds. I desired them to draw at a month's sight.

I wrote Lord Byron a few days since.

But I must to the Highlands in great haste so this is all at present from Yours truly

W. SCOTT

19 January 1816 EDINBURGH

TO JOHN MURRAY

DEAR SIR,—My article is so long that I fancy you will think yourself in the condition of the Conjuror who after having a great deal of trouble in raising the Devil could not get rid of him after he had once made his appearance. But the highlands is an immense field and it would have been much more easy for me to have made the sketch twice as long than to make it shorter. There still wants eight or more pages which you will receive tomorrow's or next day's post but I fancy you will be
glad to get on.

I sent you a few days since the Article on Emma. Inclosed is a letter from Mrs. Scott to her friends in Whitehorse Street which I beg you will have the goodness to forward. Yours truly

W. SCOTT

EDIN. 25 January 1816

1816 SIR WALTER SCOTT

Elphinstone's book is by far the most interesting of the kind that I ever read.

[Sir Alfred J. Law]

TO DANIEL TERRY

26th Janry. 1816

t DEAR TERRY,-I am very glad you have been able to suit your effort to the taste of those who are arbiters of public pleasures. For my share in it Dumple it as you list so it pleases the public & serves you. It was a very rough combed thing & I had no time to make it better. I will be delighted to have the sketches. Pray let me know when convenient whether Mrs. Terry proposes to teach this season. If you will send the Gentlemans recreation 2 to Murray Albemarle Street or Longman in Paternoster Row they will take care to forward it to me:

it will rather overpower Mr. Freelings omnipotence of franking: I am much obliged to you for picking it up.

I am sorry I cannot see your jolly party which I dare say
(4-169) will give no small pleasure. James Ballantyne gives us (4-169) his last Bachelor dinner tomorrow & then moves off in all (4-169) typographical state. We had yesterday a wine tasting (4-169) dinner for the Pitt meeting, & I think my head is somewhat (4-169) muddy this morning. If the prophecies of Daniel (4-169) are correct he will be obliged to come down now & then (4-169) to Tweed side to seek advice & cooperation on future (4-169) occasions. But we must not reckon our chickens &c. (4-169) I fear the effects of a twice told tale. A great deal (4-169) depends upon your keeping your own secret which is

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(4-170) no deception after all for you have only received a very (4-170) ugly lump of a thing. You will let me know how you (4-170) get on. I think you should apply for a song to Mrs. (4-170) Baillie : she would be flattered with the request. Make (4-170) my best respects to Mrs. Terry in which Mrs. Scott (4-170) joins & believe me Very truly yours

(4-170) WALTER SCOTT

(4-170) EDINBURGH

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY COMPTON

(4-170) MY DEAR LADY COMPTON,- I am much obliged by (4-170) your kind letter lately received. We are mistified by the (4-170) disturbances which have spoild our sport by carrying off (4-170) my noble antagonist Lord Home and I was very much (4-170) disposed to say like Falstaff " Out you villains play out (4-170) the play " - I assure you I would have taken the field (4-170) at the head of a very fine band of young fellows as Scotland (4-170) can turn out. But as this Bet cannot be decided for
the present we are busy [reviving] an old Border establishment of a rural sports and athletic exercises. The gentlemen associated for this purpose have agreed to take the hills in the course of next summer pitch tents by some of our wild lakes and live like Robin Hood of England making war on the fowls of the air and the fishes in the Mere and giving prizes for running leaping wrestling pitching the Bar and so forth that the commoners may have their share of fun. If Lord Compton and you will do us the honour to come and see us we will give you hunters' welcome. If the Duke keeps his health as he is the pin that holds us together we shall have very fine sport.

I have taken your Ladyship's name (not in vain I trust) but in some degree of freedom: for I have ventured to put you down as a subscriber for a collection of Scottish tunes collected by a man named Alexr. Campbell a regular musician with a good deal of taste, a furious highlander, and I believe a very good man. I must give you a sketch of his history. When I knew him first he was organist to a non-juring Chapel in Edinburgh, attended by the scattered remnant of those folks called in derision Jacobites. My mother engaged him in the hopeless attempt to teach my brothers and me a little church music but as the noise we made was so fearful as to alarm our neighbours in Georges Square you may imagine he had not much credit by his pupils. He also taught in Lady Keppoch's family who chose to the great offence of her husband to unite her fortunes with the said Mr. Campbell. I This proved an ill-fated union-poverty came in at the door and Love flew out at the window—and my friend A. G. who was entitled to
be at least half mad in his double capacity of a fidler and a poet was in danger of becoming wholly so by a train of the most distressing calamity. An accident about this time renewed my acquaintance with Mr. C. and I had the good luck to recover a sum of money from a swindling bookseller who had cheated the poor fellow and which set him out of all pressing distress. He has since got encouragement from the Highland Society and some money to enable him to travel through Scotland and collect music which he has done with great success and fidelity. He is to give the simple tunes with no other accompaniment than a few notes of symphony which he has executed with great taste. I have promised him words of a simple and legendary kind for some of his tunes in hopes that may help him out. Now what I have to beg of you dear Lady Compton is to get the poor man a name or two in your circle besides your own for which I have ventured to pledge myself. There is one most beautiful and to me an entirely unknown Scottish air that I would give a silver sixpence to hear a certain fair friend of mine sing it as she was wont to do. The words are as far as preserved.

Why weep you by the tide Lady
I'll wed you to my youngest son
And you sail be his Bride
And you sail be his Bride Lady
Sae comely to be seen-
But aye she loot the tears down fa'
Fer Jock of Hazeldean.

I give these words because if you dont know the tune
I will send it you and your singing it will be the best recommendation of Campbell’s collection. I will make out the legend—Another thing is do you think there would be any harm in giving him your translation of Allan Muidyart—it cannot go to the tune of Achen fome. I But I think we could find a beautiful highland air for it. It is a great card for him to have good words.

I am very sorry that the C. family continue to give ground of vexation. I was in hopes they had just brought the matter to a downright quarrel in all the forms and if they plague you by keeping up a harassing intercourse merely to have the pleasure of vexing you I think it will be for you and Lord Compton to consider whether you may not let it drop—for what says our ancient proverb—better a finger off as aye wagging—I think it was very wise of Lord Compton to break off the treaty about the trees when it was in my apprehension only used as the means of taking a very undue advantage.

I will not fail to enquire at Miss Clephane concerning the Mermaid affair but I make you aware that I am much scandalized that there should be any such a similarity as should render in any circumstances a Mermaid liable to be mistaken for a Porpoise.

Adieu my dear Lady Compton remember me kindly to Lord Compton and believe me very truly,

Your affectionate friend and very humble servant

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 6th Feb. 1816
No late news from the lonely isle.

[Northampton]

TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

MANY thanks my dear Sir for your unceasing tokens of recollection.-I think your Counsellor O'Gorman has got into a very foul scrape, and illustrated what I have always suspected, that those who are apt to be peculiarly clamourously loud in the assertion of supposed public rights, do not always feel quite so acutely at the infringement of those which subsist in Society between Man and Man- It is one of the worst consequences of popular discontent, that mouthing and violent men almost always excite the passions of the disaffected, and feeling no tie of principle themselves, are indifferent to the crimes and follies to which they urge their followers- As to what concerns Mr. Mason, you will I am sure comprehend that the first point which you have to consider is your own opinion of that Gentleman's character ; if he is such a man as may with propriety ask and receive assistance in a literary undertaking, I should feel hurt that any chance of his combating my opinions should through the partiality of my Friends stand in the way of his researches, but of course I have neither the tide or the wish to push Mr. Mason's cause further than Mr. Mason's character would have carried him, if there had been no such edition of Swift's Works as that which I have ventured to offer to the Public. So that all I entreat of Mr. Steeles increasing kindness and of your's is that you will lay me entirely out of the question, unless just thus far, that I would rather Mr. Mason saw the papers than that he had to complain that they were withheld from him.
I send you a work on the present state of France, or rather as matters stood in Sept. last. I think you will like some part of it. It has sold here very rapidly, and has received the flattering approbation of many officers of distinction who were present at Waterloo. I have been busy, notwithstanding the roughest weather I have ever seen, superintending my new operations at Abbotsford. I think I told you I had extended my wings nearly as far as the Loch at Caldshiels where you may remember Walter sailing his little Frigate, which nearly trebles the extent of my little; property—and furnishes me with no small prospect of future amusement. I assure I was out every day from ten in the morning till four in the evening looking after what Mr. Shandy might call the stubbing of the Ox moor. The Reliques of the Melodino do the greatest credit to the Translator, I was really at a loss to discover whether I was to suppose that the circumstance of their being translated, from the Spanish, was not an assumed one. I am very sorry for Mr. Lawson, and should be happy were it in my power to be of use to him, which is not however very likely. Curry's History of the Civil Wars is like Lord Castlehaven's work, a good deal of the Memoire justificatif. I am much obliged to you for it. If you have any Musical Friends who would like a real and most extensive collection of Scottish and Highland Airs, there is one now making under patronage of the Highland Society by Mr. Alexr. Campbell, who is to give them in their genuine simplicity, with no other accompaniment than a few notes of symphony, which Campbell's taste and knowledge of that particular stile of composition have enabled him to execute with great success. If you think you are likely to get two or three names I will send you...
his proposals—he has been harshly treated by fortune,
which is a reason for lending him a lift—indeed I think
the most of the work will speak for itself and make him
easy—Mrs. Scott and the young people beg kind
remembrances and I remain most sincerely your's

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 8th February, 1816.

[Abbottsford Copies]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

February 10th 1816
My DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,—I am glad that you are safe
in your lovely isle during this tempestuous winter,
which I do assure you made me not a little anxious about
Mrs. Clephane and you while on the sea. I have never
seen severer weather although I contrived to be at
Abbotsford for ten days in the vacation after Christmas,
and kept the moor gallantly from ten in the morning till
four in the afternoon, working away at my new territories,
which now embrace all the beautiful bogs and springs
which we passed so wearily upon one Sunday forenoon in
the last Autumn. It promises me as much work as ever
the bog of Bailey Galley etc. gave to the successive Lords
of Castle Rackrent. Only, God forbid I should have a
lawsuit about it. I would not for a penny that people in
general knew how much I would give up rather than
defend myself at the Law. But I shall be half ruined
with drains dikes and planting accompts only that by
good luck my farm on the verge of Parnassus has been so
productive as to make amends for the losses which I must sustain by my possessions on terra firma, for by good luck like the nobility of Laputa I have possessions both in the flying Island of imagination and the bogs and brambles of earthly mainland. I have a letter from Lady Compton who bids me charge you to send me a new Factor's garland on the lamentable blindness of the President of the Royal Society who cannot, it seems, see the difference betwixt a mermaid and a porpoise, a mistake which must be allowed very dishonourable either to the optics of the said President, or to the charms of the sea-nymphs, who must have fallen off very much since the days of yore, if indeed there is any similarity between a mermaid and a pellock. Pray satisfy my curiosity in the matter, with your best convenience.

It was I believe during your absence from Mull that Alexr. Campbell the publisher of a new and ample collection of Highland and Scottish tunes made his rounds in the Western isles. He has been very successful and has recovered some beautiful airs which he gives nearly as you would sing them, that is in their own simplicity with no other ornament than the taste of the performer can give and a few notes of characteristic symphony. I have taken the liberty to put your name down as a subscriber as I think you would like to encourage the undertaking. Campbell is half musician half poet and in right of both capacities half mad. He is however a very good though an unfortunate and in worldly matters an imprudent man. If he travels again this year I will send him to Torloisk. I assure you he travels like a highland Bhaird in his complete tartans " with dirk and pistol by his side " like Master Frog when
he went awooing. I wish you very much to give him
your advice and assistance in his labours—that is if you
approve of what he has already done. He is a thorough
bred musician, and can take down music readily from
hearing it sung. Some of his tunes are really very
prettily arranged and I am beginning to give him words
for them. One tune I am quite engoue about—it is
decidedly an old Scottish air but is entirely new to me.1
The only words which were remembered by the young
woman (a Miss Pringle) who sang it were these—I write
them down that I may know if you have heard them.

Why weep you by the tide, Ladie,
Why weep you by the tide,
I'll wed you to my youngest son
And you sail be his bride.
And you sail be his bride, Ladie
Sae comely to be seen-
But aye she loot the tears down fa'
For Jock of Hazeldean.

I have not yet got the view of Dunnaverty 2 in which I
would have been highly interested. I hope my right
feal friend Allan MacLean has not stuck fast in the snow
with it— I have a book to send you called Pauls letters
which has occupied my time and made me a shameful
correspondent. I will send it to Manners & Miller unless
you will teach me a shorter road to convey it to you.

Our party at Ball went off capitally and Walter in his
Forest green mounted and armed capaee with a large
gold chain and medal around his neck bore the banner
with a good grace. The day ended in a formal challenge
between Lord Home and me to try a match each bringing 100 chosen men to the field. I am sorry to say the match is likely to go off for Lord Home's regiment is ordered for Ireland. But at all events we are to take [to] the hills in summer, and pitch tents by one of our wild lakes and live for a week like Robin Hood in merry Sherwood, the gentles to take all sports of hill and stream and the commoners to have prizes for leaping running pitching the bar and all other rural pastimes.

In the meantime you will be surprized to learn what a following I could turn out for from the offers I have from different leaders among the commons I have reason to think my backing would not be much less than Allan-a-Sop 1 himself might have chosen to lead.

Mrs. Scott and my young people send their kindest and best remembrances to Mrs. Clephane, Miss Williamina and you, and regret sincerely the great distance which separates us and the circumstances which render Edinburgh a less pleasant head-quarters for you than it ought naturally to be. All good things attend you. I fancy these words will blow your warrant of Admiralty some good, for we hear of nothing but wrecks. Believe me always, my dear Miss Clephane Your affectionate friend WALTER SCOTT

MISS MAQUEAN CLEPHANE, TORLOISK, BY AROS

[Northampton and Abbotsford Copies]

1816 SIR WALTER SCOTT 179

TO CLARKE WHITFELD

EDINBURGH 22 Feb. [1816]
MY DEAR SIR,-You are heartily welcome to the song from the French, and to another which is in a work called "Pauls letters" if you think it worth while; and as they are my own property I have it in my power to authorize you to publish them as composed for your work. The other is I think the better of the two.1

I will give you two songs at least, but I cannot find time to write poetry until our Courts rise upon the 12th of next month, as I am doing my own duty & that of one of my brethren who is unwell; mighty unpoetical matter I promise you. If you were near me to suggest tunes and hum them over till my stupid ear had got some hold of them I would write as many songs as you could desire, in fact in that way they compose themselves. I did something like this for an old Highland acquaintance who fell back in the world, & I hoped it would serve him in some stead. They form a sort of songs of the clans, being words to the pibrochs or gathering tunes of the principal Highland families. That of the Camerons is a very fine one, and I will send you a set when he gets forward. The bagpipe itself is a horrid instrument unless in the open air, but some of the tunes are very good and I think Alaster Campbell will make a very complete collection, the object being to get a national repository of our old music before it is altogether forgotten.

I beg to be remembered to Mrs Whitfeld & your daughter. Pray be so kind as to give me an idea of the stanza which you would prefer & believe me Very truly yours

WALTER SCOTT
TO MISS CLEPHANE

(4-180)[Jan.-Feb. 1816]

MANY thanks my dear Miss Clephane for your kind two letters. I do not suppose this an answer to either of them, as I am in town for a very few days, and much pressed for time. I beg your and Mrs. Clephane's acceptance of two books. Paul has been generally liked especially the battle, about which I have had many compliments from military people. I send you also the two political poems with a few additional lines. Item, for this is a mere bill of lading, some sheets of music of Campbell's intended work, which we trust will thrive. Caduil gu la has taken immensely in Covent Garden. I gave it to our friend Terry to ornament a farce or opera or melodrama of his derived from Guy Mannering, which has had good fortune. I am answerable for the words of three of these (the full words will be given separately) and we wish much to have your opinion.

The Factor's Garland is admirable and worth a mermaid's skeleton at any time. No news here but that we are all well, and that I have got a deer-hound or blood-hound, or wolf-hound that is the most magnificent creature ever seen for height and strength. All Edinburgh is agape at him. I got him from Glengarry. He is descended of the Blue Spanish wolf-dog, and the real deer grey-hound, and might have followed Johnnie Armstrong for size and dignity.

Remember me most kindly and faithfully to Mrs. Clephane and also Miss Williamina. Ever yours,
W. S.

All my copies of the Ballad at Carter-haugh are gone abroad, but I will get one for you.

[Northampton]

SIR WALTER SCOTT 1816

TO THE REVEREND DR. LEE, ST. ANDREWS

[End of February, 1816]

SIR, - I am honoured with your letter acquainting me with the decease of my learned and venerated friend professor Fergusson whom I have known and looked up to for thirty years and upward and who was the last survivor among the distinguished literary characters who adorned Scotland during the last century. I am very much obliged to you for the details with which you have favoured me and regard my late excellent friend as highly fortunate in having survived to see and enjoy the triumph of his country over her enemies in the unparalleled struggle she had to sustain during the last years of his life. In the affection of the ladies he had everything that could render happy the evening of his life and drawn as it was beyond the usual span of existence we could but wish for him continuance of his mental powers until it pleased God to remove him by an easy and peaceful change. The monuments which he has left behind him of his philosophical & historical researches will protract his memory long after we and ours shall be as he now is.
(4-182) I am aware the Miss Fergussons must for some time
(4-182) be in great affliction. The duties which they so
(4-182) unremittingly and affectionately rendered to their father
(4-182) became in a great measure the business of their lives and
(4-182) the want of that ruling motive will long remind them of
(4-182) their loss. They have the sincere sympathy of this family
(4-182) and more particularly my own as I have been so long & so
(4-182) intimately connected with all the members of Dr. Fergusson's
(4-182) household. Mrs. Scott will take an early opportunity
(4-182) of expressing the interest which we feel so deeply.
(4-182) I could have wished that Adam or John Fergusson had
(4-182) been with their sisters on this occasion but their duty has
(4-182) ordered it otherwise. I beg to repeat that I am much
(4-182) obliged by your attention on this occasion & remain Sir
(4-182) Your most obedient servant

(4-182) WALTER SCOTT
[William J. Lee]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

(4-182) [Feb.-March 1816]

(4-182) I WAS most particularly obliged by your late letter
(4-182) my dear Morritt acquainting me with your arrival in

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(4-183) London where ones attention is at least distracted if
(4-183) not amused & where you in particular are called with
(4-183) other good men to your post at a moment when things
(4-183) look rather gloomy on us. For my own part I will have
(4-183) no fear if ministers are just to themselves and to the
(4-183) country and do not suffer themselves to be bullied out
(4-183) of a system of finance deliberately adopted as best
(4-183) calculated to maintain the credit of the country. The vacillation concerning the income tax last year gave rise to the corn-bill riots and if they now give way again to a similar clamour they will do themselves and the country incalculable harm. The fact is that Britain suffers most by a fever upon the spirits of the people carefully excited and maintained by the deleterious cordials with which state quacks are continually dozing us. We have the experience of ages that there must be an occasional ebb and flow in all worldly affairs—the commercial interest suffered most three years ago and now it is rising and agriculture has received a corresponding check. If people will wait a little the thing will come round for the pressing part of the evil consists in farmers having argued that as land had been gradually rising in value for twenty years it was impossible there should ever be a decline of the balance. So on they went bidding over each other's heads not with any reference too often to the real value of the subject but to some theoretical idea of what it would be worth if the progressive value of land continued to rise. This was obviously a bubble and it cannot burst without wetting some of those who have been blowing it but better sooner than later and if the monied interest afford support to the creditable & substantial part of the tenantry so as not to compel them to send their produce at once into the market the country will weather the storm quite well. But an unreasonable outcry like the agitation of a terrified mob seldom fails to augment tenfold the mischief which occasions it.

I am very sorry for what has taken place between Lord Byron and his Lady for I was in great hopes that the comfort of domestic society might tame the wayward
irregularity of mind which is unfortunately for its owner
connected with such splendid talent. I have known
Lord Byron do very great and generous things and I
would have been most happy to find that he had adopted
other and more settled habits. But I should be afraid
that is hardly to be hoped for now for the very circumstances
of eclat which have attended the separation will
prevent them ever uniting again for such breaches made
up are like a china dish clasped it has an appearance
of union but has lost its value and must always be
precarious and insecure.

I augur very different things of our friend Lord [&]
Lady Compton. She says she has seen you and I hope
you will look after them now and then. She has a great
fund of good sense along with her accomplishments and
conducted herself with great delicacy and propriety
in the very painful family discussions which preceded
her marriage and with which you are partly acquainted.
I will be happy to learn when you write how they are
going on—they have not much of the world's goods
which one thinks odd in the circumstances of an only
son heir to a Marquisate & a free estate of $20000 a year.
But they must battle the world like other folks and take
the odds in prudence and affection.

What is Heber doing in this best of possible worlds?
buying books I suppose and eating turbot which will
now be burthening the tables of the Londoners. I am
looking forward anxiously to Abbotsford as our Session
rises on the 10th and I have a great deal to do. I believe
told you that I have made a considerable addition to
my property there and intend the improvement of it to
be a great source of amusement if it please God to grant
me health and strength to superintend it. But our
(4-185)weather has been severe to an unheard of degree. A few mild days which succeeded the long frost have again given place to an iron-bound black frost varied by a slight occasional powdering of hail and on Sunday we had a tornada of wind with lightning and thunder glancing along the streets.

(4-185)I would advise you to read Elphinstones Cabul 1 if you have not already done so. It is the best account of shepherd tribes which we have had for a long time & drawn with a discriminating and spirited pencil. Sir John Malcolms Persia has been also part of my winter reading. The succession of so many hard named tyrants through a course of events not strikingly varied unless when the turbulent tribes emigrated and like a migration of the Solway Moss overran and ruined Indostan does not sound [?] a very varied or amusing subject. Yet I found it very interesting and I think Sir John has succeeded very well: his own remarks are always naturally and aptly introduced and show knowledge of mankind both in theory and practice.

(4-185)Pray remember me to young Mr. Stanley 2 -it is long to be laying plans for six months hence but I cannot help hoping that you and he may take a trip to Scotland. I would have especial pleasure in going to any part of it with you which might have some chance of showing you any thing new or interesting. My family are all well and join in love. Walter is as tall as I am and carries breadth and strength along with him. I think I would be desirous that he should spend perhaps two years at
some good English school to compleat his classical education. Do you happen to know any such that can be recommended with attention to his health and morals & at a moderate rate. I do not mean so much with respect to immediate expense which could make no great object but I would not like my son to mistake his own situation & early mixing with those of his own age who are heirs to fortunes is apt to generate habits similar to theirs in those who are least entitled to indulge them. I am quite impatient to see Bullock's labours and greatly obliged to the kindness that thought of setting him to work in my behalf. Yours ever most truly

W. SCOTT
[Law]

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE

DEAR JOHN, - I sent James a lot of copy on Monday, which I hope he had per Melrose carrier, Ballantyne. I now send another, and he will have all the 2d vol.1 this week, so if I have health I have no doubt all will be in his hands by the 12th April. He had better throw off title pages, etc., during the necessary delay occasioned by my residence here, when there must be some interruption as to proofs.

I have written to Murray on the subject of " Paul " to prevent any risk of miffs.

The weather here has been stormy to an inexpressible degree. Give my love to John Kemble and tell him I hope I shall see him before he leaves Edinburgh. The rest of your news is very acceptable, and I am yours, etc.,
I come to town Monday, and bring your pony, which you may send for on Tuesday morning.

[Rosebery]

TO HENRY WEBER, TOP OF UGGLEFORD, NEAR THE MINSTER, YORK

DEAR WEBER, - I was very glad to hear from you once more as I had concluded you were wandering over the continent according to a plan which you intimated to me last year. Our booksellers here are as dull and unenterprising as possible, nor is it much in their power to be otherwise untill the monied men shall open their purses more liberally & renew the facility of discount. I shewd your plan to Constable but I could not make anything of him and indeed unless Longman's house were to take it up I do not know who would or could do it with success. Money is more awanting here than you can possibly conceive and the fall of the rents of the landed men of course tends to shake general credit and tell more. But there is little doubt it will all come round again in a year or two for the quantity of real capital is very great, bullion to be had very cheap, and all that is wanted is the degree of confidence which the settlement of the budget will probably tend to establish. I will be very glad to have the fruit of your researches in the Minster Library.

Should you find the access difficult I might be able I should think to assist it through my friend Archdeacon
Baillie.

I have a bundle of papers belonging I think to your mother which you left with me. Should I send them to you or how?

You would hear probably that I have been strolling on the continent where I was highly amused particularly at hearing the highland pipes play in the place Louis Quinze. I saw many of your countrymen very fine looking soldiers indeed and as I followed the armies pretty close I repeatedly entered towns which had been just stormed. I do not see there is anything here that could greatly tempt you to a change of abode, especially as you have the advantage at present of residing with friends to whom you are attached. I will be glad to hear your further views & occupations & am always Dear Weber very much yours.

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 5 March [1816]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR SIR, - I would have dined with you with great pleasure, but we go to the country on Friday in order to meet Lord Succoth, who takes a day with me before the Circuit. I leave all my matters clear behind me.

Yours truly, W. SCOTT

[Rosebery]
TO JOSEPH TRAIN

(4-188)DEAR SIR,- I delayed answering your letter till I
(4-188)should know what my motions are like to be this summer,
(4-188)as I have been of late a good deal of a wanderer. I find

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(4-189)I will [be] at my farm of Abbotsford from Monday till
(4-189)the 26th and in town from 26 to 12 April, after which I
(4-189)will be again at Abbotsford for a month and then in
(4-189)town during our summer session of two months. I
(4-189)presume your visit to Edinburgh will be about summer
(4-189)when you will be sure to meet me as I always am obliged
(4-189)officially to attend the sittings of the Court and shall be
(4-189)glad to make your personal acquaintance.

(4-189)Rorie Gill is quite a stranger to me and I am glad to
(4-189)be made known to him in the modern dress in which you
(4-189)clothed him with considerable spirit.

(4-189)I will have an opportunity before I leave town to put
(4-189)your communication under the eye of Mr. Earle, Chairman
(4-189)of the Board, I with whom it may be of service to you.
(4-189)I have made Mr. Earle's acquaintance lately, and he
(4-189)seems a very [agreeable and] gentlemanlike man.

(4-189)I will be particularly gratified by your writing down at
(4-189)leisure such traditions as you mention having picked up
(4-189)in your late tour—nothing interests me so much as local
(4-189)anecdotes. I am. Dear Sir, Your obedient Servant,

(4-189)WALTER SCOTT

(4-189)EDINBURGH, 7th March, 1816.
DEAR SIR,-I am much obliged to you for the marks of your kind remembrance which I received a few days since. I perceive with great pleasure that you are still going on with putting on record such lyrical fragments as fall in your way. Since I had your letter I have been inquiring after the songs you mention. The Jacobite words of the white cockade run thus

My Love was born in Aberdeen
The bonniest lad that ere was seen
But now he has made our hearts fu’ sad
He has ta’en the field wi the white cockade
I'll sell my rock, my reel, my tow
My gelding and my hackit cow
And buy mysell a tartan plaid
To follow the lad with the white cockade.

There is more of it which may be recovered for it is a favourite song and sung many different ways. There is also a "Black Cockade" of more modern date to the same tune, as for example

Charlie Gordon's a bonnie lad
He wears a red coat and a black cockade
He's the bonniest lad that ere was seen,
He's son to the Countess of Aberdeen,
He's over the hills and he's over the main
To Flanders, Portugal, and Spain.
The King commands and we'll obey
And he's over the hills and far away.
I have a collection of Jacobite songs which I beg your acceptance of. They are in general poor stuff. I even thought of making such a collection as you mention but the best of the Jacobite songs are already in print in every collection, and any additional ditties which [I] have been able to collect are of very small merit. If you should wish to go on with your purpose I will send you a list of what songs I have. There are some good Jacobite songs in Johnson's Musical Museum, all of which have been touched by Burns, and some also in a book called Nithsdale and Galloway Minstrelsey published by one Cromek—these words which are very pretty are by Allan Cunningham as I believe. In Ritson's Scotch Songs the old ballads of a historical cast are well given and illustrated. I have the original broadsides of many of them and could collate them if you wish it.

"Charley fond of Popish Blessing" may perhaps be found in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1745-6 where there are some good Hanoverian songs, particularly one for the Corps of Yorkshire Hunters. I think "As Charley he walked up the street" is in Johnston [sic].

"Sir John Fenwick's the Flower amang them": I have heard words somewhat similar alluding probably to some Election business.

They voted twice over and so did they wrang him
They voted twice over and so did they bang him
But Fenwick of Byewall's the flower amang them.
But you know how common it is for new words to be written to any popular tune. The air to which these words were sung is "Noble Squire Dacre he dwells on the Border." The Dowager Lady Clerk of Pennycuik (a sister of noble Squire Dacre) tells me that when any of the family were buried the bag-piper played that tune at the funeral as they play the family lament to this day in the highlands. I am going to the country for a fortight but return about the 26th. If you will let me know what songs you want I will look them out on my return and be happy to assist any plan which you have in view, being very much Your obliged Servant

WALTER SCOTT

EDIN 7 March 1816.

SIR, - In addition to what I wrote yesterday, I have since had some communication with Mr. Earle who seems much to approve of your zeal and to be convinced of the accuracy of your information. I think it would be well taken were you to detail your information and views as quickly as possible and send it to him for the matter is under anxious consideration at present both here and in London. I trust that the result may be serviceable to yourself and indeed have no doubt that it will. It shall not want my helping hand for though I cannot undertake to pull you up by my single strength yet I am convenient for giving you a good shove. I am just setting off for Abbotsford, so remain in haste. Your
EDINBURGH, Sunday, 10 March, 1816.

You may use my name as an apology for intruding on Mr. Earle as having understood from me that he had considered your information as worthy of some attention.

[Bar]

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TO JOHN SCOTT, CHAMPION OFFICE, STRAND, LONDON 1

SIR,-I cannot refuse myself the pleasure of thanking you for the fair & true interpretation you have given of the word amiable as applied to the French people in Paul's letters. I certainly meant only that degree of the power of pleasing which arises from a scrupulous attention to the petite morale as they themselves call it & I was inaccurate in using the English word which certainly signifies deserving of love & affection. I am very happy to recognize in you Sir a politician on a broad & English system who ventures to square the opinions both of ministry and opposition by general principles of right and wrong instead of party feeling of any kind. It is very rare to see such an independent spirit in a journalist who are usually the mere mouth-pieces of one or other political faction. In some cases I might probably disagree with you on the application of the principle but I think never on the principle itself. As this letter is for the individual not for the Editor I subscribe instead of.
TO ADAM FERGUSSON

MY DEAR ADAM,—I received yours yesterday and highly applaud your resolution to hang the trumpet in the hall & study war no more. But you must have something better than the 7/ per day to help you out. I imagine the loss of your excellent father & my venerable friend will rather strengthen your resolution than otherwise. The literary patriarch had attained the last verge of existence with the full enjoyment of his faculties & state of health on the whole than is usually humanity. But as his last years were rendered tolerable by the unremitting attention of your sisters & time was so much employd about his person we must necessarily suppose that they will feel his loss more severely than those members of the family who residing at a distance & knowing his extreme old age cannot be quite so much affected. Your society and the prospect of enjoying it during the rest of life must be a great comfort to them.

With respect to profitable views your interest being so excellent with Adam on the one hand & the Chief Baron on the other it is scarce possible but you must get some snug thing to help out the half pay. I have often & bitterly regretted not pushing the Jury Clerkship—these fellows have □ 600 a year & the Baronet no annoying
controul over them-But we must try what can be done.

Anything would be better than being knocked about the world in the way you are like to be in your present situation besides being out of the way of all your friends here.

I have had often a delightful vision about you-You must know I have added to Abbotsford a good large farm on which there is a mansion about the calibre of the Lairds ain house or rather larger commanding a most beautiful prospect of the Eildon hills & Melrose or where as the poet 2 has it

Soft sleeps the mist on cloven Eildon laid
And distant Melrose peeps from leafy shade.

The ground about it is bare at present bleak & bare en[ough] but [MS. torn here] kale yard pleasantly exposed to the South & [MS. torn here] making plantations all round it which will [MS. torn here] very snug. Now your sisters & you might most comfortably inhabit this mansion during summer and it would be admirable shooting quarters near enough to us and others to be quite sociable & distant enough to be perfectly independant. This is a plan for future consideration but it affords us a prospect of laying our auld grey pows together as we used to do our young rattlepates. The house will only cost you 196 paying the window tax (about 50 shillings) and if you want a paddock for a cow & horse you shall be handsomely dealt by. I hope you will keep this in your recollection when you think of a summer settlement.

The Blucher flying coach sets you down within half an hours walk of the spot. There is an old man in the place whom I will not disturb for a year or so; so we will have
enough of time to think of it. At all events we will see
you at Abbotsford this summer and I trust you will like
Kaeside which for the more grace we will call Castle
Studs cottage-I counted thirteen Black cocks in the field
beyond it.

Your lawsuit will of course lie over for a little while-
but that also will be subject of chat for our next meeting
[at this point the MS. is torn and then resumes thus]

Remember me kindly to my old friend & fellow-sportsman
David Walker. The last place we met was in our
fat friends in Pall Mall.

EDINR. 12 March 1816

For Abbotsford ho!

To-mor--ro-- to-mirro--to-mo,-- ro--
To be spoken after the mode of Abbe Gian.

TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUGHT

EDINBURGH March 31 1816

MY LORD DUKE,-Knowing your Grace has numerous
Nurseries of Oak of Oak Beech & other Trees, we take
the liberty of informing your Grace that a very curious
publication will shortly come out, treating on a new and
excellent System of raising them. It consists of 2 octavo
Volumes to be published by Subscription. The acorn
instead of being deposited in the Ground as is the usual
custom should be laid for the space of 3 months in wet straw and to prevent the plant from shooting up to quick and thereby becoming delicate and slender it should be always kept exposed in the coldest Weather of Feby. March and April. In June it will most likely have attained the height of 6 inches, & will have about 3 leaves. It should then be transplanted into very moist Earth not much exposed to Sun, & the midsummer Shoot will make its appearance 3 weeks before the usual time & it will have 3 inches additional stature by the autumn Season. It is impossible, my Lord Duke, to give in so small a Compass all the reasons, & recommendations to this new System. It is only necessary to add that many noblemen & nurserymen have adopted it in preference to the old custom, & have met with the most perfect success. In confidence to his Lordship I took the Liberty 3 years ago of disclosing the secret to the Lord Montagu who has met with such success that his Lordship graciously promised to recommend me to your Grace's favour in case I published my work which as I now have, I doubt not but his Lordship will remember his promise, at this critical Juncture of my reputation. If your Grace intends to honour me with your Subscription I shall be much obliged if your Grace will order it to be forwarded to me immediately being in great distress, & shall ever pray for Blessings to your Grace & remain your Grace's most Obedient Humble Servant

SANDERS MCLAUGH

Mrs. Lawson Close High Street Edinburgh.

[Buccleuch]

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TO ALEXANDER MACDONELL OF GLENGARRY
MY DEAR SIR,—As I know you are curious about subjects of antiquity and especially such as relate to your own house and as I have great pleasure in doing whatever I conceive would be agreeable to you I beg to acquaint you that I have now in my possession among other original papers concerning that period an original letter from Charles II to General Middleton superscribed by the King in which he acknowledges himself bound by promise to give Glengarry the Earldom of Rosse but excuses himself on account of the Act of Annexation. He appears to have sent a gratification of some kind to Glengarry—call it a warrant as an earnest of his favour but whether a grant of honours, lands, or money does not appear. The letter is dated Cologne 6 Jany. 1654/5 and says many polite things of Glengarry's services. I think it may be interesting to you to know that your family at all times maintained their claim to the Earldom and were not therein opposed by the counter claims of any other family but only by the State jealousy which would interfere to prevent the reestablishment of so great an authority as was possessed by the Earls of Ross. I was going to write out a copy of this curious document but I thought you might like to have it transcribed in some more authentic manner. There is no question of its authenticity as it bears the seal of Scotland as well as the signature of Charles. I am almost afraid to touch it, it is so frail and I would wish you or any one you may commission to see it before it is patched or repaired in any way.
If this should give you any interest or pleasure as tending to shew how early your family’s claim was made to the tide and estate of Rosse it will be great pleasure to My dear Sir, Your faithful servant,

WALTER SCOTT

I have been beating my brains lately to make words to what is called the Mime or set that is the tune without the variations of some of the best Highland pibrochs. I intend to give the words to Alaster Campbell to whom they will be of use in his intended collection of Scottish music. I Can you tell me any person in Edinh. who is likely to give me the Glengarry gathering in genuine purity.

Alexr. Macdonald of Glengarry,

Garry Cottage, Perth.

TO THOMAS CAMPBELL

ABBOTSFORD, NEAR MELROSE, April 12, 1816

MY DEAR TOM,- You will argue from seeing my unhallowed hand, that I have something to say in the way of business; for I think both you and I have something else to do than to plague ourselves (I always mean the writer-for the receiver will, I trust, be no ways discontented in either case) with writing letters on mere literature. But I have heard, and with great glee, that it is likely you may be in Edinburgh next winter, and with a view of lecturing, which cannot fail to answer well. But this has put a further plan into my head, which I
mentioned to no one until I should see whether it will
meet your own wishes and ideas; and it is a very selfish
plan on my part, since it would lead to settling you in
Edinburgh for life. My idea is this. There are two
classes in our University, either of which, filled by you,
would be at least 400l. or 500l., yearly; but which
possessed by the present incumbents, are wretched sinecures,
in which there are no lectures—or if any lectures,
no students. I mean the classes of Rhetoric and History.
The gentleman who teaches the first is a minister of
Edinburgh, and might be ashamed to accept of a coadjutor.
But I think that the History class, being held by
a gentleman who has retired for some years into the
north country, and does not even pretend to lecture, (a
mere stipend, often of a petty salary of 100l., being
annexed to the office,) he would for shame's sake, be glad
to accept a colleague. And were I certain you would be
willing to hold a situation so respectable in itself, and

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which your talents and deserved reputation would render
a source of very great emolument, I think I could put the
matter in such a light to the patrons of the University,
as would induce them to call on the present incumbent,
either to accept you as his colleague, or come to discharge
his duty in person, which he would not do for the salary.
The alternative would be that he should accept the salary
which he draws at present (in which case he would be
neither better nor worse), relinquishing to you all the
advantage of the class besides, which I assure you would
be a very handsome thing. I have mentioned this to no
one, and I request you will not mention it to any one (I
mean in Scotland), until you have made up your mind
about it. My reason is, first that there would be some
delicacy in setting the matter in motion; and besides,
that the said incumbent is a gentleman whom I wish well
to in many respects; and though I censure, I do not
derogate from my regard, in desiring the class he holds
in my Alma Mater should be filled by such a colleague
as you. Yet the story, in passing through two mouths,
might be represented as a plan on my part, to oust an old
friend, of whom I may certainly say, like the dog in the
child's tale, "The kid never did me nae ill." If this
should answer your views, write instantly, that is, in
the course of a week or two. If not, wipe it out, like the
work of the learned Lipsius, composed the first hour he
was born, and say no more about it. Our magistrates,
who are Patrons of the University, are at present rather
well disposed towards literature; (witness their giving
me my freedom, with a large silver tankard that would
have done honour to Justice Shallow,) and the Provost
is really a great man, and a man of taste and reading:
so I have strong hope our point, so advantageous to the
University, may be carried. If not the failure is mine, not
yours. You will understand me to be sufficiently selfish
in this matter, since few good things could give me more
pleasure than to secure your good company through
what part of life's journey may remain to me. In saying,
speak to nobody, I do not include our valuable friend John
Richardson, or any other sober or well-judging friend of
yours. Only it would be painful to me if our proposal
should get abroad, being an imaginary notion of my own,
unless you really thought it would suit you. I beg my
best respects to Mrs. Campbell, and am ever, dear
Campbell. Yours most truly

WALTER SCOTT
[Beattie's Life of Campbell]
TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(4-202)[Early April 1816]

(4-202)MY DEAR FRIEND I am glad you are satisfied with
(4-202)my reasons for declining a direct interference with Lord
(4-202)B[yon]. I have not however been quite idle and as an
(4-202)old seaman have tried to go by a side wind when I had
(4-202)not the means of going before it and this will be so far

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(4-203)plain to you when I say that I have every reason to believe
(4-203)the good intelligence is true that a separation is signed
(4-203)between Lord and Lady Byron. If I am not so angry as
(4-203)you have good reason to expect every thinking and feeling
(4-203)man to be it is from deep sorrow and regret that a man
(4-203)possessed of such noble talents should so utterly and
(4-203)irretrievably lose himself. In short I believe the thing to
(4-203)be as you state it and therefore Lord Byron is the object
(4-203)of anything rather than indignation. It is a cruel pity
(4-203)that such high talents should have been joined to a mind
(4-203)so wayward and incapable of seeking content where alone
(4-203)it is to be found in the quiet discharge of domestic duties
(4-203)and filling up in peace and affection his station in society.
(4-203)The idea of his ultimately resisting that which should be
(4-203)fair and honourable to Lady B. did not come within my
(4-203)view of his character at least of his natural character
(4-203)but I hear that as you intimated he has had execrable
(4-203)advisers. I hardly know a more painful object of
(4-203)consideration than a man of genius in such a situation those
(4-203)of lower minds do not feel the degradation and become
(4-203)like pigs familiarized with the filthy elements in which
(4-203)they grovel but it is impossible that a man of Lord
(4-203)Byrons genius should not often feel the want of that
which he has forfeited the fair esteem of those by whom
genius most naturally desires to be admired and cherished.
I am much obliged to Mrs. Baillie for excluding me in
her general censure of authors but I should have hoped
for a more general spirit of toleration from my good friend
who had in her own family and under her own eye such
an exception to her general censure-unless indeed
(which may not be far from the truth) she supposes that
female genius is more gentle and tractable though as high
in tone and spirit as that of the masculine sex. But the
truth is I believe we will find a great equality when the
different habits of the sexes and the temptations they are
exposed to are taken into consideration. Men early
flattered and coaxed and told they are fitted for the higher
regions of genius and unfit for anything else, that they
are a superior kind of automaton and ought to move by
different impulses than others indulging their friends
and the public with freaks and caprioles like those of that
worthy knight of La Mancha in Sierra Morena. And
then, if our man of genius escapes this temptation how
is he to parry the opposition of the blockheads who join
all their hard head and horns together to but him out
of the ordinary pasture send him back to Parnassus and
"bid him on the barren mountain starve " 1 -It is
amazing how far this goes if a man will let it go in turning
him out of the ordinary course of life and into the stream
of odd-bodies so that authors come to be regarded as
tumblers who are expected to go to church in a summerset
because they sometimes throw a Catherine-wheel
for the amusement of the public. A man once told me
at an Election thinking I believe he was saying a severe
thing that I was a poet and therefore that the subject
we were discussing lay out of my way. I answerd as
quietly as I could that I did not apprehend my having written poetry renderd me incapable of speaking common sense in prose and that I requested the audience to judge of me not by the nonsense I might have [written for] their amusement but by the sober sense I was endeavouring to speak for their information and only expected them in case I had ever happend to give any of them pleasure in a way which was supposed to require some information and talent they would not for that sole reason suppose me incapable of understanding or explaining a point of the profession to which I had been educated. So I got a patient and very favourable hearing. But certainly these joint exertions of friends and enemies have forced many a poor fellow out of the common path of life and obliged him to make a trade of what can only be gracefully executed as an occasional avocation. When such a man is encouraged in all his freaks and frolics the bit is taken out of his mouth and as he is turnd out upon the common he is very apt to deem himself exempt from all the rules incumbent on those who keep the kings highway-And so they play fantastic tricks before high heaven-The lady authors are not exempt from these vagaries being exposed to the same temptations and all I can allow Mrs. Baillie in favour of the fair sex is that since the days of the Afra's and Orinda's of Charles IId's time the authoresses have been chiefly ridiculous only while the authors have too often been both absurd and vicious. As to our feal friend Tom Campbell I have heard stories of his morbid sensibility chiefly from the Minto family with whom he lived for some time and I think they all turnd on little foolish points of capricious affectation which perhaps had no better foundation than in an ill-imagined
mode of exhibiting his independence. But whatever I
saw of him myself and we were often together and
sometimes for several days was open quiet composed and
manly. Indeed I never worried him to make him get
on his hind legs and spout poetry when he did not like
it. He deserves independence well and if the day which
now awakes him merely to the recollection his possessing
it happen'd formerly to disturb the short sleep that
drown'd the recollection of the want of so great a blessing
there is good reason for enduring the disturbance with
more patience than before.

But surely admitting all our temptations and all our
irregularities there are men of genius enough living to
redeem the mere possession of talent from the charge of
disqualifying the owner for the ordinary occupations and
duties of life. There never were better men and especially
better husbands and fathers and real patriots than Southey
and Wordsworth they might even be pitch'd upon as most
exemplary characters. I myself if I may rank myself in
the list am as Hamlet says indifferent honest and at least
not worse than an infidel in loving those of my own house.
And I think generally speaking that authors like actors
being rather less commonly believed to be eccentric than
was the faith fifty years since do conduct themselves as
amenable to the ordinary rules of society.

This tirade was begun a long time since but is destined
to be finish'd at Abbotsford. Your bower is all planted
with its evergreens but must for some years retain its
original aspect of a gravel pit. But my things are on the
whole mending in spite of the barest and most unkindly
spring I ever witnessed. Positively things looked . . .
"The first part of this letter I have laid aside." - Note in Joanna Baillie's hand.

(4-206) . . . MORE forward in February than in the midst of April and I think if the weather does not soon become steady we shall be cured of our national grievance of plenty of cheap meal.

(4-206) I have added a most romantic inmate to my family a large bloodhound allowed to be the finest dog of the kind in Scotland perfectly gentle affectionate and good-natured and the darling of all the children. I had him in a present from Glengarry who has refused the breed to people of the very first rank. He is between the deer greyhound and mastiff with a shaggy mane like a lion and always sits beside me at dinner—his head as high as the back of my chair. Yet it will gratify you to know that a favorite cat keeps him in the greatest possible order insists upon all rights of precedence and scratches with impunity the nose of an animal who would make no bones of a wolf and pulls down a red-deer without fear or difficulty. I heard my friend set up some most piteous howls and I assure you the noise was no joke—all occasioned by his fear of passing puss who had stationed himself on the stairs.

(4-207) I am very glad to hear Terry's play is like to do him good service. He speaks highly of the setting of your beautiful song "The chough and crow" and if the music answers the words he cannot say too much for it. He is a very deserving man and a modest member of rather a forward and self sufficient profession. I am truly sorry
at their using Sotheby so ill. But in fact the present
management of the London theatres ought to disgust as it
has done almost without exception any person of taste
or genius to write for them.

Charlotte & I are here alone the weather very ungenial.
We join in kindest love to Miss Agnes Baillie to the Dr.
and Mrs. Baillie and I need not say how much I wish to
live in your memory As your sincere and affectionate
friend                              WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 12 April [1816]

I shall stay here for nearly a month.

MY DEAR LADY COMPTON,-I owe you a long letter and
between business and illness the two extremes equally
fatal to a regular acquittance of our debts to our
 correspondents. But it is at present very unfashionable to pay
debts of any kind for to be distressed is as much a point of
etiquette in our times as it was in those of Master Stephen 1
to be melancholy and gentlemanlike. I am truly sorry
that you have anything more pressing than mere fashion
to interfere with your out set in life but with so many
advantages of an exterior kind and with the internal
comfort of peace and mutual affection much may be
borne. Things will mend here certainly within what
time it is impossible to say but they will mend. I am
old enough to remember (though as a boy your Ladyship
will have the goodness to take with you) the state of things
at the end of the American war when land might have been bought as cheap as stale mackerel and when the country neither in point of skill nor capital nor actual agricultural improvement bore a tenth proportion to its present state. Yet with time and steadiness we weathered the changes of the period as we will weather those belonging to our own time. The fact is that the state of war induces a number of unnatural habits in our course of commerce and the application of our capital as well as in the necessary advance of all articles of life raised amongst ourselves and no longer kept down in their rates by importation from abroad. The merchant and the farmer and through them the capitalist and the Laird get used to this state of matters however unnatural and the bringing them back to their original state and habits is like the reduction of a dislocated limb a most painful and trying operation under which a nation so irritable and impatient as our own behave far different from a certain fair lady of my acquaintance who displayed so much patience and fortitude under the circumstances to which I have assimilated those of the country. But all will be well for the sum of good property and good sense in this country is superior even to the susceptibility of its inhabitants and this like a slight furrish fit occurring in a good and healthy subject will rather help than injure the constitution. While I am on mutual similies I may as well add that Andw. Clephane is very unwell indeed and unable to go his circuit. I never saw an instance of so strong a man so suddenly broken up. I had a letter from Miss Clephane the other day in which she applies to Henry the exclamation of Caliban " This islands mine by Sycorax my mother which thou keepst from me "1 - There is an infinite merit in the application which made
(4-209)me laugh for about an hour. The factors Garland is
(4-209)excellent and entertained me the more as I had the
(4-209)pleasure to know a little of the Knight of the Mantle
(4-209)Green.

(4-209)From the date you will perceive I am among my dearly
(4-209)beloved, pegging oaks and birches-only of late however
(4-209)for I had some duty at the Register Office which kept me
(4-209)in trouble last Friday and then I had the circuit to attend
(4-209)which but for the recollection of the whys and wherefores
(4-209)with which a poor devil cannot afford to dispense I should
(4-209)be apt to turn a most insufferable bore. Our procession

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(4-210)reminded me literally of the annunciation of the Waiter
(4-210)to the Judge in the Justiciary Garland

(4-210)If ye please Sir the Baillies and Trumpeters come
(4-210)Twal' permanent serjeants a fife and a drum
(4-210)Two sheriff wi' swords but they're peaceable men
(4-210)And twa or three more-and the clocks chappd ten 1 -

(4-210)In which state we went and came for two days to decide
(4-210)whether two poor caitiffs who had committed some paltry
(4-210)thefts should be sent to Botany Bay or no. For you must
(4-210)know they petitioned for banishment in the words of the
(4-210)Pannel

(4-210)Send me ower the long seas
(4-210)My ain dear Lordie O
(4-210)And its send me ower the long seas
(4-210)My ain dear Lordie O.

(4-210)Its send me east or send me west
(4-210)Or send me South or Nordie O
But send me ower the long seas
My ain dear Lordie O.

And after all one of our victims was snatchd like a brand
from the burning by a flaw in the record of conviction.

SIR WALTER SCOTT 211 1816

See how much Jedburgh Is fallen off wherever I the
criminals came in so fast that they were fain to execute
them first and afterwards try them at leisure.

I do not know well what to say about your expedition
to Florence and I still think reasons may occur to keep
you at home. Lord Compton enters with such spirit
and success into political discussion that he will probably
be pressed to remain and there are many other chances
that old England may keep hold on you unless as mere
tourists; Perhaps I listen most to my own wishes when
I hope you will not be transplanted for any length of
time to a distant country and yet for aught I know we may
meet sooner at Florence than in London for I am determined
to go to Italy the season after next and I have no
chance of being in London soon.

I heard from Morritt some days since-He proposes to
come to see me in September which gives me much
pleasure-I hope he will keep his word. It would be
profanation in his opinion to hint such a wish but nothing
would give me more pleasure than time and season fitting
to see the said Morritt once more wedded. He is formd
in an eminent degree to make an amiable woman happy
and I think will not himself be happy without domestic
society-but of this time and chance must determine.

I beg my best and kindest respects to Lord Compton
and Charlotte offers hers to your Ladyship. Believe me
ever my dear Lady Compton Most truly and affectionately
yours                              WALTER SCOTT

Glengarry has given me a large deer or wolf-dog the
finest of the kind ever seen on the border since Johnnie
Armstrongs time. His shoulder is near a span higher
than any common dining table—Much attached and very
gentle except at night—Pray tell Lady Francis Compton
of my acquisition.

[Northampton]

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TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

ABBOTSFORD 17 April l8l6

MY DEAR SOUTHEY,—I was delighted some few days
since to receive a token of your remembrance. I had
begun a letter for you long ago but with the procrastination
usual with those who have a good deal to write I
took the liberty to postpone finishing it sometimes from
business sometimes from idleness. It would have been
indeed a meeting to have had your company on the field
of Waterloo — the most decisive as well as the most glorious
victory which was ever gained and in the most just cause.
I do not know whether I admired most the skill of the
General or the persevering & enduring bravery of the
troops whom he led on that memorable day but between
them they proved the truth of what we have often agreed
upon as a leading principle that for victory it was only
necessary to place British troops under a General in whom
they had deserved confidence. Had this been done from
the first what seas of blood might have been spared. I
think much of the early loss in the peninsular war may be fairly traced to the want of confidence in the Ministry in the energy of the forces & their unhappy choice of Generals who were not unwilling to encourage an opinion which might furnish an apology for the bad success which they commenced so soon as they opened the campaign. The Duke of Wellington is a very different species of person who fairly fought himself into the confidence of the public & the Administrators of the public. The difficulties which he encountered in his outset would fill a volume and I cannot help thinking the better of myself that though totally unknown to Sir Arthur Wellesley and only judging of him from the spirit of decision with which he conducted the Indian campaigns I considered him long before the defence of Lisbon & in spite of the convention of Cintra as the only man we could send forth to meet Bonaparte. We have now other cares before us than the feverish yet not unpleasant agitations occasioned by the military events of the past years. I am glad for one that ministers have lost their income tax—not that I have any particular objection to the tax itself which with a few more equitable modifications is perhaps as just as any other or more so—but because it afforded a tempting facility of raising money which was scarce to be trusted to any ministers excepting when the vital safety of the state is in danger. To resist the numerous claims of individuals at this moment in favour of a general principle of cold economy was hardly to be expected of any set of public men considering the claims of hundreds & thousands who had fought & bled for us the petitions of friends suing for favour & the clamour of enemies complaining of hardship are all matters which press closely & intimately on the feelings the partialities
(4-213) the fears of ministers & they must have been more or less than men to have treated them with indifference when contrasted with an abstract principle which carried in its first enunciation no individual interest though in its application it involved that of millions. They are now furnished with an answer arising out of the dire necessity of the case and with the stern humanity of our

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(4-214) friend Thalaba must e'en cut the throat of the friendly camel when there is no other alternative for extricating the caravan from perishing in the desert. There has been much alarm here but it begins to subside in consequence of the late exertions of ministry in the reduction of public expence. I am far from thinking that anything they can do will much affect the public distress unless in the very important point of alleviating public apprehension like oil spread on the waves. The placebo in politics is as important as in medicine. I long to see your pilgrimage. Pray let Longman's people or whoever are your publishers put my copy under a cover to Mr. Freeling General Post Office who will forward the same to this place. The former volume of Brasil history must ensure a good reception for that which is to follow as I trust without much longer delay. I do not know how much you have lost by not seeing the Duchess of Richmond for my own acquaintance with her is as slight as possible but I know many of her & his intimate friends. She gave me an interesting account of her ball which was broken up in so particular a manner. I should have liked to have gone through Flanders & yet hope to do so. There is something in the character of the Walloons (not to mention their resemblance in figure & features to the Scotch) which greatly interested me & one cannot forget that Froissart the most picturesque of historians & Philip
de Comines perhaps the most faithful both came from Flanders & that a thousand memorable actions have rendered the land classic. They are besides a good people & have some faith & honesty left among them much different in that respect from their neighbours the French whose sense of religion & morality is down at zero. I am busy here superintending some operations on a small property which I have acquired bordering with my own & which will find full occupation for my leisure for some time. I hope you will contrive a border excursion this

1816 SIR WALTER SCOTT 215

next summer & bring Mrs. Southey with you to this least of all possible houses which however has a poet's corner for you & her. Think of this & oblige him who is always truly yours WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE, BOOKSELLER, EDINBURGH

DEAR SIR,-I am favoured with your letter and shall give directions for putting to press 1500 of the work you therein mention. Jo: Ballantyne will settle any particulars. About the price of the other you are better judges than I am, but I presume the three shillings additional free profit is not all to be given to the trade. It would seem to me fair that the retailer should have a third, the publishers another, and the poor author that which remains. On these conditions I have no objection to the experiment being made, but otherwise I should rather decline it, as, although it may be the means of transmitting the book more speedily from the publisher's warehouse to those of the retailers, yet it may operate against its getting abroad to the public in which last part of
(4-215)the transaction the author is chiefly interested, for untill
(4-215)the first edition is sold his interest is dormant.

(4-215)I understand Longman & Co. have got all Murray's
(4-215)copies of " Paul " which sounds like a speedy dispersion.
(4-215)I should like to know in good time when there is a prospect
(4-215)of another edition, 1 as I have many errors to correct and
(4-215)additions to make.

(4-215)I returned yesterday from the Circuit which occasioned
(4-215)some delay in answering yours. Here's a hopeful spring.
(4-215)Hailstones and coals of fire-luckily the hailstones are

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(4-216)without doors, and the coals of fire within.-I am. Dear
(4-216)Sir, always your faithful Servant, WALTER SCOTT

(4-216)ABBOTSFORD, 18th April [PM. 1816]
[Kilpatrick and Constable]

TO DANIEL TERRY

(4-216)ABBOTSFORD, 18th April, 1816

(4-216)MY DEAR TERRY,-I give you joy of your promotion
(4-216)to the dignity of an householder, and heartily wish you
(4-216)all the success you so well deserve, to answer the approaching
(4-216)enlargement of your domestic establishment. You
(4-216)will find a house a very devouring monster, and that the
(4-216)purveying for it requires a little exertion, and a great
(4-216)deal of self-denial and arrangement. But when there is
(4-216)domestic peace and contentment, all that would otherwise
(4-216)be disagreeable, as restraining our taste and occupying
(4-216)our time, becomes easy. I trust Mrs. Terry will get her
(4-216)business easily over, and that you will soon " dandle
Dickie on your knee." I have been at the spring circuit, which made me late in receiving your letter, and there I was introduced to a man whom I never saw in my life before, namely, the proprietor of all the Pepper and Mustard family,—in other words, the genuine Dandie Dinmont. Dandie is himself modest, and says, "he B'lives it's only the dougs that is in the bulk, and no himsel'." As the surveyor of taxes was going his ominous rounds past Hyndlea, which is the abode of Dandie, his whole pack rushed out upon the man of execution, and Dandie followed them (conscious that their number greatly exceeded his return), exclaiming " the tae hauf o' them is but whalps, man." In truth, I knew nothing of the man, except his odd humour of having only two names for twenty dogs. But there are lines of general resemblance among all these hillmen, which there is no missing; and Jamie Davidson of Hyndlea certainly looks Dandie Dinmont remarkably well. He is much flattered with the compliment, and goes uniformly by the name among his comrades, but has never read the book. Ailie used to read it to him, but it set him to sleep. All this you will think funny enough. I am afraid I am in a scrape about the song, for as it never occurred to me that there was anything odd in my writing two or three verses for you, which have no connexion with the novel, I was at no pains to disown them; and Campbell is just that sort of crazy creature, with whom there is no confidence, not from want of honour and disposition to oblige, but from his flighty temper. The music of Cadil gu lo 1 is already printed in his
publication, and nothing can be done with him, for fear of setting his tongue a-going. Erskine and you may consider whether you should barely acknowledge an obligation to an unknown friend, or pass the matter altogether in silence. In my opinion, my first idea was preferable to both, because I cannot see what earthly connexion there is between the song and the novel, or how acknowledging the one is fathering the other. On the contrary, it seems to me that acknowledgment tends to exclude the idea of farther obligation than to the extent specified. I forgot also that I had given a copy of the lines to Mrs. Macleod of Macleod, from whom I had the air. But I remit the matter entirely to you and Erskine, for there must be many points in it which I cannot be supposed a good judge of. At any rate, don't let it delay your publication, and believe I shall be quite satisfied with what you think proper.

I have got from my friend Glengarry the noblest dog ever seen on the Border since Johnnie Armstrong's time. He is between the wolf and deer greyhound, about six feet long from the tip of the nose to the tail, and high and strong in proportion: he is quite gentle, and a great favourite: tell Will Erskine he will eat off his plate without being at the trouble to put a paw on the table or chair. I showed him to Mathews, who dined one day in Castle Street before I came here, where, except for Mrs. S., I am like unto "The spirit who bideth by himself, In the land of mist and snow"-1 For it is snowing and hailing eternally, and will kill all
the lambs to a certainty, unless it changes in a few hours. At any rate, it will cure us of the embarrassments arising from plenty and low markets. Much good luck to your dramatic exertions: when I can be of use, command me. Mrs. Scott joins me in regards to Mrs. Terry, and considers the house as the greatest possible bargain: the situation is all you can wish. Adieu! yours truly, Walter Scott

P.S.—On consideration, and comparing difficulties, I think I will settle with Campbell to take my name from the verses, as they stand in his collection. The verses themselves I cannot take away without imprudent explanations; and as they go to other music, and stand without any name, they will probably not be noticed, so you need give yourself no farther trouble on the score. I should like to see my copy: pray send it to the post-office, under cover to Mr. Freeling, whose unlimited privilege is at my service on all occasions.

TO JAMES ELLIS

MY DEAR SIR,—I am greatly interested in your Index for Froissart if you will trust me with it about the 12 May enclosed under cover to William Kerr Esqr Post Office Edinburgh I will receive it safe and void of expence & can print a few copies of it which I can get done for a trifle or rather for nothing excepting leaving a very few for sale and get you as many as you wish to make presents of which must be very valuable to all antiquaries. There is a separate index of this kind to Wartons History of Poetry without which that confused mass of curious
matter can scarce be found useful since we might as well look for a needle in a Bottle of hay as for any particular passage. I mention the 12 of May because I return then to the Court. I should be glad to have a copy of the Alnwick work upon Allan whom I have often seen and heard particularly at the Kelso races. He was an admirable piper but a desperate reprobate. The last time I saw him he was in absolute beggary and had behaved so ill at my uncles house that the old Gentleman himself a most admirable piper would not give him Quarters though I interceded earnestly for him " the Knave " as Davie tells Justice Shallow " being my very good friend." He was then quite like a Pauper with his wife and an ass in the true Gipsy fashion. When I first saw him at Kelso Races he wore the Northumberland livery a Blue coat with a silver crescent on his arm.

I knew something of Allan's Grandfather or perhaps Great Grandfather. They were Yetholmers & retainers at one time of the Marquesses of Lothian. There was in the Reign of Charles II or James IIId living near to Fairnihurst, the castle of the Marquess of Lothian three miles above Jedburgh a certain Bold yeoman called Rengan Oliver, one of the strongest men in our Country. This man was much irritated by the Marquess repeatedly hunting over his fields when the corn was growing & at length to mark his resentment of the injury he shot one of the Dogs. The marquess in revenge came to his house at Smailcleugh with a party, and among the rest Allan, all of them boys of the belt who were to do the Lairds bidding right or wrong. Rengan had secured his door and windows with withies fastened across them and fired out on the assailants while a Maid servant the only other person within the house loaded his guns of which he had two or three. He made good his
defence till a shot killed the poor maid on which Rengan

cut down the withies and rushed desperately out on his
assailants with an axe in one hand and his Broadsword in
the other. His foot however being entangled on the withy
he stumbled and ere he could recover himself Allan the
tinker struck him down with a Mell or hammer. Rengan
was "made prisoner and sent to Edinburgh where he died.
But, his son was " upsides " with Allan to whom he gave
a most dreadful beating at the pass above Inchbonny
near Jedburgh. I had these particulars from James
Veitch a very remarkable man a self taught Philosopher
astronomer and Mathematician residing at Inchbonny &
certainly one of the most extraordinary persons I ever
knew. He was a connexion of Rengan Oliver & is in
possession of his sword a very fine weapon. Said James
Veitch is one of the very best makers of telescopes and
all optical and philosophical instruments now living but
prefers, working at his own business as a ploughwright
excepting at vacant hours. If you cross the border you
must see him as one of our curiosities. And the quiet
simple unpretending manner of a man who has by dint
of private and unaided study made himself intimate with
the abstruse sciences of astronomy and mathematics are
as Edifying as the observation of his genius is interesting.

The lines on the North Tyne are highly creditable and
record in easy verse much that one is willing to carry in
memory. I, hope Mr. Shepherd will continue his lay
and introduce the other rivers Daughters. Polyolbion
has always peculiar charms for me though many people
tire of it and for the same reason I like your Reedwater
Minstrel. Necessarily prevented from being prolix by
the extent of his subject a poet labouring in such a theme
often throws out little brief sketches of Landscape
painting which perhaps like many other sketches would
have been spoiled by finishing.

As for Golden Thos Lewes of whom Mr. Hedley tells
me admirable stories we will " let that fly stick on the
wall " and not disturb the eyes of the living by raking
up the ashes of the dead. But after all " if neat conveyance "
were an unallowable crime I know few border
Families but what have blots on their scutcheon. I understand
Golden Thomas's estate went to Collaterals. I have
not printed the appendix yet but certainly shall do so for
private dispersion only. Mrs. Scott joins in kind
remembrances to Mrs. Ellis and I am always very much your
obliged humble servant WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 25 April [l816]

I go to Edinburgh on 12th May.
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE

ABBOTSFORD, April 29, l816

DEAR JOHN,-James has made one or two important
mistakes in the bargain with Murray and Blackwood.
Briefly as follows :

1stly. Having only authority from me to promise
6000 copies, he proposes they shall have the copyright
for ever. I will see their noses cheese first.
2dly. He proposes I shall have twelve months' bills-
I have always got six. However, I would not stand
on that.

3dly. He talks of volumes being put into the publisher's
hands to consider and decide on. No such thing; a bare
perusal at St. John Street 2 only.

Then for omissions—It is NOT stipulated that we supply
the paper and print of successive editions. This must
be nailed, and not left to understanding.—Secondly, I
will have London bills as well as Blackwood's.

If they agree to these conditions, good and well. If
they demur. Constable must be instantly tried; giving
half to the Longmans, and we drawing on them for that
moiety, or Constable lodging their bill in our hands.
You will understand it is a four-volume touch—a work
totally different in style and structure from the others; a
new cast, in short, of the net which has hitherto made
miraculous draughts. I do not limit you to terms,
because I think you will make them better than I can do.
But he must do more than others, since he will not
or cannot print with us. For every point but that, I
would rather deal with Constable than any one; he has
always shown himself spirited, judicious, and liberal.
Blackwood must be brought to the point instantly; and
whenever he demurs, Constable must be treated with; for
there is no use in suffering the thing to be blown on. At
the same time, you need not conceal from him that there
were some proposals elsewhere, but you may add, with
truth, I would rather close with him. Yours truly,
P.S.-I think Constable should jump at this affair; for I believe the work will be very popular.

[Lockhart]

DEAR SIR,- I observe from your letter this day received that your stay in London is likely to be short and therefore I will not lose the opportunity of sending you my best wishes on your foreign expedition which I trust will prove as pleasant as you have every reason to expect. It is possible that if you stay till next year on the continent we may meet there for I have serious thought while I have still strong health and active spirits to visit the classical scenes of Italy and perhaps of Greece. There is at present a distant prospect as I must stay in Scotland this year in order to make some arrangements about my little purchases of land which now carry me out as far as the lake where you may remember the stranding of Walters frigate when you were at Abbotsford. I wish to drain and plant and so forth to put my new territories, which may be likened to Mr. Shandy's Oxmoor, into some order and I think there is a probability that twelve months hence I may command from the month of March to that of November for my projected excursion.

Your account of the Ladies of Llangollen reminded me of a sentimental distress which occurred in the course of their first escape (I think they made two) from their
friends in the Green Isle. It was told me by a female friend of theirs and I believe it to be strictly true. One of the Ladies I think Miss P. wore mans attire upon that occasion and acted as escort to the other. That part of her dress which in well regulated families the wife is never suffered to usurp was made of leather. They made part of the way on horseback and encountered a violent rain, before arriving at the inn. The Amazon ignorant of the mode of treating buckskins which have been thoroughly soaked was so imprudent when she laid aside these indispensable articles of clothing as to hang them to dry before a blazing fire. You who are an old yeoman like myself will anticipate the direful consequences. The garments were in the morning perfectly shrivelled up and unequal to contain that part of the person which they were designed to receive. How she got out of the scrape whether by adopting the costume of a Scotch highlander or borrowing the breeks of the landlord I must leave to your imagination for the lady who told me the story left it to mine.

Now let me thank you for your curious Irish volume which I have read with much interest. It is a strange account of James's colonists that they were bound to maintain garrisons and to separate themselves as far as possible from their Irish fellow subjects. I acknowledge from the temper and impartiality displayd by both parties in the late debates in Parliament I hope something will be done to cure the internal wounds of your fine kingdom. How happy I should be to see ere I leave the stage the same system of order and impartial laws prevail through the whole united kingdoms.
I have also to thank you for Swifts verses on Chaucer, the tone and character of which remind one of his two celebrated prophecies on Marlboroughs successes and on The Peace of Utrecht and Lady Somerset 1; the first beginning " Seven and One added to nine " and the other I forget exactly how.

I was obliged by a long letter from the Edgeworths. You cannot doubt that I am greatly nattered by the approbation of those whom all most approve. I did not think of any particular persons in my Letters from the Continent and only assumed a fictitious personage in order to speak more decidedly than I felt intitled to do in my own and also because the supposing a certain number of correspondents of different tastes gave a good reason for treating of various subjects in separate letters. I might however have dispensed with this form and almost wish I had done so. Paul is gone again to press though the first edition consisted of six thousand. This will be two 1 and is all ordered which is far greater success than I dreamed of.

As your route to the Continent seems undetermined why should you not come by Edinh. We shall be there after the twelfth May when our courts meet and you could sail either to Hamburgh or Rotterdam very readily from Leith. I cannot offer night quarters because we have no spare rooms now our family are so much advanced but your friend and you would be our day-guests and I dare say I could shew you some things in Edinh. which you have not yet seen for want of so clever a guide as myself. As you have not Bluchers motive for moving Droit a Paris you might reach that capital from Holland seeing
the Low Countries (not forgetting Waterloo) on your way
and I believe the accommodations for passengers on board
the traders are fair enough. Pray think of this. Lord
Byron's is a melancholy matter.2

I have no domestic news to send you excepting that
I have added to my menagerie the largest Dog in Scotland
being a Highland Wolf dog just such as you see in the
Boar hunts of Reubens and Schneiders. He is fully as
large as a Shetland pony and kills foxes most amiably.
Yours most truly,                        W. SCOTT

All here i.e. Mrs. S. and Walter, the rest being in town,
send their regards.

[Brotherton]

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE

[May (?) 1816]

DEAR JOHN,-I have seen the great swab, who is supple
as a glove, and will do ALL, which some interpret NOTHING.
However, we shall do well enough.3           W. S.

[Lockhart]

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TO J. B. S. MORRITT

[Early in May 1816]

MY DEAR MORRITT,-I am glad to hear from you
though you dont vote for the income tax. I have no
special partiality for said tax myself & could find some
hundred uses for the two hundred which it claws annually
out of my pocket. But I stick to the old proverb seldom
comes a better and I foresee the extreme shake which the
rejection will give to public credit already staggered. As
I can observe here the distress of agriculture generally
arises from the withdrawing the credit of the monied
interest from that of agriculture. The tenant unable
to procure credit the symbol of his actual possessions is
obliged at all loss to force the ipsa corpora of his farm-yard
into the market buyers are few & the fewer that ready
money is demanded. Sellers are many and the more
that speculative men have overrented their farms & from
all this heavy perishable mass of produce being thrown
into the market distrust arises and distress follows distrust.
Our ministers are sadly put about for want of oratory.
It is a shame to see any body use a poor dumb creature as
Vansittart 1 is used among you. It is very singularly
illustrative of the position that the English nation is
governed by eloquence to see a set of ministers who by
success of the most splendid kind might claim great
influence both with the house and country fail in both in
a great measure for want of speakers. I do not say this
in respect of the Income tax in particular although I
still think that with a certain relief upon the agricultural
interest which might be compensated by severer regulations
to prevent the evasions of the commercial it might
from its great amount and facility of collection stand
instead of the less productive & equally oppressive taxes
which may be put in its place. Besides loans will lead
to new gambling in the funds and to a corresponding
depredation of public credit. In the midst of all this
there is dissatisfaction among the common people. The
wages here have been for some years past from 22 pence
to 2/ in winter and from 2/4 to 2/6 in summer — now at once these have fallen to 1/8d in summer which is too little I think even for the present cheap rates — but the farmer can afford no more. I had three workers engaged in planting &c through all winter & living in this little property who with the gratitude and moderation of the lower class modestly proposed raising their wages to the usual summer rate of 2/6 & I presented to them a contre-projet of 1/6 to which they have been obliged to submit but all this prepares for a spirit of effervescence which will be momentary if there is a sufficient military force on foot but may by assistance of the bellowses of our madbraind politicians turn into an inflammatory complaint if not treated with a proper mixture of steadiness and lenity — You may rely upon it we are awkwardly situated for the present and whatever the opposition orators may say or think an imposing military force will be necessary to preserve quiet in the country. However I hope and trust a thousand circumstances may happen to divert the consequences of this fermentation for I have always observed that we are like the fly on St. Pauls and seeing no more than is under our immediate observation make no sufficient allowance for the direct and indirect operation of a thousand complicated causes making an ensemble too great for our views to embrace. Once we were to be ruind because bread was so high — another time because bullion was scarce — now bread is to be had for half nothing and the merchants have been sending back treasure from the Thames without deigning to break bulk and now when coin and corn are plenty we are to [be] ruind because they are so.

Of all I have lately heard nothing gives me such
pleasure as that you think of coming to Scotland in
summer. I have a nice chamber in the wall for you
here and in Edinburgh you must establish yourself near
us & be our daily guest though we have no bed to offer
you. Many thanks for the great trouble you have taken
about Walter. I think we will put it off till we talk
about it for I always begin to weigh the risque of morals
and habits against the advantages of a better manner &
more solid classical learning and I doubt after all whether
I shall not end by taking the best care of him I can in
family with myself. He has at present a good candid
and generous disposition much apt to attend to advice &
to labour to please those whom he loves and I do not
know whether a certain facility of disposition which is
connected with these good qualities does not threaten
him with more loss than advantage from a public school.

I have just heard from Southey who has spoke after
long seeming dead like Rodrigo in Othello. He is like
me tired of writing poetry and I am tempted to echo
back his resolution to scribble no more but a poet is like
a lover

If he swear he'll certainly deceive you-

The Antiquary will be out in a fortnight or so would
have been indeed but for the lethargy which the country
and the love of it always bring upon its admirers. I have
walked over my bogs and clay fields till my legs ache and
persuaded myself that some hundred years hence they will
be a desireable place. In the mean time the operations
necessary to this happy change give me what my sedentary
life for half the year & some complaints of indigestion
which it induces peremptorily require-exercise namely
and health.-Lady Louisa Stuart dined with us one day
in Castle Street with Lady Hood and was in excellent
spirits.-We are told Mr. Wedderburn Webster 1 is to be
our neighbour at a large house now for sale in the
neighbourhood of Melrose-in that case we may hope to
see the D. of Wellington for despite the verdict of the
jury agt. the St. James Chronicle man he had greatly the
appearance of L'ami de maison. I have taken your name
in vain by putting it down for a guinea's worth of original
& simple Scotch & Highland music made better or worse
by half a dozen songs of mine which I wrote partly to
gratify my own love for the native melody of my country
partly to serve a poor fellow whom I knew in better case.

Adieu my dear Morritt-my light and eyes are failing
me-I wish you could bring Rose down with you to
Scotland. Yours ever

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Friday

I go to Edinr. for a fortnight on my Register duty.

[Law]

1816 SIR WALTER SCOTT

TO THOMAS SCOTT

EDINBURGH, 15th May 1816

MY DEAR TOM,-This brings you the melancholy news
of our brother John's1 concluding his long and lingering
illness by death, upon Thursday last. We had thought it
impossible he should survive the winter, but, as the
weather became milder, he gathered strength, and went out several times. In the beginning of the week he became worse, and on Wednesday kept his bed. On Thursday, about two o'clock, they sent me an express to Abbotsford - the man reached me at nine. I immediately set out, and travelled all night—but had not the satisfaction to see my brother alive. He had died about four o'clock, without much pain, being completely exhausted. You will naturally feel most anxious about my mother's state of health and spirits. I am happy to say she has borne this severe shock with great firmness and resignation, is perfectly well in her health, and as strong in her mind as ever you knew her. She feels her loss, but is also sensible that protracted existence, with a constitution so irretrievably broken up, could have been no blessing. Indeed I must say, that, in many respects, her situation will be more comfortable on account of this removal, when the first shock is over; for to watch an invalid, and to undergo all the changes of a temper fretted by suffering, suited ill with her age and habits. The funeral, which took place yesterday, was decent and private, becoming our father's eldest son, and the head of a quiet family. After it, I asked Hay Donaldson and Mr. Macculloch to look over his papers, in case there should be any testamentary provision, but none such was found; nor do I think he had any intention of altering the destination which divides his effects between his surviving brothers. - Your affectionate W. S.

[Lockhart]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT
MY DEAR MORRITT,-I have been occupied of late with scenes of domestic distress, my poor brother Major John Scott having last week closed a life which long and wasting disease had long renderd burthensome. His death under all the circumstances cannot be tern-id a subject of deep affliction and though we were always on fraternal terms of mutual kindness and goodwill yet our habits of life our taste for society and circles of freinds were so totally different that there was less frequent intercourse between us than our connection and real liking to each other might have occasiond. Yet it is a heavy consideration to have lost the last but one who was interested in our early domestic life our habits of boyhood and our early friends and connections. It makes one look around and see how the scene has changed around him and how he himself has been changed with it. My only remaining brother is in Canada and seems to have an intention of remaining there; so that my mother now upwards of eighty has now only one child left out of thirteen 2 whom she has borne for exile has removed the other who still lives. She is a most excellent woman possessd even at her advanced age of all the force of mind and sense of duty which has carried her thro' so many domestic griefs as the successive death[s] [of] eleven children some of them come to men and womens estate naturally infers. She is the principal subject of my attention at present and is I am glad to say perfectly well in body and composed in mind.

Nothing can give me more pleasure than the prospect of seeing you in September which will suit our motions perfectly well. I trust I shall have an opportunity to
introduce you to some of our glens which you have not yet seen. But I hope we shall have some mild weather before that time for we are now in the seventh month of winter which almost leads one to suppose that we shall see no summer this season. As for Spring that is passed praying for. In the month of November last people were skating in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh and now in the middle of May the snow is lying white on Arthurs Seat and on the range of the Pentlands. It is really fearful and the sheep are perishing by scores. Jamsatis terras nivis &c 1 may well be taken up as the Song of Eighteen hundred and Sixteen.

I sent you some time since the Antiquary. It is not so interesting as its predecessors-the period did not admit of so much romantic situation. But it has been more fortunate than any of them in the sale for 6000 went off in the first six days and it is now at press again; which is very nattering to the unknown author. Another Incognito proposes immediately to resume the 2nd Volume of Triermain which is at present in the state of the Bear and Fiddle.

So Lord Byrons romance seems to be concluded for one while and it is surely time after he has announced or rather they themselves have announced half a dozen blackguard newspaper Editors to have been his confidants on the occasion. Surely it is a strange thirst of public fame that seeks such a road to it. But Lord Byron wt. high genius and many points of a noble and generous feeling has Child Harolded himself and Outlawd himself into too great a resemblance with the pictures of his imagination. He has one excuse however and it is a sad one. I have been reckoned to make a good hit enough
at a pirate or an outlaw or a smuggling bandit. But I
cannot say I was ever so much enchanted with my work
as to think of carrying off a drift of my neighbours sheep
or half a dozen of his milk cows. Only I remember in
the rough times having a scheme with the Duke of
Buccleuch that when the worst came to the worst we
should repair Hermitage Castle and live like Robin
Hood and his Merry men, at the expense of all round us.
But this presupposed a grand bouleversement of Society.
In the meanwhile I think my noble friend is something
like my old peacock who chuses to bivouac apart from
his lady and sit below my bedroom window to keep me
awake with his screeching lamentation. Only I own
he is not equal in melody to Lord B. for Farewell for
ever is a very sweet dirge indeed-after all c'est genie
mal loge and that all that can be said about it-
I am quite reconciled to your opinions on the Income
tax and am not at all in despair at the prospect of keeping
200 a year in my pocket since the ministers can fadge
without it. But their throwing the helve after the
hatchet and giving up the malt tax because they had
lost the other was droll enough. After all our fat friend 1

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must learn to live within compass and fire off no more
crackers in the park for John Bull is getting dreadfully
sore on all sides where money is concernd. I fear we
shall have riots which is a serious concern where there
is so slender a military forc[e]. But if you deal with them
properly in England the fashion will not come our
length. I heard from Lord & Lady Compton lately.
Adieu dear Morritt. Ever Yours     WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 16 May [1816]
Pray let your servant throw the inclosed into the 2d. post bag.

[Law]

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE

[May 1816]

DEAR JOHN,- The author of a late popular novel understanding his second edition is getting fast on has requested me as his substitute to draw on our friends at the Cross for 350., to accompt of profits. As this venerable person has lately bought the Kaime of Kinprunes 1 & has had to pay the purchase money thereof occasions his being thus importunate. I will draw the bill myself if you will send me a stamp-

I wish at the same time you would speak with Mr. Cadell about my Accompts. They [are] already numerous & many of them of a nature which we ourselves only can understand. Other voluminous transactions are on the point of commencing & I am a great freind to the short reckoning that makes long friends-always excepting when the reckoning involves payment on my own side-

Yours very truly

W. S.

I expect Mr. Constable & Mr. Caddell to morrow at five.

[Stevenson]
TO CHARLES ERSKINE

DEAR CHARLES,- On the other side is a cheque on Sir William Forbes & Co. for George Moss's money which is $380 . . I having already advanced K20 . .1 for his convenience in November last as he will well remember.

My poor brother John closed his eyes before I could reach Edinburgh & the collecting & arranging his little succession has occasiond my neglecting the eternal Philiphaugh business. I will send it by next Blucher.

I beg you will keep a lockout after Ushers business.

I want as much of the glen as he can give me the flat land I care not so much about. I trust to get about four or five days at Abbotsford about the Birthday when that matter can be put into some shape. The Major has left his little fortune about $5000 . . in the natural course of succession to my brother & me-no bad item for poor Tom.

There are a pair or two of good work horses to be sold at Leithheads sale. I wish you would get some one to buy a good pair for me. There were two young ones I liked very well & they cannot have been trashd or hard wrought. If you cannot do this let Tom know that he may see about it but if you can excuse the trouble it would be much better in your hands.

I hear Sibbald & Wedderburn Webster are sparring about their bargain already. Ever yours

WALTER SCOTT
TO DANIEL TERRY

DEAR TERRY,- I would not have been so long in thanking you for your kind intentions towards me &
expressing my cheerful wish to stand Godfather to the little heathen had it not been that a long illness of my
brother Major Scott has been recently closed by his death which with the necessary arrangements which devolved on me has occupied my time for some days passed. You remember his health was always weak & it was matter of surprise to us all how he got through the winter. The separation however is always a shock when it comes cutting up by the roots many an old domestic remembrance which must now be forgotten because there is no longer an individual with whom they can be communicated. But the old & infirm must make room for those who are entering upon the stage & I sincerely congratulate you upon having acquired a new tie to existence with all the duties connected with it. In giving my name to the little fellow see you do not add an L to your own. Walter Terry would be a most ominous sound. I hope Mrs. Terry continues to do as well as you can wish & will soon be up & busy. I have safely received the play, music & scenes seem to hang much more cleverly together than in the original sketch & [it] is upon the whole incalculably improved. The songs are very good. I would have you
make no alteration in the plates for the music. I have
arranged with Campbell so that "Rest thee babe" will
not in any shape interfere with the way in which they now
stand. Mr. Howe has given with his piracy two clever
sketches; the Counsellor (who I hope will soon exchange
that for a higher title) was exhausted with the
representation & says that Emery in particular was inimitable.
I hope you have safely received a certain novel in three
volumes. It is at press again 6000 having been sold in
six days. It wants the romance of Waverley & the
adventure of G. M. & yet there is some salvation about it
too for if a man will paint from nature he will be likely
to amuse those who are daily looking at it.

I inclose a list of books out of that which you were
so obliging to send me. I have mark'd some of them
with a cross + in order that you may have the goodness
to give them a glance as they are unknown by me & not
order them unless they appear to convey some useful
information or anecdote. On the whole however I

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would rather buy trash than run the risque of losing
information. We have had the coldest season. Yours truly

W. S.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO SIR THOMAS LAUDE R DICK, RELUGAS, NEAR FORRES

DEAR SIR.-I have great pleasure in complying with
any request of yours and can in the present case assure
you that your conjecture is quite right.-Philiphaugh
being heritable Sheriff of Selkirk-Shire or as it is still more
commonly called Ettrick forest. I have seen a curious letter by Claverhouse (Viscount Dundee) on the subject of a soldier having committed a murder and being seized on by the Civil Authorities greatly to Claverhouse's displeasure. I think Philiphaugh is mentioned in it. I will endeavour to get and send you a copy. The complaint against the four gentlemen for absenting themselves from the kirk at Bothwell Brigg could not apply to the North-country Heritors because they were not summoned on that occasion. The Philiphaugh named must be Sir James Murray afterwards Lord Clerk Register. My mother remembers him I believe so he must have lived long. At any time I will be most [happy] to elucidate your researches with your ancestors curious and most valuable Manuscripts with such hints as my local knowledge may supply, and am Dear Sir, Very truly yours.

WALTER SCOTT
EDINR. 28 May [1816]

The Murrays of Philiphaugh frequently represented Selkirkshire in Parliament.

[Dick-Lauder]

TO THOMAS SCOTT

[Extract]

29th May 1816

MY DEAR TOM, . . . [Statement of T. S.'s interest in Major Scott's Estate.] This seems of particular consequence
with respect to little Walter because, of course,

though it may be very difficult for me to be useful to you,
it is quite different the power of forwarding a young man's
views on entering into life, and if he proves what we both
would wish and hope, he can hardly select a line of life in
which I could not be directly or indirectly of some service
to him. There is a possibility also (though such
expectations are of all others the most contingent) that my
children may be much wealthier than I, in which case I
would naturally wish to do something for yours, which
I could do without injustice to my own. So that for every
reason I would prefer your returning here, were it not for
the limited income with which you now have to struggle.
With between 300 and 400 a year economy may
doubtless live without running into debt. And without
consuming the capital, the interest joined to your annuity
will amount at least to that sum, independent of what
property you have remaining in the Isle of Man.

Times here are not good, but mending. The
farmers have been half ruined by the sudden fall of the
value of produce, but I think it is now rising. In fact,
great part of the panic was owing to the sudden and
general retrenchment of the Bank credit throughout
Scotland. The farmer who used to carry a bill to the
Bank to pay his rent, was suddenly obliged to send his
stock and crop to market, instead of that convenient
representative of his wealth, " Please to pay," and so
forth. Where there were so many sellers, buyers turned
shy, and money became daily scarcer. But things are
coming round again, after much individual distress. . . .
Last year I was on the Continent for the greater part of
the Autumn, and was at Paris within a very short time
after the battle of Waterloo. It was something new to hear the bagpipes playing before the Tuileries, and to see the Highlanders broiling in the cuirasses of the French Imperial Guards their rations of beef and mutton. The Parisians were as gay as ever, notwithstanding this recent visit of Europe in arms, and all the apparatus of cannon turned upon the celebrated Pont Neuf and Pont Royal, with matches burning and a Prussian Artilleryman at each longing for orders to fire it.1 My wife and family are all well, and send best love to their aunt and you. . . .

[Familiar Letters]

TO THOMAS SCOTT

[Extract]

[29th May 1816]

DEAR TOM,—. . . Should the possession of this sum, and the certainty that you must, according to the course of nature, in a short space of years succeed to a similar sum of $3000 belonging to our mother, induce you to turn your thoughts to Scotland, I shall be most happy to forward your views with any influence I may possess; and I have little doubt that, sooner or later, something may be done. But, unfortunately, every avenue is now choked with applicants, whose claims are very strong; for the number of disbanded officers, and public servants dismissed in consequence of Parliament turning restive and refusing the income-tax, is great and increasing. Economy is the order of the day, and I assure you they are shaving properly close. It would, no doubt, be
comparatively easy to get you a better situation where you are, but then it is bidding farewell to your country, at least for a long time, and separating your children from all knowledge of those with whom they are naturally connected. I shall anxiously expect to hear from you on your views and wishes. I think, at all events, you ought to get rid of the drudgery of the paymastership but not without trying to exchange it for something else. I do not know how it is with you—but I do not feel myself quite so young as I was when we met last, and I should like well to see my only brother return to his own country and settle, without thoughts of leaving it, till it is exchanged for one that is dark and distant. ... I left all Jack's personal trifles at my mother's disposal. There was nothing of the slightest value, excepting his gold watch, which was my sister's, and a good one. My mother says he had wished my son Walter should have it, as his male representative—which I can only accept on condition your little Walter will accept a similar token of regard from his remaining uncle.—Yours affectionately,

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for one that is dark and distant. ... I left all Jack's personal trifles at my mother's disposal. There was nothing of the slightest value, excepting his gold watch, which was my sister's, and a good one. My mother says he had wished my son Walter should have it, as his male representative—which I can only accept on condition your little Walter will accept a similar token of regard from his remaining uncle.—Yours affectionately,

W. S.
[Lockhart]

TO SAMUEL ROGERS

MY DEAR ROGERS,—Mr. Skirving of Edinburgh an unrivalled artist as a painter in crayons, is going to London with the only good portrait of Burns. I think you will like to look at it, and perhaps you may be even disposed to purchase it, provided the artist's intention of selling it holds good till he gets to London. Mr. Skirving is a man of great genius in his art and is in circumstances
of perfect independance although his dress unless he
should rectify it when he gets [to] London would argue
something very deficient. In fact both his dress and
address require all the allowance which genius knows
how to make for the caprices and eccentricities of its
brethren. Do not give yourself any trouble with him
beyond what is exactly in the way of a lover of art.

I am sure you will join with me in sincerely regretting
this unlucky business of Lord Byrons. Who would have
expected such a consummation not you when I was in
town ? It is an unlucky business since it gives stupidity
a momentary triumph over genius-and talent. I trust
this will find you well in health, and enjoying yourself in
a milder climate than ours has been this year. believe
me dear Rogers Always most truly and affectionately yrs

WALTER SCOTT
EDINR 30th May [1816]

I should think Mr. Sharpe would like to look at the
Ayrshire ploughman. If Skirving does sell it, which
appears to me very problematical, I wish this unique
representation of our great poet to fall into good hands.
If I had not been buying a sort of Oxmoor like Tristram
Shandy and building hedging ditching & draining, Rob
should not have crossed the Border.1

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY COMPTON
MY DEAR LADY COMPTON.- You will I think readily believe that something particular has prevented me from answering your kind letter. In fact it has been of a melancholy nature being the death of my elder brother John Scott. He had been long so very unwell that death was only a release to him and as I hope and trust an exchange for a better place. Our habits of life and society were different and although we entertained a sincere affection for each other yet we did not live very much together. ...

I got the factors garland which is very funny. The fair authoress has a great deal of wit and I think the division of the Torloisk family has produced to me two inimitable correspondents instead of one-like the conjurer who used to dress up the bar of the door and send it out to draw water-his servant caught the talismanic words and tried the experiment at first with success but finding he was unable to reverse the spell he tried the charm of an axe and split the water-bearing bar into two pieces a division which only increased his difficulties for both began to bring pitchers full of water till the house was full - What was an inconvenience to the inexperienced conjurer has multiplied my resources against the evils and deprivations of advancing life by giving me two kind; friends instead of one speaking in the name of both. Your sister made an excellent application from Shakespeare though a little mechant to your cousin Harry proposing that he should say like Caliban-

I must eat my dinner.

This island's mine by Sycorax my mother

Which thou takest from me-
I must tell you when I am on this subject that there is a most capital letter of a Lady Compton in Winwoods Memorials on the provisions and establishment which she expected or rather demanded from her husband—As it is an inimitable specimen of the manner of a lady of rank in her days when she was disposed to take a high ground on such subjects I recommend you to read it without loss of time. It would have been of great use to me to have learned the language of matrimonial diplomacy used in the Northampton family and the terms which it inferred on such occasions before I acted as plenipotentiary for the Lady of the Cairn and the Scaur in the treaty of last summer—I must and will have—are the mildest statements of her claim and the demand of twenty new gowns is conferred by the special condition that twelve are to be excellent good ones—pray look at the letter—the wisest words is an admonition to her husband to complete Ashby House and a caution that he would lend no money to the Lord Treasurer.

Campbells 2 first No. is nearly out price one guinea and binds no one to take any succeeding number—He is not very tractable or rather he is what is vulgarly called pig-headed and has stuff'd in some execrable trash of his own which he calls poetry. Still however the collection will prove unique for the extensive quantity of original and unpublished musick which it contains and some part of it exceedingly beautiful although doubtless the best national tunes are always first published. I have made him a present of the [frontispiece] which represents my large wolf greyhound with a slaughtered deer a harp a bugle horn with other emblems of highland sport and
The wolfhound is a most splendid animal and the admiration of the populace of Edinburgh who crowd round him whenever he trots out along with me or with the carriage. Glengarry gave him to me—Pray tell

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Lady Francis Compton of him. His shoulder is higher considerably than a dining table and he has a most amiable and generous disposition—I think next year of crossing the Alps for two or three weeks—Many circumstances which joined to the general state of Europe have made me a sort of prisoner at home are now removed—My family is grown up and decently provided for and I don’t see why I shouldn’t have a frisk as well as all around me—How odd if we should meet on the Brenta or the Arno! I cannot tell how much I shall be grateful by receiving the honoured Volume 1—You have contrived one way to make me proud of my works as these witness—I will enclose this in a few lines to Lord C.

Ever my dear Lady Compton Your respectful and obliged friend                                WALTER SCOTT

[Northampton]

TO LORD COMPTON

My DEAR LORD,—Nothing can be more agreeable to me than the flattering mark of kind remembrance which you have destined for me and which I expect to receive very soon. You have given me much reason to be vain, of one copy at least of my numerous literary labours. The intervention of the Birthday and another holiday permits me to go to the country tomorrow and I hope when I come back I shall find your valued gift.
safely arrived. Summer is only begun with us about a week since and Spring we have had literally none such a course of severe weather has not been known in the memory of man. When I left Abbotsford in May not only the hills but even the sheltered valley of the Tweed was covered with snow and the sheep dying by scores. I fear this will soon prove more than an adequate relief to the opposite grievance of too cheap grain and that it will become some question where we are to find the grain. But yet if we have a steady good summer the crop may not fall so far short as it threatens to do at present. I own I am not one of [those] that are disposed to croak very much over the state of the country. It is bad for the present no doubt because all the channells of commerce which had been [indecipherable] out during the long war have been at once stopd up and it is some time before capital can be withdrawn from them for the purpose of occupying those outlets which the peace naturally opens. I am old enough to remember the distress which followed the conclusion of peace with America and the rapid progress made by the reviving industry and commerce of Britain during the first years of Pitt's administration. So that I am not doubtful of the relief which the new arrangement of things will naturally produce. But it is clear that there has been and must be much endurable distress and many a family ruined.

I hope our new Prince George of Denmark gives satisfaction—he has rather difficult cards to play in a situation where he must be necessarily supposed to have much influence although without possessing any ostensible authority—I saw him frequently when at Paris and I thought him a sensible pleasant man—he draws by the bye very well so I suppose has a taste for the fine arts
which the Brunswick family have hitherto wanted.

I had proceeded thus far when the newspapers put me in possession of an event which I hail with particular pleasure adding another sacred tie to your Lordships union with my fair and kind friend. I You my dear Lord who know so well the value of domestic affections will prize these blessings of providence as the sources of the purest pleasure which our mortal pilgrimage affords and I rejoice in the hope that in this pledge of mutual affection you will find a new subject for the exercise of these feelings and duties which soften at once and ennoble our nature.- What a contrast to the state of another noble acquaintance of mine who has dashed those comforts from his lips in wantonness or insanity. Accept my warmest and best congratulations and oblige me when you have a moments leisure by letting me know that Lady Comptons recovery is favourable. I enclose a letter for her Ladyship written before I heard the good news. It is hardly necessary to say that it will keep cold. I go to Abbotsford tomorrow for a week only and am delighted like a schoolboy at obtaining this sort of half-holiday-Courts of Justice are abominable places in summer being hot enough at all times at least if the litigants feelings can be trusted- I mentioned in my letter to Lady Compton a curious epistle from a Lady Compton of yore to her husband which I erroneously quoted as being in Winwoods Memorials but I cannot find it there nor exactly recollect where I read it. Believe me very much My dear Lord your Lordships truly faithful and obedient servant WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 31 May 1816.
TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

(4-250)MY DEAR LORD,-I cannot any longer resist the
temptation of intruding myself on your Grace to enquire
how your London journey has agreed with you. I am
informd this will most likely find you at Bath if so I hope
you will not leave it too soon for I am sure the use of the
water for a proper time will give a decisive turn to the
gout which flew about your Grace last year. I have
made a start of three days to this place to see the Great
Babylon which I have built the bog which I have draind
or rather attempted to drain and the trees which I have
planted. Babylon I found about as broad & long as I left
it but as there is no certainty in human affairs the bog has
proved not so soft as that to which the bard likend his
dear Molly Mogg 1 but on the contrary hard-hearted or
in vulgar phrase surrounded by a good stomacher of
whin-stone rock-and the trees poor dear creatures
suffering under the influence of a dry cold blighting
wind which if it last will cure us of our complaints of cheap
meal for one while. To, recreate myself under thes[e]
disappointments I was under the necessity of accepting
the honour done me by the Souters who requested me to
lay the foundation stone of a sort of barn which is to be
called a Free Masons Hall. There was a solemn procession
on this occasion which that it might not want the decorum
of costume was attended by weavers from Hawick
shoemakers from Jedburgh & pedlars from Peebles all
every fine in the scarfs and trinkums of their respective
lodges. If our musical band was not complete it was at
least varied for besides the town drum & fife which
thunderd in the van we had a pair of bagpipes & two
fiddles - And we had a prayer from a parson whom they were obliged to initiate on the spur of the occasion & who was abominably frightend although I assured him the sanctity of his cloth would preserve him from the fate of the youngest brother alluded to by Burns in his address to the Deil.

I wish I could by a corner of Prince Ho[usseins tapestry] pay your grace a visit at Bath. I resided there the sixth year of my life and have a strong recollection of the Abbey Church the Orange Grove the Avon & a statue of Neptune which then stood at the Ferry which led to Spring Garden. I recollect the river as dark & yellowish at least to my northern eyes-

I have got for your Grace three very handsome transcripts from the records of the testament of the Knight of Branksome who gives us also a list of his substance and debts (many of which were partly compensated by bullocks deliverd in part payment). Also two leagues between the Scotts & Kerrs which like those upon a more extensive scale seem to have been wonderfully short in duration. I fancy I had better keep them till your Grace comes down.

I beg to be most kindly rememberd to Lady Anne & the young ladies-the fir & heather Chieftain & all the Friends around your Grace-I hope your Grace will be at Bowhill early enough in the season to make out the proposed fishing for the monster 1 at Cauldshiels Loch-

Believe me my dear Lord Duke ever your truly honourd & obliged
WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 5 June [1816]

What a smash Camiston 2 has made of it—[] 70,000 of debt besides character & all—but that was gone before.

After all honesty is the best policy—There are a few old gold coins here—none very curious—but they may be bought for little more than the value of the gold. They are in Andrew Lang’s hands. If your Grace would care to have any of the best of them I will buy them for you.

TO LORD MELVILLE

My DEAR LORD,—Amid the changes which are likely to take place in our court I am sure you have better advice than I could presume to offer (had I title to offer any) respecting the judicial appointments which are likely to take place upon the death of poor Meadowbank now hourly expected. I cannot help availing myself of the privilege of so old a friend to throw in a hint in favour of my particular intimate friend William Erskine who is not a person who in such a case would solicit for himself and whose near connection the Lord Register Elect may perhaps for that reason feel less intitled to press his claims. That Mr. Erskine is a most steady friend upon the firmest political conviction your Lordship well knows & how far his legal knowledge and excellent sound sense calculate him to fill the situation of a judge your Lordship may easily learn from persons whose testimony is much more valuable than mine for if the publick voice & publick
wish of our whole profession can be admitted to have any
weight these have already pointed out Mr. Erskine as
certain of this promotion. I But there is a point of view
which comes so immediately under my own observation

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that I cannot help submitting it to your Lordship aware
that you will give me credit for taking both the interest
of the country die court of justice & my own profession
into view instead of being exclusively biased by partiality
for a valued friend. Indeed if I know myself at all I
would not hazard what I am about to say unless from the
confidence that my testimony would be received as that
of an impartial witness in which view from the opportunities
of observation which I possess it may possibly be
of some little value. There has long been a systematic
scheme in this country having its assistants in England to
degrad and run down the Court of Session and to pave the
way for various alterations & plans of individual advantage
and preferment at the expense of our judicial establishments.
For this purpose every rash expression is carefully
catched up, wrested beyond its meaning exaggerated
and distorted and it occasionally happens that some of
our elder judges however excellent men & good lawyers
have about them a little too much of the old-world
roughness of manner which gives scope and advantage
to the persons I have mentiond. And I own that on
many occasions I would have had great pleasure in seeing
among them a person so well acquainted as Erskine I do
not say with English law but with the manners & habits
of judging peculiar to English lawyers and who is therefore
remarkably capable of counteracting this growing
disposition to misrepresent the Court of Session by checking
the circumstances which give scope to it. A judge may
often want only to know how & in what light what he
(4-253)says or does will be regarded elsewhere to prevent his
(4-253)giving advantages which are eagerly caught at. I cannot
(4-253)help thinkg. that Erskine's remarkable correctness and
(4-253)sense of decorum joind with his excellent temper and his
(4-253)deep legal knowlege cannot fail to add respectability to
(4-253)this court and to do the highest honour to his Majestys
(4-253)ministers for Scotland.

(4-253)Once more I beg a thousand pardons for interfering in

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(4-254)a matter in which my voice has so little title to be heard.
(4-254)But I begin to have Dogberry's title for being troublesome
(4-254)" an old man Sir-he will be talking "1 -I hope you
(4-254)will get the play a little while this year and that Lady
(4-254)Mellvill[e] & you will in going or coming make a pilgrimage
(4-254)to Melrose Abbey. I have got a cell for you in my least
(4-254)of all possible hermitages. Ever my dear Lord Your truly
(4-254)faithful & obliged

(4-254)WALTER SCOTT
(4-254)EDINR. 14 June 1816

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

(4-254)MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I wrote you an idle letter a few
(4-254)days since & am now obliged to be troublesome in the
(4-254)way of business. There are great changes to take place
(4-254)in our court both by promotion of Lord Advocate to be
(4-254)Clerk Register which will of course be followd by
(4-254)MacConochie getting the Advocates silk gown & by
(4-254)Wedderburn or some one else succeeding him as solicitor.
(4-254)Moreover Ld. Meadowbank 2 is at the point of death after
having shewn how long an active mind can keep itself alive in despite of a decayd frame & whoever shall be promoted to his situation will probably vacate some beneficial office. Now as your Grace entrusted me with the office of your remembrancer on behalf of good & steady friends I venture to put Robert Bruce 1 under your eye as well deserving of your patronage. He has lately shewn himself in a very good light while acting as crown-council on the last Glasgow circuit when he discharged that duty with an uncommon degree of talent sense and legal knowlege which leaves no room to doubt that his preferment will do honour to your Graces exercise of your patronage. And independent of the handsome & gentlemanlike manner in which both father & son conducted themselves upon a late occasion I must say I expect the greatest & most important assistance from R. Bruce's sound legal knowlege at Head courts & so forth. But I need say nothing more on that subject because it has not been for want of your Graces active interference in his behalf that he has not hitherto got forward. In the present uncertainty of arrangement all I can ask is that your Grace will have the goodness to keep him in Lord Mellville's view, to be dealt with according to circumstances. I should prefer for him the situation of an Advocate Depute and should there be a vacancy in that department I am convinced that MacConochie would most willingly attend to any wish which your Grace may be pleased to express. But should there be no vacancy among the Advocates Depute (whose nomination is in the Lord Advocate personally) there will still be Sheriffdoms & other good things flying to and fro and if your Grace could fetch down one of the covey whenever they are sprung we would be perfectly contented with
that which lay most convenient for your aim. Excuse haste as I must get this letter off with the post. The silver cup for the Suters is finishd & looks very handsome. I am with great respect My dear Lord Duke Your Graces truly obliged & faithful WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 16 June 1816
[Buckcleuch]

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TO LORD COMPTON

MY DEAR LORD,-Nothing could have been more obliging than your Lordships kind attention in letting me know the issue of Lady Comptons confinement and the happy progress of her recovery. Your Lordship has already received my congratulations on an event so interesting to your family and which forms a double link to the ties which already unite your Lordship with my fair friend. I must not be silent on another topic of gratitude afforded by the safe arrival of the volume-which Lady C, Lady Elizabeth and your Lordship have thought worthy of your joint illustrations. I can only say it is the only volume of the same author on which I shall set a very high and peculiar value and that I am alike flatterd as a poet and gratified as a friend by the taste and elegance of the drawings and the kindness which directed the friendly artists in their choice of subjects.

I trust this will find Lady Compton continuing to recover as well as the writer could wish her. As an old and experienced person I hope she will not exert herself by seeing company too soon or running the risque of cold. This is the anniversay of Waterloo and from the noise
about my ears which has continued since six this morning
I think the whole grammar-school boys of Edinburgh
have been fighting the battle over again in this house-
nothing to be seen but flags bonnets and blue cockades-
We made a short visit to Abbotsford last week but lack-a-
day such villainous weather I never saw-the country is
farther back than is usual in the month of April- I beg
my kindest and best remembrances to Lady Compton
and am ever My dear Lord Your truly obliged and
faithful servant WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 18th June 1816
[Northampton]

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TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

To Archibald Constable Esq
Care of Messrs. Longman & Co
Pater Noster Row London

EDINR. 18 June 1816

DEAR SIR-I am making rapid progress in the history
for 1814 (1) but having finishd the history of the campaign
in France I am anxious to get full information upon the
other topics of the year. I must therefore request of you
to have the goodness to enquire about any publications
respecting the following transactions only observing that
original books or pamphlets in French Spanish German
or Italian will be more valuable than translations & that
I am particularly desirous to see works on both sides.

Spain. The reception of the King-the disputes
between him & the Cortes-the insurrection of Mina in
Navarre &c - Mina is himself in London & perhaps may have publishd something.

Italy. The wars between Murat & Eugene Beauharnois - our occupation of Leghorn & affairs on the Italian coast & at Genoa. I think there must be some things publishd on this part of the campaign.

Norway. Any thing concerning its cession to Sweden and the short struggle that preceded it - any good pamphlets on the cession in general & anything that can throw light upon the tardiness of Bernadotte's movements in the campaign against France.

Our foolish war with America. Anything relating to its rise & progress -

Any thing illustrative of the internal state of France under the Bourbons & during the short usurpation of Bonaparte. I have most of the Bourbon pamphlets but I wish to get if possible some of those written against them.

Any German political or historical works would be also most desireable and any which respect the constitution & history of the new kingdom of the Netherlands.

As you are now on the spot and the object is an important one I trust you will be able to arrange with foreign booksellers for a regular supply of such works as are connected with the annual history of their country. There is no making books without straw but with a moderate attention to securing good supplies of original information I trust three years will put the work on a very
different footing from what it has lately been. But our deficiency is the procuring early copies of foreign books & it will not be remedied without both trouble and expence.

I had almost forgotten to mention works on Indian affairs Asiatic register &c.

John Ballantyne sets off to day. Yours truly

W SCOTT
[Kilpatrick]

TO HAY DONALDSON

MY DEAR SIR,-I dare say nothing can have escaped Mr. Fergussons researches and yours among my fathers papers and as they must perish where they are I think they had better be destroyed. If however you should think there is any room for regretting this they might ad interim be sent to my coach house 2 the key whereof is at my house Castle Street and I believe this will be the better way. I will immediately remit the wine-cash when I know the amount. I had a summons to dine with the Duke at Ancrum to speak upon business but so well does the Bart. I calculate his matters that it arrived when my own dinner was over. The Duke will be with me soon having got a net eighty yards in length to sweep Cauldshiels Loch for the supposed monster. I intend to have some chat with him on other matters.

I am glad the Bart. has come to the point as Tom will probably draw for cash unless he comes over bodily at
which I should not be surprized. What chance of seeing
you for a day or two's quiet fishing. We are catching
gilses 2 faster than people care to eat them. Yours very truly

WALTER SCOTT
ABBOTSFORD 7 July [1816]

TO JOHN WILSON CROKER

MY DEAR SIR,-You were kind enough to procure for
a person of the name of Alexander Campbell permission
to inscribe his Collection of Scottish music to H.R.[H.]
the Prince Regent.3 Will you now have the additional
goodness to take charge of the first copy which we have
been able to get out of the engravers hands and which is
destined for Carleton House. I am afraid there will be
no time to get it suitably bound as the workmen here are
most intolerably lazy. But the Prince will perhaps deign
to receive the Highland Muse in her undress

"High-kilted was she
As she gaed ower the lea."

We have cobbled up among us a pack of verses to which
the Editor has graciously added some very indifferent
compositions of his own. But the music is correct and
none of the tunes have ever appeared before. His Royal
Highness asked me so many questions about the Highlands
that I was induced to take some pains about a
pibroch at the end of the work in hopes of being able to convey some idea of the state of their martial music and Gathering tunes. The frontispiece is a deer-hound of mine, and if you would but come to Scotland you should have; a haunch of venison of his killing.

Excuse me giving you all this trouble and when you have an opportunity to mention the collection to His Royal Highness will you have the further goodness to lay my humble and grateful duty before him. Believe me My dear Sir, Ever most truly yours, WALTER SCOTT

EDINBH. 8 July [1816]
[Brotherton]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

MY DEAREST FRIEND,-It is with the greatest pleasure that I hear of the event in Dr. Baillie's family which although like all human affairs attended with its own portion of doubt and uncertainty carries with it as fair a prospect of happiness as sublunary events of any kind can well hold out. I have always considered that an exact purity of taste or even of understanding is of very little consequence in the married if there be in the first place principle and in the second place good temper on both sides. Nay I am not sure whether the happiest unions have not usually been those in which there was a considerable difference in the habits and turn of study proper to each party. We easily learn to admire the proficiency and take interest in the accomplishments and occupations of those whom we love and to whom
we soon become bound by many common and endearing ties. Affection in such cases does the work of taste and we admire our partner the more that perhaps we do not feel ourselves totally competent to judge the extent of their acquisitions. Besides if two people ride a horse as the leard Dogberry says one must ride behind and in that case there is sometimes a feeling of contempt on the one hand and of irritating emulation on the other. I suspect a painter or poet would not wish to be matchd with an exquisite critic and still less with a dunce addicted to make bad verses or spoil good canvas. In short where there is real good temper competent means and above all a presiding sense of affectionate duty the great requisites of happiness are within their power and I have no doubt your young friend will find all these in Capt. Milligan. He has had the advantage of suffering in the greatest battle ever fought and has in good sense and gallantry a better foundation to claim family regard and respect than if he had written a whole Iliad. My kindest and best congratulations attend them. Dr. and Mrs. Baillie Mrs. Agnes and yourself upon an event which promises so much happiness and which may be expected to extend your family and domestic affections to a new race of beings.

I am truly glad you are going abroad—nothing gives such a fillip to the imagination. The recollection of what I saw last year on the continent has all the freshness and vivacity attending the recollection of scenes which I visited for the first time in early youth and seem to be as it were in high relief engraved on my memory amid the fainter traces of ordinary occupations. My family are now in such a state that I can leave them without any
thing more than a little anxiety and I fully intend the next year while I have still health and strength for such frolics to take a little frisk as far as Rome and Naples- perhaps as far as Athens- How delightful it would be could we meet in Switzerland or Italy. But that I fear is not on the cards as you will be returning. Paris I am not anxious to see again but I trust you will see it once. There is more of good and bad in it than anywhere else in the world. I do not mean moral good of which there is rather a paucity but worldly grandeur and display. It is quite a Vanity-fair: and upon the whole I feel something like the highlander in the old song

I'll awa to the hieland hills
Where deil a ane daur turn her
And no come near your Turnemspike
Unless it be to burn her.

I am under the necessity of concluding very hastily for I am engaged to escort two valued English friends to see the Highland Scenery-Excellent women and kind friends they are yet I doubt I will hardly be able to make interesting to them things so much out of their habits.

Then I fear for bad inns and bad weather. But we will make our tour short-only Loch Katrine and Loch Lomond and return by Bothwell Banks and the Falls to Clyde-side. I hope to hear from you before you set out on your tour and when you have fixd your route. Adieu my dearest friend I am bothered with twenty troublesome trifles all left to the last moment. Yours most affectionately WALTER SCOTT

I will be at Abbotsford within a week after this comes
to hand. All join in kind love and respectful compliments of congratulation in which Sophia requires hers to be put in text hand. It is true I sent Mathurines tragedy to Lord Byron many months since-not that I quite liked [the] stile of thing which comes too near the German but because the author being a man of merit in distress I was desirous to do all in my power to help him onward. Love to Mrs. Agnes Baillie and the young bride.

EDINBURGH 12 July 1816

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE

[August 1816]

DEAR JOHN,-I have the pleasure to enclose Murray's acceptances. I earnestly recommend to you to push, realizing as much as you can.

"Consider weel, gude man,
I hae but borrowed gear ;
The horse that I ride on,
It is John Murray's near."1

Yours truly,

W. SCOTT

[Lockhart]

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TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH
MY DEAR LORD,- As Sophia like Win Jenkins desires me to inclose her sheet of nonsense under your Graces kiver I take the opportunity to acknowledge your Graces favour & to express my hope of a speedy meeting in the forest. The lake is in statu quo and the water horse fresh in remembrance of all the good folks so who knows what a bold draught of a net may do—at least I saw a fine Jack the other day make a dash at my wife's parasol as she was tapping the water with it to her no small astoundment. The weather has been infamous. Like the drunken landlord at the Arroquhar Inn 1 "I declare I am perfectly ashamed of it" especially in the presence of two cockney (most veritable cockney) ladies who are much annoyd & scandalized at the smallness of a cottage which will not accomodate them within doors and the severe frowns of the climate which will not permit them to get abroad.—Your Grace will have heard that the Duke of Wellington comes to Scarborough perhaps further north—"How shall we pay him honours due?"—I had this from good authority: Mr. Wedderburn Webster (who is a whipper-snapper) now by the grace of God a neighbour in place of plain honest William Sibbald—he is you know the husband of Lady Frances Webster though I give no credit to the Scandal.

We shall be delighted to meet your graces Bath friends.

I hope this atmosphere will not hurt their harmony: and that they will honour the cottage of the Bard who is more flatterd by their paying the appropriate compliment to his Chieftain than he well could be through any other medium of flattery.
The Standard bearer 1 goes to the moors (the first of his fields) on the 12 to Ashe stiel-I hope your Grace will not be angry if he follows a covey over the Peel land-I think I can ensure his doing little mischief-Ever your Graces most faithful & obliged

WALTER SCOTT

I hope to hear we are to meet soon-If you have not yet seen my most magnificent of all deer-greyhounds-The doe and roe being scarce with us I am anxious to match him with a fox the first grand chasse.

[Buccleuch]

TO MR. CADDELL

Messrs. Constable & Co/ Booksellers, Cross, Edinburgh

DEAR SIR,-As all the copy for the Annual Register is in the printers hand and very nearly out of it and as I have occasion to pay an installment for some land I take the liberty of drawing upon your House for 400, agreeable to bargain : I have made the date three months for convenience of discount but I will willingly extend it to any reasonable length by renewal as you will believe I have no wish to overburthen the work. I am anxious to hear of Mr. Constables return & what he has done for me in the way of getting materials. I should like to have 1815 out in the end of the year-1816 will be comparatively light work & may be ready in three or four

1816 SIR WALTER SCOTT 267

(months afterwards. I am busy with the history but
cannot go to press before October being much
incommoded with want of books &c.

I have drawn the above bill to the order of Mr. James
Ballantyne. There are bills of yours to be renewd on
the 19th. They must be lookd after in good time. I
hope" Constable sends you good news from London-
here we are all like to be ruin’d with a late & poor harvest.
I am dear Sir Yours very truly       WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 7 August l8l6.

[Kilpatrick]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

MY DEAR MORRITT,-I have not had a moments
delighted I will be to see you in this least of all possible
dwellings but where we nevertheless can contrive a
pilgrims quarters and the warmest wellcome to you and
any friend of your journey-if young Stanley so much
the better. Now as to the important business with the
which I have been occupied you are to know we have
had our kind hostesses of Piccadilly 1 upon a two months
visit to us. We owed them so much hospitality that we
were particularly anxious to make Scotland agreeable to
the good girls. But alas ! the wind has blown and the
rain has fallen in a stile which beats all that ever I
rememberd. We accomplishd with some difficulty a
visit to Loch Katrine and Loch Lomond and by dint
of the hospitality of Cambusmore 2 and Ross we defied
bad weather wet roads and long walks. But the weather
settled into actual tempest when we settled at Abbotsford
and though the natives accustomd to bad weather
(4-268)(though not at such a season) contrived to brave the
(4-268)extremities of the season it only served to increase the
(4-268)dismay of our unlucky visitors who accustomd only to
(4-268)Paris and London expected fiacres at the milestane
(4-268)cross and a pair of oars at the Deadmans heugh. Add
(4-268)to this a strong disposition to commerage where there was
(4-268)no possibility of gratifying it and a total indisposition
(4-268)to scenery or country amusements which were all we
(4-268)had to offer and you will pity both visitors and guests.
(4-268)I have the gratification to think I fully supported the
(4-268)hospitality of my country-I walkd them to death-I
(4-268)talkd them to death-I showd them landscapes which
(4-268)the driving rain hardly permitted them to see and told
(4-268)them of feuds about which they cared as little as I do
(4-268)about their next-door news in Piccadilly. Yea I even
(4-268)playd at cards and as I had Charlotte for a partner so
(4-268)ran no risque of being scolded I got on pretty well. Still
(4-268)the weather was so execrable that as the old drunken
(4-268)landlord used to say at Arroquhar " I was perfectly
(4-268)ashamed of it" and to this moment I wonder how my
(4-268)two friends fought it out so patiently as they did. But
(4-268)the young people and the cottages formd considerable
(4-268)resources. Yesterday they left us deeply impressd with
(4-268)the conviction which I can hardly blame that the sun
(4-268)never shone in Scotland which that noble luminary
(4-268)seems disposed to confirm by making this the first fair
(4-268)day which we have seen this month so that his beams
(4-268)will greet them at Longtown as if he was determined to
(4-268)put Scotland to utter shame.

(4-268)In you I expect a guest of a different calibre and I
(4-268)think (barring downright rain) I can promise you some
(4-268)sport of one kind or other : we have a good deal of game
(4-268)about us and Walter to whom I have resignd my gun
and license will be an excellent attendant—he brought in six brace of moor-game on the 12th which had its own effect in softening the minds of our guests towards this unhappy climate. In other respects things look melancholy enough here—corn is however rising and the poor have plenty of work and wages which though greatly inferior to what they had when hands were scarce assort perfectly well with the present state of the markets. Most folks try to live as much on their own produce as they can by way of fighting off distress and though speculating farmers and landlords must suffer I think the temporary ague-fit will on the whole be advantageous to the country. It will check that inordinate and unbecoming spirit of expense or rather extravagance which was poisoning all classes and bring us back to the sober virtues of our ancestors. It will also have the effect of teaching the landed interest that their connection with their farmers should be of a nature more intimate than that of mere payment and receipt of rent and that the largest offerer for a farm is often the person least fit to be preferred as a tenant. Above all it will compleat the destruction of those execrable quacks terming themselves Land-Doctors who professed from a two days scamper over your estate to tell you its constitution in other words its value acre per acre. These men paid according to the golden hopes they held out afforded by their reports one principal means of deceiving both landlord and tenant by setting an ideal and extravagant value upon land which seemed to entitle the one to expect and the other to offer rent far beyond what any expectation formed by either upon their own acquaintance with the property could rationally have warranted. More than
I shall be delighted to see Heber should he point this way & can easily make room for him. But I greatly doubt his performing a promise which would give us such particular pleasure. If you can bring your nephew with you we will make room for him in our chicken coop and be delighted to make him acquainted with my wild foresters. For your further encouragement we have got in our neighbourhood my Parisian acquaintances Mr. Wedderburn Webster by nature a fool and by art a coxcomb and pest of the first water and his wife Lady Frances a very pleasant woman in manners as well as young & pretty but who has certainly fallen into bad hands in the breaking and looks melancholy & speaks sentiment when no better discourse is to be had.

Lady H. Mackenzie has promised to come here in October as you propose to pay a visit then perhaps you will contrive to escort her here on your return. I have sundry irons in the fire on all which I will consult you at more leisure. This is only a grateful acknowlegement of your kind promise to come to[o]. Mrs. Scott joins in the kindest remembrances and all my young folks especially your acquaintances Sophia and Walter are delighted with the prospect of seeing you for a good long visit. Ever my dear Morritt most truly yours.
TO J. B. S. MORRITT, M.P., ROKEBY, GRETA BRIDGE

MY DEAR MORRITT,-I wrote you a long letter the other evening. Your plan of operations received this morning will suit me most admirably especially if you come by Jedburgh. I must be there at the Circuit on the 14th and abide the 15th (Sunday) in my official attendance on the Judge. Now if you sleep at Otterbourne on the 13th which is an indifferent sort of hedge inn you will find me at Jedburgh on the evening of the next day-and we have Sunday to look about us at Jedburgh and dine with the Judge 1 who is my old School-fellow and a very pleasant man-and on Monday morning unless you should wish to take a turn towards Kelso we will breakfast at Abbotsford. My being able to get to Harviestoun 2 depends on my getting forward some work which I have in hand and which I will show you. But at any rate I have plenty of time to weary you to death with showing you all that is to be seen so I expect you will stay with me as long as you possibly can. Look over Froissart before you visit Otterbourne the ground confirms his account of the battle wonderfully. You will of course visit Hexham-the church is very curious with some old Roman monuments and the situation beautiful. Between a miserable inn called Tom-pill and Otterbourne (that is supposing you to come
from Hexham) on a small brook near a place called
Woodburne is the curious roman town or camp of
Risingham. Near this stood the figure called Robin of
Risingham now not existing. It was mentioned in the
notes to a certain poem called Rokeby and acquired such
celebrity that the Boor on whose ground it stood teased
with the number of visitors broke it to pieces. I wish
the fragments were in his bladder with all my heart.
I do not know anything else very remarkable in that part

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of the road—only on the very march when you enter
Scotland the battle of Reid Swair was fought being the
last action between the Scotch and English. From
Jedburgh I hope to be your cicerone myself. I write in
great haste to save post. All here send love and will be
delighted to see you. Most truly yours

W. S.

ABBOTSFORD 26 August [1816]

[Law]

TO JAMES SKENE

ABBOTSFORD, 4th September 1816

MY DEAR SKENE,—I had your letter this morning, and
take the opportunity of writing by your old acquaintance
William Laidlaw of Blackhouse (whose hospitality you
cannot have forgotten) to say how delighted I am with the
prospect of seeing Mrs. Skene and you at this the tiniest
of all possible houses. The circuit comes on next week,
and as I must attend it, it would be greatly in the way of
our enjoying ourselves. After the 17th I shall be at
home and most happy to see you and Mrs. Skene. Mrs
Scott's love attends Mrs. S. and the Mackenzies. Morritt,
I expect, will be at Abbotsford about the same time; you
will be delighted with him, and we will have such
fun as never was.

Laidlaw is in quest of a highland factory, his farm not
answering well in these bad times. We hear L--
wants such a person, and I have begged Colin to recommend
him if he finds an opening. He will be a real
treasure.

In coming to Abbotsford you do not pass the Yair
Bridge, but take a turn to the left down a fine new road
which continues down the north side of the Tweed until
you come opposite to Abbotsford, where there is a good
ford. You will know it by seeing the road go up the
hill from the riverside. It is rather past this cottage than
opposite to it, at the foot of a bank. But if we know your
day, we will be on the look out for you. Once more
health and fraternity.

WALTER SCOTT
[Skene's Memories]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR SIR. I have your letter of the 21 Septr. and am
much pleased with the prospect you hold out of food for
1815. Pray get the L'Annee de la vie de Napoleon 1 -
and as many Spanish anecdotes as you can you may
assure the communicator that I will use them with the
most delicate caution. I expected 1814 would have been out a month since. The History must go to press in November sans faute and push on rapidly. You must consider the number of copies and advise me of the quantity. I must beg you to accommodate Jas. Ballantyne with an acceptance @ 3 mos. for 350 which will not need to be renewed. You know I am accurate in these matters & not insensible of them. The object is to retire a large sum of Bills not less than 2300 & odds which are pledged with Allan for about 900, & are necessary in the business as well as for my own accommodation. Believe me dear Sir very truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

Sunday ABBOTSFORD [22 September 1816]

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

MY DEAR JAMES,-I have your letter which expresses what I have long wishd and supposed though I have in vain repeatedly requested John to see what could be made of Caddells house through Blackwood. I think you should learn what they will be willing to do for their bills will be just as good as Longmans. I suspect Longmans people are cool to say the least & I am in no shape bound to them unless they come handsomely into the terms expressd by Constable at which they certainly boggle. It would be impossible to conclude any thing with Caddell till we have the result of Rees's letter to his house—but their hesitation entitles us to look about elsewhere & you can very easily learn what they
C. & D. will give for the present copy-rights with the chance of a share in future—or without such chance. The date of the bills might be long as they could be discounted through the English cash account. As the copy-rights are still in person of J. B. & Co/ you can open this negotiation without my interference only saying you must have my consent before concluding it. It must be understood distinctly that Constable is not to be left out in a future publication—in short that the Edinr. part is to be at my disposal. Indeed I would wish if possible to sell the present copy rights (if an adequate price can be had) without coming under future engagements; but this I leave to you very much. In short you must rather learn what they are wanting & what they will do to obtain it than make any proposals yourself. But I wish you to open the trenches without loss of time for between ourselves I think it the most likely chance of getting things put on a footing. Constable has a plan for raising money but I dont like it on many accounts—His interest must be attended to & the best way & frankest of doing so will be to communicate with him while the treaty is in progress that he may express his own wishes & views.

I think you should speak to him immediatly as he has not deserved the shadow of suspicion. I shall also write a line myself. It is needless to say use dispatch. You will I think manage this matter better than John who has acquired an unfortunate character for insincerity in the trade. You dont say if he has returnd.

I will think about the Register but you should consult Russell Erskine etc. who have books about them—in fact it is a great neglect not to have mentiond this, puzzle so soon as the two volumes I were fixd on & while I was in town.
I think there is no doubt of matters going on for at the worst it is but taking Constables new scheme which I will rather do than stop. Yours truly W. S.

ABBOTSFORD 27 Sept. [1816]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

MY DEAR RICHARDSON,-We are greatly obliged by your kind attention to Sophia's garden which she has acknowledged in her way on the other page. We have no news here but that Walter has caught a salmon of which he begs me to inform you. If you recollect do enquire about the proper mode of application to the literary fund in behalf of poor Weber whose claims on such an institution are very strong indeed.2 You will hardly expect news from hence. Mortality advances bravely.3 Our dogs & cats, children & clowns are all well. My respects attend Mrs. Richardson & I hope you will bring her with you on your next Teviotdale visit. Ever dear Richardson Most truly yours WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Friday 28 Sept. 1816

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,-My respects to the Booksellers & I belong to the Death-head Hussars of literature who neither take nor give criticism. I know no business they
had to show my work to Gifford nor would I cancel a leaf
to please all the critics of Edinburgh & London and so
let that be as it is. I never heard of such impudence in
my life. Do they think I don't know when I am writing ill
as well as Gifford can tell me. It is good enough for
them and they had better make up the 200 they propose
to swindle me out of than trouble themselves about the
contents.

1816       Sir Walter Scott       277

John says he can easily advance 200 on his bill-
& I as I said before am willing to renew for 300 : 1 more
I cam not think safe and as for ready money you received
my last penny for want of which I suffer grievously. But
your wants can be but temporary for after the 25th Allans
800 comes in as John assures me and I trust the tales 2
will be out instantly. Yours truly        W S

Thursday [3rd October 1816]

Johns plans seem rational and soberminded. He is
an excellent little fellow and if he will but be cautious
may do capitally-I beg there may be no more communications
with critics. These born idiots do not know
the mischief they do to me & themselves. I DO by God.

[Glen]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE, BOOKSELLER, EDINBURGH

DEAR SIR,-I am favourd with your letter and readily
agree to advertising the History. The title I think
should be

Letters on the History of Scotland addressd to a family
(4-278)of young persons By the Author of Pauls Letters from the
(4-278)Continent.1

(4-278)I am very sorry the Register has not in the outset
(4-278)answerd expectation. We must give it time to recover
(4-278)its legs and take pains with the next volume. If it had
(4-278)onc[e] a good deep root in England I should not fear for
(4-278)this country.

(4-278)We are afflict[ed here by the worst season I ever witnessd
(4-278)October half through and no such thing as general
(4-278)h[ar]vest. I am half tired of looking at the scene of desolation
(4-278)and almost wish myself in Edinr. though I have so
(4-278)much to do her[e]. I am Dear Sir Very truly yours

(4-278)WALTER SCOTT
(4-278)ABBOTSFORD 10 October 1816

[Kilpatrick]

TO MESSRS. CONSTABLE & CO.

(4-278)DEAR SIRS.-I am much obliged by your letter though
(4-278)very sorry for the contents. From my note of these
(4-278)matters there appeard only a single [] 300 due before
(4-278)Marts. & for that and every other demand on the business
(4-278)full and timely provision appeard to be made. The
(4-278)whole engagements do not amount to [] 4000 and the
(4-278)disposeable assets (exclusive of stock and property) to a
(4-278)good deal more so that you see how little reason I had
(4-278)to expect such an incident which I can only impute to
(4-278)the most culpable negligence for Jo: B. parted with me
(4-278)on the 21st in the best possible spirits and with cash to
(4-278)my knowlege to more than the amount of the dishonord
bill so that the affair is to me utterly inexplicable. This

SIR WALTER SCOTT       1816         279

you may be assured of that there is no entanglement that
is not most easily extricated so far as money is concernd
as you may see by the subjoind sketch.

Engagements including interest etc. say $4000*
Booksellers bills $1500,
Do. Printing Office $500,
Bills deposited with Allan & Co. at
discountable states $800,
Do. with Sir W. F. $1000,
With about $800 due to me in Deer. and
January $800

$4600
$600

Exclusive of debts etc. to a large amount and property of
various kinds to a much larger. In fact of the $4000.,
there is only $2000 belongs to the business-the rest is my
own raised to pay some of my new purchases. I wrote to
both the Messrs. Ballahtyne & would come to town if my
doing so would do good. I am very much Your faithful

humble Servant

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Thursday [PM. 26th Oct. 1816]

I exclud[ed] in the above state about $700., or $1000
for which bills are pledged in security to more than the
amount.
TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE, BOOKSELLER, EDINBURGH

26th October, 1816

DEAR SIR, - I have no objection to your title—indeed, I think it better than my own, only I would wish it to be added, that the Letters were written for the instruction of a rising family, which is really the truth. I believe I mentioned to you the strong reasons which I have for not giving my name at full length, though I have no objection to your telling the whole world that I wrote it. Believe me, that although a more immediate impression might be made by treating the work with that formality, it would most inevitably lead to great disappointment in the public, and injure the book seriously. When a man puts his name to so grave a matter as a History, it should be something very different from the rapid and, I trust, animated sketch which I intend to furnish. Men would expect great depth of research and discussion of the disputed points, which is precisely what I intend to waive. I have not the least doubt that I will make a popular book, for I trust it will be both interesting and useful; but I never intended to engage in any proper historical labour, for which I have neither time, talent, nor inclination. I think you may remember that the Letters on the History of England were what I proposed as my model. In truth it would take ten years of any man’s life to write such a History of Scotland as he should put his
name to. But as I said before, I have no doubt mine will be found useful, and, I think, entertaining. I assure you I judge what I think for the best, and I would not for any caprice of my own stand in the way even of your wishes, much less of your interest. Both our interests, however, are equally concerned, and upon the most mature consideration I have been able to give the subject, I cannot alter my first resolution, that the babe must be unchristend. The difference between the popularity or unpopularity of a work often depends on the reader's expectations being too much excited, or on his finding unexpected pleasure where there was no parade of promise.

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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1816

I am glad the affair of the Bill 1 was so far cleared up, though I am sorry it should have occurred at all in these troublesome times. We are all busied with getting in our harvest, such as it is. I suppose, like Burns's old woman, we shall win the kirn 2 on Halloween, which I used to think an improbability in the poem.-I am, dear Sir, very much yours,

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 26 October [PM. 1816]

I mentioned all that is above mentioned to Mr John Ballantyne but he seemed to think the particulars would come most satisfactorily from myself directly.

[Kilpatrick and Constable]

TO SAMUEL ROGERS, ST. JAMES'S PLACE, FAVOURED BY MR. RUSSELL

MY DEAR ROGERS,-The son of an old friend a man of
much taste and science Dr. James Russell of Edinr.
go to your Metropolis on scientific and medical
pursuits and his father asks me for a line of introduction
to some of my friends in the literary world. Alas, I have
very few left. Our dear George Ellis is gone and so are
many others with whom I used to claim, some interest.
My tediousness must be the more liberally bestowed
upon those who remain and as few have a greater share

(4-282) of my regard than yourself you must look for a good
portion of it. Lucidly it never or very seldom breaks
out into correspondence but like the philosophical parrot
pays it off by thinking. Why will you never come down
to see us. I have had Rose here for several weeks & he a
greater invalid than you finds himself comfortable in
Conundrum Castle for so this romance of a house should
be called. As you have made the most classical residence
I can conceive I have been attempting a Gothic—no not
a Gothic by any means but an old fashioned Scotch
residence full of

Rusty iron coats and jingling jackets.

Rare commodities for a country smith to make
hobnails of.

Rose has been much indisposed—nevertheless killed a
salmon of eighteen pounds weight after an hour and a
halts close struggle, this as Robinson Crusoe says when
he drinks his glass of rum " to his exceeding refreshment."

We have had horrid wet weather and as rough as ever
blew out of our angry heavens but come next year and
we will make it better for you. At any rate the wind
that makes my turrets topple on the warders heads will have rough work to do for mine are not the sort of battlements a man outlives as hoped [?] Horace Walpole our fine stone gives us leave to build with a view to posterity.

I do not much know the young bean but have seen him at his fathers scientific parties. A clever lad I think. If you can without inconvenience to yourself show him any notice his respectable family here will be much gratified as well as dear Rogers Your truly faithful and affectionate

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 26th October [1816]

TO LADY ABERCORN

November, 1816

MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I think I have much greater reason than your Ladyship to complain of a certain fair friend having suffered her Scotch acquaintance to drop out of her memory for I wrote your Ladyship before I went to the Continent last year & also a long epistle from Paris. The last perhaps may not have got farther than the office of the Haute Police although I profess I cannot recollect a single sentence in it offensive to the great nation excepting an opinion that your Ladyship's friend Mrs. Arbuthnot was more beautiful than all the Parisian belles put together. I also
mentioned how very civil Lady Castlereagh had been to me much of which I set down to account of your Ladyships regard. Now as I had no reply to either of these pithy & valuable letters I really concluded that Lady Abercorns leisure was at the time better engaged & as I well know that a correspondance may be intermitted without any diminution of regard in the parties I waited in all patience till your Ladyship had time to throw away a few lines upon me.

I cannot even conjecture whom you mean by Mr. Mackenzie as author of the Antiquary. I should think my excellent old friend Mr. Harry Mackenzie 1 (Author of the Man of Feeling, etc.) was too much advanced in years and plunged in business to amuse himself by writing novels and besides the stile in no degree resembles his. I am told one of the English Reviews gives these works by name and upon alleged authority to George Forbes Sir Williams brother. So they take them off my hands I don't care who they [give] them to for I am really tired of an imputation which I am under the necessity of confuting at every corner. Tom will be soon home from Canada as the death of my elder brother has left him a little money and he may answer for himself but I hardly suspect him unless much changed to be possessed of the perseverance necessary to write nine volumes.1

The only thing I have been doing of late is to write two or three songs for a poor man called Campbell a decay'd artist and musician who tried to teach me music many years ago. He has made an immense collection of highland airs and I have given him words for some of them-One of them is the only good song I ever wrote-
it is a fine Highland Gathering tune called Pibroch an Donuil Dhu that is the Pibroch of Donald the Black. As your Ladyship likes scraps of minstrelsy and I have little that is interesting to say I add the words only observing that in these compositions each return of the air is followed by a number of variations which become gradually more accumulated & rapid as the clan is supposed to gather & prepare for battle.

[Here follows the song as in Poetical Works]

[Here follows the song as in Poetical Works]

TO ROBERT SURTEES

MY DEAR SIR, - I have seldom been more instructed and delighted than by your uncommonly accurate and valuable History of Durham,2 of which you had the goodness to transmit me two copies, which I would long since have acknowledged, had I not wished to read the work before expressing my gratitude for the distinction you have conferrd on me. One of the copies I have given to my friend Thomas Thomson, the Deputy Register of Scotland, whose deep historical knowlege and extensive antiquarian researches render him one of the few persons who are qualified to set a due value upon your labours. He is equally charmd with the stile of execution, and the patient extent of research, which the work exhibits ; and agrees with me, in hopes that Durham will not finally bound your labours ; although we will look with anxiety for their continuation. Northumberland forms a capital subject, lying, as it were, under your hand, and I trust it will not escape you.
It was part of my plan in returning from London last year to have surprized you with a visit at Mainsforth; but I was induced, from various motives, to return by sea, which disappointed this and other parts of my scheme. I regret the more not having had this opportunity to wait upon you, that I would have wished to have made, in person, the amende honorable for my sins as a correspondent, which sit heavy on me on all occasions, but can scarce be so ungracious in any as where you are concern'd. My apology must be alternate hard labour and intervals of very great and predominating indolence, when I have lain on my oars like an Indian in his hammock, after a week's hunting, detesting even the most necessary exertion, and envying the wise hermit of Prague, not for his witty intercourse with the niece of King Gorboduc, but because he never saw pen or ink. But never in these intervals could I forget your goodness and continued assistance upon so many occasions; and I am truly vex'd and angry with myself when I think I have suffer'd you to heap coals of fire on my head, while I was persevering in ungrateful silence. I was indeed half persuaded that I should see you, either by your visiting Abbotsford, or my getting to Mainsforth. But trusting to your kindness to crutch up my lame apologies, or rather to admit my candid confession, I must tell you that I have had a visit from your draughtsman, Mr. Blore, a modest and well bred young man, as well as an excellent artist, and whom I liked particularly on account of the warm feelings which he entertains towards you as his friend and patron. I have had the advantage of his council and assistance in planning a small addition to my least of all possible houses at Abbotsford, to which I
intend to inveigle some of the carved stones and a niche
or two wt. rich canopies from the tolbooth of Edinburgh
-a sort of Bastile in the centre of the principal street,
long used as the place of meeting of the Scottish parliament,
and more lately as the town jail. They are now
pulling it down, and I think you will agree with me, it
were a pity the ancient ornaments should be destroyd
or thrown away. Building has procured many a man a
niche in the jail ; but I shall be the first who reverses that
order of things and brings a niche from the jail.

I have commenced Laird since I heard from you ; and
have, like Squire Shallow, land and beeses. God knows
they are like to be worse articles in the market than they
were some years since. However-I have a wild Ox-moor
to stub-a bog to drain, and sixty or seventy acres to plant
in addition to the same quantity already planted and
thriving. Besides I have the Tweed for one picturesque
boundary of my little property, and a mountain lake, or
tarn, at the other ; both which are tempting subjects of
improvement. Pereat inter haec lux. I cannot add misero ;
for, excepting that in draining my land I drain my purse,
and that my forests flourish more vigorously in the
prophetic eye of my own imagination than in the
commonplace observation of my neighbours, I hardly know

any thing in which I have found more real amusement
than in my rural occupations. You exercise on such
occasions a command over nature ; changing her face at
your pleasure, and compelling her to be what you wish.
You, I understand, have an additional interest in her
productions, by being a great botanist-a science to
which I have never been able to make pretensions, though
my uncle I holds the Botanical chair in the University here,
which might have afforded me excellent opportunities of study. If through him, however, I could gratify any of your wishes connected with the Flora of Scotland, I am certain he has equally the power and the will to oblige you. Adieu. Remember me to Mrs. Surtees; and believe me, unalterably, Dear Sir, Your truly obliged

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH, 12 November [PM 1816]

[Mrs. Clephane]

TO DANIEL TERRY

November 12th, 1816

MY DEAR TERRY,-I have been shockingly negligent in acknowledging your repeated favours, but it so happened, that I have had very little to say, with a great deal to do; so that I trusted to your kindness to forgive my apparent want of kindness, and indisputable lack of punctuality. You will readily suppose that I have heard with great satisfaction of the prosperity of your household, particularly of the good health of my little namesake and his mother. Godmothers of yore used to be fairies; and though only a godfather, I think of sending you one day, a fairy gift—a little drama, namely, which, if the audience be indulgent, may be of use to him. Of course, you will stand godfather to it yourself: it is yet only in embryo—a sort of poetical Hans in Kelder;—nor am I sure when I can bring him forth; not for this season, at any rate. You will receive, in the
course of a few days, my late whereabouts in four volumes: there are two tales— the last of which I really prefer to any fictitious narrative I have yet been able to produce— the first is wishy-washy enough.1 The subject of the second tale lies among the old Scottish Cameronians— nay, I'll tickle ye off a Covenanter as readily as old Jack could do a young Prince; and a rare fellow he is, when brought forth in his true colours. Were it not for the necessity of using scriptural language, which is essential to the character, but improper for the stage, it would be very dramatic.2 But of all this you will judge by and by.

To give the go-by to the public, I have doubled and leaped into my form, like a hare in snow: that is, I have changed my publisher, and come forth like a maiden knight's white shield (there is a conceit!) without any adhesion to fame gained in former adventures (another!) or, in other words, with a virgin title-page (another!)— I

should not be so light-hearted about all this, but that it is very nearly finished and out, which is always a blithe moment for Mr. Author. And now to other matters. The books came safe, and were unpacked two days since, on our coming to town— most ingeniously were they stowed in the legs of the very handsome stand for Lord Byron's vase, with which our friend George Bullock has equipped me. I was made very happy to receive him at Abbotsford, though only for a start; and no less so to see Mr. Blore, from whom I received your last letter. He is a very fine young man, modest, simple, and unaffected in his manners, as well as a most capital artist. I have had the assistance of both these gentlemen in arranging an addition to the cottage at Abbotsford, intended to connect the present farm-house with the line of low buildings to the right of it. Mr. Bullock will show
you the plan, which I think is very ingenious. He has promised to give it his consideration with respect to the interior; and Mr. Blore has drawn me a very handsome elevation, both to the road and to the river. I expect to get some decorations from the old Tolbooth of Edinburgh, particularly the cope-stones of the door-way, or lintels, as we call them, and a niche or two-one very handsome indeed! Better get a niche from the Tolbooth than a niche in it, to which such building operations are apt to bring the projectors. This addition will give me:—first, a handsome boudoir, in which I intend to place Mr. Bullock's Shakespeare,1 with his superb cabinet, which serves as a pedestal. This opens into the little drawing-room, to which it serves as a chapel of ease; and on the other side, to a handsome dining-parlour of 27 feet by 18, with three windows to the north, and one to the south,—the last to be Gothic, and filled with stained glass. Besides these commodities, there is a small conservatory or greenhouse; and a study for myself, which we design to fit up with ornaments from Melrose Abbey. Bullock made several casts with his own hands-masks, and so forth, delightful for cornices, &c.

Do not let Mrs. Terry think of the windows till little Wat is duly cared after. I am informed by Mr. Blore that he is a fine thriving fellow, very like papa. About my armorial bearings: I will send you a correct drawing of them as soon as I can get hold of Blore; namely-of the scutcheons of my grandsires on each side, and my own. I could detail them in the jargon of heraldry, but it is better to speak to your eyes by translating them into coloured drawings, as the sublime science of armory has
fallen into some neglect of late years, with all its mascles, buckles, crescents, and boars of the first, second, third, and fourth.

I was very sorry I had no opportunity of showing attention to your friend Mr. Abbot, not being in town at the time. I grieve to say, that neither the genius of Kean nor the charms of Miss O’Neill could bring me from the hill-side and the sweet society of Tom Purdie. All our family are very well—Walter as tall nearly as I am, fishing salmon and shooting moor-fowl and black-cock, in good style; the girls growing up, and, as yet, not losing their simplicity of character; little Charles excellent at play, and not deficient at learning, when the young dog will take pains. Abbotsford is looking pretty at last, and the planting is making some show. I have now several hundred acres thereof, running out as far as beyond the lake. We observe with great pleasure the steady rise which you make in public opinion, and expect, one day, to hail you stage-manager. Believe me, my dear Terry, always very much yours,

W. SCOTT

P.S.—The Counsellor, and both the Ballantynes, are well and hearty.

[Lockhart]

TO LADY LOUISA STUART
EDINBURGH Novr 14 1816

DEAR LADY LOUISA,—Your kind token of remembrance
would not have remained so long unanswered but for an inroad of visitors who relieved guard upon me without intermission until I left Abbotsford two days ago, & the little time which I could spare for my pen was necessarily dedicated to getting forward with the labour I had in hand & which after all was a little, or rather not a little interrupted. For besides that Abbotsford affords no more opportunity of seclusion than one would possess in a moderate sized lanthorn there is a sort of pleasure in the present state of matters there to run about with every new stranger, and tell him thus I have done & this do I design to do-so have things been formerly-thus they stand now, & thus seen by prophetic spectacles they will shew hereafter. There is great amusement in reciting that description of between what is & what was which Mr. Repton exhibits by means of that ancient contrivance a raree show omitting only the magnifying glass & substituting his red book for the box and strings. The unfortunate guests to be sure pay for their beef & port with wet feet & perhaps sore throats when they are carried round to see nature in her primitive nakedness & the tailors engaged in cutting out her new cloaths : but then what came they forth to the wilderness to see-for my part I make it a rule never to spare them either for pinch'd features, benumb'd hands, miry feet or doleful looks & receive all the compliments which their sad civility compels them to muster as a debt due & a thing of course. In the mean time hours slip away dinner comes, & we are hungry-evening & we are lazy-night & we are sleepy, & thus wears the world away. In the midst of all these avocations & at the expense of neglecting the correspondence of some valued friend (among whom none can rank more highly than Lady Louisa Stuart) I have
accomplished a novel or rather four volumes of tales, chiefly that I might not ruin myself or do injustice to my family by this same rage of improving like any mad. I intended to have written four tales illustrative of the manners of Scotland in her different provinces. But as no man that wrote so much ever knew so little what he intended to do when he began to write or executed less of the little which he had premeditated I totally altered my plans before I had compleated my first volume. I began a border tale well enough but tired of the ground I had trode so often before I had walked over two thirds of the course. Besides I found I had circumscribed my bounds too much & in manege phrase that my imagination not being well in hand could not lounge easily within so small a circle. So I quarrelled with my story, & bungled up a conclusion as a boarding school Miss finishes a task which she had commenced with great glee & accuracy. In the next tale I have succeeded better, at least I think so: it is a covenanting story the time lies at the era of Bothwell Brigg the scene in Lanarkshire: there are noble subjects for narrative during that period full of the strongest light & shadow, all human passions stirr'd up & stimulated by the most powerful motives, & the contending parties as distinctly contrasted in manners & in modes of thinking as in political principles. I am complete master of the whole history of these strange times both of persecutors & persecuted so I trust I have come decently off for as Falstaff very reasonably asks is not the truth the truth. You will soon judge for yourself as I will take care to send an early copy to Gloucester Street conditionally that your Ladyship will have the goodness not to shew it to any one till it is regularly published in London for it is very odd what trifles are summon'd up as articles of evidence.
I will tell you when we meet what may have given rise to my brothers being named as the author of Waverley &c. It is a report which if he would avail himself of the very strong talents both of pathetic & humourous description which he really possesses (car il y est de quoi) he might make it a very fortunate report for him. But he is one of the many, many hundreds in whom indolence has strangled genius, & the habits acquired in an unsettled state of life are highly unfavourable to his ever doing anything in this way, though the state of his family would render it the wisest thing he could do.

As for Harold the Dauntless I hope soon to finish him & have him out so as to charge horse & foot in the same month. My ostensible employment is a view of the history of Scotland long since written & on which I set so much value that I shall revise it with great care. Such therefore is your answer my dear Lady Louisa when any one asks what your friend W. S. is about. Morritt was well & generally speaking in good spirits when he was with us : he bears & feels his loss like a man but he seems to have set up his rest & hope in his nephew : now this I do not like for the poor young Lad has a consumptive habit & the idea that our valued friend is to dedicate his time & to build his happiness on a prop so apt to fail him seems to me rather alarming : much, much rather would I hear that he had form'd a new connection & I am only afraid of his pronouncing himself so decidedly just now as may prevent him from thinking of it at another time. These things however go most especially
by destiny & to destiny let us leave them. When he return'd from Lady Seaforths he passed a day with me & had then a swelled face & a cold which seem'd to annoy him very much. I wish I could say I think the Duke well - but I do not - his spirits get above his strength & he is cheerful & makes others so, but he looks ill in general & I cannot look upon him without the most anxious apprehension. Would to God he had a hearty & regular fit of the gout for I think it flits about him in an unpleasant manner. The young ladies are really charming girls, so gentle & sensible, & fond of each other as well as attentive to their father. Surely the family affections which heaven has bestow'd on that family are worth all other advantages. Adieu my dear Lady Louisa. Mrs. Scott joins her respectful compliments & I ever am most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT
[Abbotsford Copies and Familiar Letters]

TO J. B. S. MORRITT

MY DEAR MORRITT,-I hope this will find you well recovered of all the colds and wettings which you caught in the land of mist and snow, and not quite shivering when you think of the banks of the Tweed. We have left them for two or three days and are now safely settled in Castle Street. One of our first occupations was to unpack Shakespeare and his superb pedestal, which is positively the most elegant and appropriate piece of furniture which I ever saw. It has been the admiration of all who have seen, and that has been half Edinburgh, for aught that I know, for its arrival has made a great sensation. There is really great taste in the form and colouring of the cabinet and it would do Bullock immortal honour were it not to be suspected that it was executed under the
(4-295) direction of a certain classical traveller. The value which

(4-296) [I] set upon it as your gift as it would have given very
(4-296) much to the merest trifle adds not a little even to the
(4-296) intrinsic value of this splendid cabinet and now I have
(4-296) only to arrange a proper shrine for the Bard of Avon
(4-296) since you have fitted him with an altar worthy of himself.

(4-296) The figure came safe; and the more I look at it the
(4-296) more I feel that it must have resembled the Bard much
(4-296) more than any of the ordinary prints, unless it be that
(4-296) in the first folio edition, which has all the appearance
(4-296) of being taken from it. The forehead is more expanded,
(4-296) and has not a narrow, peaked, and priggish look
(4-296) inconsistent with the dignity of Shakespeare's character, and
(4-296) which strongly marks all the ordinary portraits, which
(4-296) seem to me more like Spenser than Shakespeare.

(4-296) But to descend from Shakespeare, his bust and cabinet,
(4-296) to matters of humbler import, you will receive in a day or
(4-296) two the Tales of My Landlord. The last is, I think, the
(4-296) best I have yet been able to execute, although written
(4-296) by snatches and at intervals. It is quite finished, and I
(4-296) expect to get copies in boards by Friday or Saturday.
(4-296) Yours of course sits among the foremost, and I will be
(4-296) glad to learn it reaches you safe and gives you amusement.

(4-296) All things go on with us as usual. I have settled
(4-296) Walter tightly to his Greek and Latin, to which we add
(4-296) French, Italian, and the elements of mathematics. He
(4-296) goes to the manege thrice a week, and fences twice. With
(4-296) reading history and attending to geography, he will have
(4-296) enough to do through the winter. As for me, I bother
(4-296) on with my proposed addition, and I have got, since I had
the benefit of your advice, that of Bullock and Mr. Blore, so that I have every chance of ruining myself genteelly.

Meantime, they have ordered a new edition of the Tales, which will help out these mighty operations against they are set agoing. By the way, I have just received Childe Harold, part 3rd. 1 Lord Byron has more avowedly identified himself with his personage than upon former occasions, and in truth does not affect to separate them. It is wilder and less sweet, I think, than the first part, but contains even darker and more powerful pourings forth of the spirit which boils within him. I question whether there ever lived a man who, without looking abroad for subjects excepting as they produced an effect on himself, has contrived to render long poems turning almost entirely upon the feelings, character, and emotions of the author, so deeply interesting. We gaze on the powerful and ruined mind which he presents us, as on a shattered castle, within whose walls, once intended for nobler guests, sorcerers and wild demons are supposed to hold their Sabbaths. There is something dreadful in reflecting that one gifted so much above his fellow-creatures, should thus labour under some strange mental malady that destroys his peace of mind and happiness, altho’ it cannot quench the fire of his genius. I fear the termination will be fatal in one way or other, for it seems impossible that human nature can support the constant working of an imagination so dark and so strong. Suicide or utter insanity is not unlikely to close the scene. " Orandum sit" as the sapient Partridge says, " ut sit mens saw in corpore sano." 1

Our weather here has been somewhat better ever since the eclipse. The sun, I suppose, felt himself bound in honour to show that he had not been extinguished out-
right on Monday last, which was much to be apprehended, considering the blinking way in which he has been all summer. For my part, I would not consent to look at the eclipse at all, for the sight of the unshadowed sun would have been much the greater singularity of the two as things have gone this season. Adieu, let this sheet of nonsense only intimate that I long to hear from you, and

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am grateful for the kindness that gave me so much of your time at Abbotsford. I am finishing my tale of the heathen Dane. Mrs. Scott and the young folks offer respectful and affectionate remembrances, and I am ever, my dear Morritt, most truly yours,

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, 22 November 1816

[Major Morritt and Familiar Letters]

TO CHARLES ERSKINE

[Extract]

MY DEAR CHARLES,-I have your letter and will attend to the contents. I have not got the accompt of what I am due at the roup which I shall be glad to pay and also to pay Mr. Moss's interest. Moreover before the 30th I must settle with Mr. Milne. For all which purposes I intend to be at Abbotsford on Monday se'ennight and clear my accompts. I hope it will be convenient for you to give me a call that morning. The extent of the land bought by me from Mr. Milne is 90 acres with a rood more which I presume he will give me into the bargain but some acres were to be charged 29-the rest being at
22-there is also about 30 due for the trees. I should like to know the amount of the whole that I may know the balance I am to pay over & above Mrs. Mercers bill. . . .

I trust I shall have the pleasure of seeing you on Monday morning. I would willingly have come out this week but I must wait till Teind day gives me an additional holiday. I trust you will dine with us on Monday. Ever yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 23d. Nov. [1816]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

MY DEAR FRIEND I owe you so many thanks & so many apologies that although the pen is new and the sheet of post paper ample I confess both would be exhausted in matter of compliment without my debt being effectually discharged so I will make a fair bankruptcy at once without attempting to delay the catastrophe by making partial payments. Wellcome my dear friend to the country which you honour and the friends who love you. The act of travelling [is] in itself delightful as affording so many new grounds of reflection and exciting so many new ideas that it almost gives advanced life the vivacity of youth. Yet after all to Britons its greatest charm is the return home and the power of comparing social life as it exists among us with the precarious state in which it is found upon the continent. The grinding
power of the military system the want of respect paid to the civil power the total carelessness and corruption which attends the administration of justice the want of religion in its true state of influence upon the moral feelings and habits of the people reconcile us wonderfully to our changeful climate and stormy politics. All I ever longed for on the continent was their light wines which you don’t care about and their fine climate which we should both value equally. And to say truth I never saw scene or palace which shook my allegiance to Tweedside and Abbotsford though so inferior in every respect and though the hills or rather Braes are just high enough "to lift us to the storms " when the storms are not so condescending as to sweep both crest and base which to do them justice is seldom the case.

What have I got to send you in return for the sublime description of the Alps-alas nothing but the history of petty employments and a calendar of unceasing bad weather. The latter was much mitigated by enjoying for a good portion of the summer the society of John Morritt of Rokeby who has so much of that which is delightful both in his grave and gayer moods that he can make us forget the hill side while sitting by the fire side. His late loss has cast a general shade of melancholy over him which renders him yet dearer to his friends and the gentle and unaffected manner in which his natural gaiety of temper gleams through it render it still more interesting. He put me much in mind of the three beautiful similes which follow each other so closely in a certain tragedy of a certain lady and which I have always ranked among the finest poetical passages ever were written-A far different object of interest-yet still of interest how ever painfully
(4-300)chequerd with pity and disapprobation is Lord Byron
(4-300)whose present situation seems to rival all that ever has
(4-300)been said and sung of the misfortunes of a too irritable
(4-300)imagination. The last part of Childe Harold intimates
(4-300)a terrible state of mind and with all the power and
(4-300)genius which characterized his former productions the
(4-300)present seems to indicate a more serious and desperate
(4-300)degree of misanthropy. I own I was not much moved by
(4-300)the sort of scorn of the world which his first poems implied
(4-300)because I know it is a humour of mind which those whom
(4-300)fortune has spoiled by indulgence or irritated by reverses
(4-300)are apt to assume and which a man of genius sometimes
(4-300)may be tempted to assume because it looks melancholy
(4-300)and gentlemanlike and becomes a bard as well as being
(4-300)desperately in love or very fond of the sun-rise tho he lies
(4-300)in bed till nine or anxious in recommending to others to
(4-300)catch cold by visiting old Abbeys by moonlight which he
(4-300)never happened to see under the chaste moonbeam himself.
(4-300)-But this strange poem goes much deeper and either the
(4-300)Demon of misanthropy is in full possession of him or he
(4-300)has invited in guests equally desperate to the swept and
(4-300)garnished mansion of Harold's understanding. On my
(4-300)word of honour I should expect it to end either in actual
(4-300)insanity or something equally frightful. I am glad you

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(4-301)have contradicted the reports of his following a course of
(4-301)open profligacy. I wonder who can have pleasure in
(4-301)circulating such stories were it not that the degradation
(4-301)of genius seems to give as little pain to vulgar minds as
(4-301)the plotting a bird does to a cook who cares little whether
(4-301)it be a dunghill cock or a pheasant. I should be glad to
(4-301)hear that Lady Byron was as well as circumstances can
(4-301)entitle her friends to hope. It is a terrible thing to
(4-301)be attached to the flight of such a Balloon as Lord B, and
the high interest which his writings maintain keep him in a manner before the eye of the public and prevent her misfortune from dying away and being forgotten as in the ordinary case.

To return to my own petty affairs. I have some thought of enlarging Abbotsford this year and I have got a very pretty plan which may be executed at moderate expense having the local advantage of plenty of stones on the property. I have always had a private dislike to a regular shape of a house although no doubt it would be wrong headed to set about building an irregular one from the beginning. But when the cottage enlarges itself and grows out of circumstances which is the case at Abbotsford the outs and the ins afford without so much variety and depth of shade and within give such an odd variety of snug accommodation that they far exceed in my estimation the cut-lugged bandbox with four rooms on a floor and two stories rising regularly above each other.

From this you will be disposed to augur something rather whimsical and I believe you will be perfectly right. The present mansion consists of two parts divided from each other by an interval of about 34 feet and I purpose the new building shall occupy this interval and thus connect the two dwellings. There is to be a small conservatory (think of that) and a little Boudoir for my fine Bust of Shakespeare, a good eatingroom and a small den for myself in particular. The ground falls so much from the front that I can secure any quantity of accommodation below. Above I will have two comfortable bedrooms with dressing closets. The front I intend shall have some resemblance to one of the old-fashioned English halls which your gentlemen of 500 a year lived comfortably in in former
To augment the resemblance I have contrived to bespeak certain canopies which at present adorn that ancient and venerated mansion the tolbooth in Edinburgh, so if my building does not give me a niche in the present at least I will get one out of it. They are finely carved being intended for the reception of Saints and having held them I suppose till John Knox knockd them down. This curious old building the Bastille of Edinburgh and formerly the place where the parliament met came down this year and the Magistrates have very politely promised me any part of [the] ornaments which may suit my purpose and it will be hard if I cannot find a purpose for all that is worth carrying thirty miles. My plantations have grown this year like any mad, they are the only production which has thriven during the late uncommon season when rain and wind was the constant order of the day. The weather has really been frightful and its effect on the country must be serious for much of the corn has been standing in the snow and the potatoes have in general sufferd exceedingly. The same measure which last year was offerd for nine pence and would hardly fetch that price now fetches i8d and you know how much our peasantry trust to this excellent root.

We hope however that things will not be so bad as we anticipated some time since. There has been a sudden and unexpected start in the price of live stock which about a month since was depreciated in a degree almost ruinous to the tenantry and must have ruind many. This is of great consequence for if the farmer is ruin he can not employ the labourer. Money seems also to be becoming more plenty and credit is said to be better though no one knows very well why. The opening of the ports for importation has had a great effect...
in setting the looms agoing at Glasgow and elsewhere.
For the continental merchants are willing enough to take
our commodities only they have no money to pay for them
unless by our buying their corn. So that I trust upon
the whole things will come gradually round again. The
unnatural state of things and the distorted channels of
commerce which gradually arose out of the State of war
makes a dislocation which cannot be reduced to its natural
and proper state without pain and suffering. In the
meantime these are encouragements to an improver like
me to ruin myself in carrying on all my hobby horsical
plans for as Uncle Toby says, is it not in the cause of the
country? In fact, we must find the poor folks work and
if that is all they ask, which after all is only diverting our
superfluities to our own enjoyments by means of their
labour all who have the means of doing it should try to
find them employment-the best charity in one point of
view since it preserves the independence of the labourers
character and the most useful in another since the
employer must derive either pleasure or advantage or both
while he essentially benefits the person employd. Mrs.
Scott and Sophia beg their kind love and the rest offer
their respects tho/ unknown. I beg mine to Mrs. A. Baillie
the Doctor and his lady and Mrs. Milligan. Ever most
truly yours while

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 26 Novr. 1816
[Royal College of Surgeons, London and Abbotsford Copies]
to lie so long by me unanswered. It happened
however owing to my being at Abbotsford that I did not
receive your packet till last week—and consequently
I can with a bold face for once give chance the blame of
my silence. The Brussells letter came safe, and I will
take care that the verses are inscribed in the next copy of
the Register— I have been obliged to take the pen
there myself, to help the historical department, which had
fallen into the yellow leaf when Southey gave it up. I shall be glad of any occasional Irish intelligence from you
of a kind that can be relied upon, when such happens to
fall in your way, in the shape of a pamphlet, or so—
You have been so kind in that way already, that with
the true feelings of an obliged person, I have no hesitation
to intrude upon you further—If you are disposed to tune
your pipes to a Scotch song or so, I will get them a place
in a collection which I have patronized as far as I can—
It is a collection of original and unpublished airs, both
Lowland and Gaelic, the Editor a crack brained Original,
named Alexr. Campbell, who many, (too many) years
since taught music in my Father's Family, then married
the Widow of a Highland Chieftain—commenced sheep
farmer, and was utterly ruined—he is a bad poet, and
unluckily fond of making verses, of which he has inserted
but too many in this work—which he fantastically
entitles Albyns Anthology— but then he is a real good
musician, accurate in taking down music from singing,
and indefatigable in collecting it—an enthusiastic good
hearted Highlander besides—so that I have done all I
could to help him, to a little cash—his first No. has
succeeded very well, I gave him five or six songs, one or
two of which you will probably like, intended to illusstrate
the Highland Gatherings—so if you incline to play
the Fool you will do it in Friend's company-I had a
letter from Mr. Monck Mason, requesting me to return
Mr. Steeles papers, as he had permission to inspect them-
Of course I answered that they were not now in my hands,
having been returned many months since through the
channel from which I had received them. I now enclose
under Mr. Taylor's Frank the few I did not put into the
box-as I was desirous of making a facsimile of one or two,
in fact they have been undisturbed in my drawer however
untill your return that they might pass safe through your
hands- The greatest mortification arising from the
delay of your letter, is not having seen your Friend, Mr.
North. If I had known he had been in the country, I
would have solicited the pleasure of his company when he
paid his devotions to Melrose ; I am afraid his pilgrimage
was a very rainy one, for there have been very few fine
days at Abbotsford this season-it was hey ho the wind
and the rain for weeks incessantly- Nothing has thriven
with us but the plantations, and these are now rising so
fast, that you will hardly know Abbotsford unless you
come to see it again very soon- I have a great deal of
the same sort to do however, as much indeed as will keep
me hard at work for several years, if life and funds last
so long- I believe I wrote to you that we now extend
ourselves as far as Cauldshiels Loch, where you remember
Walter's Frigate had nearly suffered shipwreck- He
also is a thriving plant, he commenced Moor fowl Shooter
this year, and killed seven brace on Ashestiel and Peel on
the 12th of August- I am glad your tour turned out
amusing and interesting ; to see foreign parts gives I
think more the feelings of youth to those of an advanced
age than anything they can engage [in]. You are too
young to use travelling as a stimulus, but my journeyings
like Sir Wilful Witwould's I have begun on the wrong side of forty, and therefore I am the more sensible of it.

I sometimes think seriously of going to Rome next season and yet I do not quite like to be so long absent from my own Family—but moreover than all that, I have some thoughts of making Abbotsford more comfortable by adding four rooms to the present cottage— I should wish this to be rather nattily done, and there will be curious blundering if I am absent from the Workfolks—

Mrs. Scott, the Girls and Boys join in kind respects and I am ever dear Sir very Truly Your's

WALTER SCOTT

I must not omit to thank you for the breviaries which are very interesting, especially the Spanish one; I see you have found out the old book shop in the place at Brussells.

November 28th, 1816
[Abbotsford Copies]

SIR WALTER SCOTT 1816

TO LADY ABERCORN

29th November 1816
-I have been long waiting for an, opportunity of writing to you with a good grace and I think I have found one which may in some degree attone for my ungracious silence which after all has only arisen from my having nothing to say that I thought likely to interest you. I have sent under Mr. Arbuthnot's cover four volumes of a novel or rather a set of novels which I am strongly inclined to swear are the production of the unknown author of Guy Mannering about which you are so much interested. I suppose it will be soon
published in London but I hope these volumes will reach
your Ladyship before that takes place. The Bookseller
here says he is not to publish till next week but gave me
a reading of the volumes and at my earnest entreaty
parted with the set I have the honour to beg your acceptance
of. I do not like the first story at all. But the long
one which occupies three volumes is a most extraordinary
production. I cannot think it at all likely that Young
Harry Mackenzie I wrote these books. I know him very
well and have no idea that he has either time or disposition
to bestow it on such compositions. He is high at the bar
and has a great deal too much to do for writing novels.
His brother James might be more likely to amuse himself
in that way but I think this also is unlikely. I should
like to know if you are of my opinion as to these new
volumes coming from the same hand. They form two
small packets addressed to your Ladyship under cover to
Mr. Arbuthnot Treasury and I trust will come safe.

I conclude you have seen Lord Byron's new poem.
He is a person of most wonderful powers and I think in
nothing more admirable than in the new and fresh interest
with which he can present his own feelings and his own
disposition and his own misfortunes. Almost all
characters from Harold to Alp Arselan I are more or less Lord
Byron himself and yet you never tire of them. It is the
same set of stormy emotions acting on the same powerful
mind distinguished equally by the eccentricities and the
temperament of genius—it is the same sea in short-dashing
upon the same rocks yet presented to us under such
variety of appearance that they have all the interest of
novelty.
I have been living quietly at home all the last summer working hard at planting and improving my little property which of late I have extended to about six hundred acres most of which are of a waste and wild description but not incapable from the inequality and exposure of the ground to be made romantic and even in some parts beautiful by planting extensively. So I saunter about from nine in the morning till five at night with a plaid about my shoulders and an immensely large bloodhound at my heels and stick in sprigs which are to become trees when I shall have no eyes to look at them. Somebody will look at them however though I question if they will have the same pleasure in gazing on the full-grown oaks that I have had in nursing the saplings. There is something in these operations that connects us more with futurity than anything which we can undertake for we are sowing that posterity may reap and planting that they may cut down.

I conclude all the improvements at the priory are now completed and that you are in quiet possession and not thinking of London untill spring. We have had dreadful weather in this country unmatched by anything in the memory of man. A fortnight since people were cutting corn in the midst of the snow and this not only in upland districts but in the best corn country. Corn is of course rising fast and as the wages of the labourers are low I fear there will be disturbances unless care is taken in time for preventing them.-Ever I am with the most sincere regard, Dear Lady Abercorn your truly grateful and obliged friend, WALTER SCOTT

I beg to be respectfully remembered to Lord Abercorn.
TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

MY DEAR LORD DUKE,- Your Grace has been so much my constant and kind friend and patron through the course of my life that I trust I need no apology for thrusting upon your consideration some ulterior views which have been suggested to me by my friends, and which I will either endeavour to prosecute time and place serving or lay aside all thoughts of as they appear to your Grace feasible and likely to be forwarded by your patronage. It has been suggested to me in a word that there would be no impropriety in my being put in nomination as a candidate for the Situation of a Baron of Exchequer when a vacancy shall take place. The difference of the emolument between that situation and those which I now hold is just 400 a year so that in that point of view it is not a very great object. But there is a great difference in the rank and also in the leisure afforded by a Barons situation and a man may without condemnation endeavour at my period of life to obtain as much honour and ease as he can handsomely come bye. My pretensions to such an honour (next to your Grace[s] countenancing my wishes) would rest very much on the circumstance that my nomination would vacate two good offices (Cleric of Session and Sheriff of Selkirkshire) to the amount of 1000, and 300, a year and besides would extinguish a pension of 300, which I have for life over and above my salary as Clerk of Session as having been in office at the time when the Judicature act deprived us.
of a part of our vested fees and emoluments. The extinction of this pension would be just so much saved to the public. I am pretty confident also that I would be personally acceptable to our friend the Chief. But whether all or any of these circumstances will weigh much in my favour must solely and entirely rest with Your Grace without whose countenance it would be folly in me to give the matter a second thought. It does not occur to me that there is any person making violent love to this situation at present which is I suppose the reason that has made people suppose me a candidate & likely to be successful. With your Graces patronage both my situation and habits of society may place my hopes as far as any who is likely to apply and your Graces interest will be strengthend by the opportunity of placing some good friend in Selkirkshire besides converting the minstrel of the Clan into a Baron a transmutation worthy of so powerful and so kind a Chief. But if your Grace thinks I ought to drop thoughts of this preferment I am abound to say that I think myself as well provided for by my friends and the public as I have the least title to expect and that I am perfectly contented and grateful for what I have received. The leisure afforded by the duties of my present offices has been such as has enabled me to realize my little landed property which may be worth 500 or 600 a year in ordinary times-so that I should be most unjust were I quarrelling with it. By the bye I observe with some surprize that in all the little purchases I have made the sellers (your Graces vassalls) have always been in Non-entry-if this is the case with the other vassalls in the regality of Melrose as I suspect it to be there must be very large sums lost to your Graces estate besides the Vassalls titles going totally into disorder.
Your Grace knows my wishes and feelings towards your person & family too well to suppose I would intrude such an observation unless from a kind of old fashiond feeling of love and duty when I think I see your interest neglected - I was very sorry to learn when I was last in the country for two or three days that your Grace had been unwell which prevented my disturbing you with a visit at Bowhill. I expect unless prevented by bad weather to be at Abbotsford the Xmas week & will be desirous to pay my respects at Bowhill if it should be then convenient & I sincerely hope that health at least will not prevent your Grace from receiving me. I am with great respect My dear Lord Duke Your Graces truly obliged & faithful Servant

WALTER SCOTT
EDINR. 11 Decr. [1816]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH, BOWHILL, SELKIRK

MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I am honourd with your Graces letter. I do indeed know and by weighty and most essential Acts of kindness the interest you have always taken in my wishes and wellfare which I can only feebly repay by the grateful affection with which I have lookd up to your Grace for so many years. To think of your Grace and your family with the attachment they deserve will probably be among the last exertions of thought of which I may be capable.

I dined in company with the Chief Baron yesterday and understand he will be at Bowhill on Christmas day or thereabout so that I wish your Grace to be in full
possession of the carte de pays when you take the trouble
to talk with him on the subject. Independent of your
Graces reluctance to apply to a quarter where in the
opinion of every one you have been most unhandsomely
treated I considering that they set aside the only opportunity
of paying some thing to accompt of the long arrear
of obligation conferred on this government by your father &
yourself, independant I say of this well grounded reluctance
I think the Chief Baron would at any rate be the
natural channel of application as the Head of the Court
of Exchequer & to me most kind cordial & friendly from
the moment I came to the bar when he distinguishd me
by his particular patronage. As to the other folks the
feeling that they have given cause of deserved displeasure
to your Grace (who after all is their Tower of Strength in
Scotland) is fully more likely to induce them to meet
Your wishes though in an affair of such very inferior
interest. Thus far of the mode of application.

The first probability of an opening will be by the Death
or Resignation of Baron Norton. By the constitution
of the Court there must always be one English Baron of
Exchequer who has 500 a year in addition to the ordinary
salary of 2000. I know the Chancellor would be desirous
to send down Alexander the Barrister in this capacity.
But there is already an English Barrister on the Bench
in the person of Adam who if he gets scent of this ^500
additional will be unwilling to part with it. And the
sending down a Second Barrister from the South would be
highly unpopular with the Scotch bar and I should think
not less so with the Scotch Ministers who naturally will
(4-313) desire to give their own fish-guts to their own Seamaws, and
(4-313) who besides on the promotion of a Scottish candidate
(4-313) will have his appointments to dispose of whereas those of
(4-313) Alexander will fall under other patronage. I have good
(4-313) access to Adam were it necessary who independent of his
(4-313) own interest would like to lend me a shove as I believe
(4-313) it would be rather grateful as otherwise at Carleton House.

(4-313) Setting Alexander aside I do not know any one likely
(4-313) to make a struggle excepting David Hume 1 at present my
(4-313) colleague & a professor of Scottish law. Now it consists
(4-313) with my knowledge that Mr. Hume has repeatedly declined
(4-313) high promotion in the court of Session in which his
(4-313) eminent talents & legal knowledge might be employed
(4-313) successfully & I also know there was a sort of understanding
(4-313) that his Clerks appointment was to satisfy him.
(4-313) There would therefore be doubt how far his claim ought
(4-313) to be revived in opposition to one favoured by your
(4-313) Graces patronage & though as a Scotch lawyer his claims
(4-313) are far superior to mine yet to Exchequer we should both
(4-313) bring the same aptitude to learn our duty & I think I
(4-313) might boast a more practicable and less anxious temper.
(4-313) In other respects I may plead that I served the public
(4-313) six of the best years of my life for nothing and it will not
(4-313) escape consideration that whereas in case of my promotion
(4-313) 300 will result to the public which is some argument
(4-313) in these times & 1300 to be disposed of by government
(4-313) yet in case of Mr. Humes promotion government will

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(4-314) only have his 1000 to give away for his professorship is
(4-314) filled up by election in the Faculty of Advocates & they
(4-314) will assuredly give it to an Edinburgh reviewer such being
(4-314) the management under which they at present act--
(4-314) Unless there is some positive and pledged engagement I
think with the aid of your Graces patronage (being indeed all in all) I shall start very fair for I do not think the House of Buccleuch has made a supreme judge this thirty years & what they have been doing for government since Pitt came in no one knows better than the Lord Chief Baron. I conceive Sir William Rae 1 will look to Exchequer. But that should be in his turn. And so enough of this selfish scribble which however seemed necessary.

Your Graces health is too valuable to your friends & the country more especially at this moment to permit us to be very easy while you are complaining. Why not try Bath my dear Lord. It was of service on former occasions and I own I should not think the warm air inside of Bowhill when contrasted with the very sharp air without doors favourable to the cough at this time when I think the Devil seems to have taken possession of a certain party of the community. But if I were to say to you in the words of Shakespeare

0 what a time you have chose out brave Chieftain To wear the kerchief-Would you were not sick your heart if not your tongue would reply

I am not sick if Romans have in hand Any exploit worthy the name of honour.2

Artillery is off for Glasgow & also the arms to be deliverd to the Elite of the volunteers. I believe Government are in possession of the plans of the discontented & that they are very extensive. They cannot but ultimately bring their actors into destruction but much bloodshed will be avoided by timely precaution. Here we are quite
expecting the Great Arch Duke Nicolas—a shabby sort of name methinks

Alas! O Nick O Nick—alas I
Right did thy gossip call thee &c

ruses involuntarily into ones mind. He is to be
entertained by the Advocate on Wednesday & the Provost
on Thursday. It is lucky we have such a respectable
father of the city at present. He may sing with Cicero,

O fortunatam natam me consule Romam.

Indeed he deserves to be elevated from Dickie Gossip as
we used to term him of yore into Sir Richard Gossip.
Certainly I have seen provosts who would have made
strange work upon such occasions.
Lord Byrons poems mark great progress, I suspect, of

the insane turn which he has lately shown & which I
always thought his very particular cast of features
strongly indicated. Gorgon Whitmore looking his
horse dead certainly destroys the pathos of the two
unfortunately [sic] gentlemen who looked each other out
of this world of wickedness.

As your Grace is in the way of idle reading I have
forwarded by the Coach a copy of certain historical
affairs call’d Tales of my Landlord which give no bad
picture of the ancient covenanting period in Scotland.
I was surprized to find Ballantyne had not sent a copy to
Bowhill. Of these and other matters: when I have the
honor to meet your Grace I trust to find you well recovered.
Charles Sharpe projects a publication of original letters
from which I think much amusement will be derived.
I know no man so deep in old genealogy & antiquated scandal. I fear he will destroy the honour of God knows how many of the Great Grandmothers of our present Noblesse. I believe the work will not be for sale but I will take care your Grace has a copy.2

When I come to Bowhill I will explain the nature & of the non-entry duties. I suspect many thousands have been lost by not looking after them. Indeed I know it must be so & that many thousands are at this moment as justly due as any part of your Graces rents. In fact the whole Regality with very few exceptions is at present forfeited to your Grace for non-payment of the duties.

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I believe I am the first vassal that entered regularly for some time which I did as a lawyer & to get a good right to my lands. For Abbotsford alone I paid a year’s rent modified to 60 or 70. When this was paid as the due on a hundred acres compute what that fine Regality ought to pay.

I beg to be most respectfully rememberd to the young ladies. Walter is working at the Riding with Colonel Leatham to serve Ld. Dalkeith in the auld phrase When he hath aught to do. I suppose following the greyhounds will be the first feudal service. Ever my Lord Duke Your Graces truly faithful & obliged

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 14 December [1816] [Buckie]
TO ROBERT CADELL

DEAR SIR, I should wish to have the promissory note for 350 at 3 months I retiring that on the 24th. As I am going to the country tomorrow or next day it will be better to discount it there than here where renewals might be inconvenient from the extent of our transactions. Of course I look after that due on the 24th.

I am no picture buyer myself and I should think Stellas etc were most likely to find purchasers in Ireland if authentic. I always understood the only portrait of Mrs Johnston & that a profile was with my friend Dr. Berwicke.

Yours truly

W. SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Wednesday [18th December 1816]

Mr Cadell
Mr Constables

[Stevenson]

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TO JOHN MURRAY

EDINBURGH, 18th December 1816

MY DEAR SIR, I give you heartily joy of the success of the Tales, although I do not claim that paternal interest in them which my friends do me the credit to assign me. I assure you I have never read a volume of them till they were printed, and can only join with the rest of the world in applauding the true and striking portraits which
they present of old Scottish manners. I do not expect implicit reliance to be placed on my disavowal, because I know very well that he who is resolved not to own a work must necessarily deny it, and that otherwise his secret would be at the mercy of all who chose to ask the question, since silence in such a case must always pass for consent, or rather assent. But I have a mode of convincing you that I am perfectly serious in my denial—pretty similar to that by which Solomon distinguished the fictitious from the real mother—and that is, by reviewing the work, which I take to be an operation similar to the experiment of quartering the child. But this is only on condition I can have Mr. Erskine's assistance, who admires the work greatly more than I do, though I think the painting of the second tale both true and powerful. I knew Old Mortality very well; his name was Paterson, but few knew him otherwise than by his nickname. The first tale is not very original in its concoction, and lame [and] impotent in the conclusion. My love to Gifford. I have been over head and ears in work this summer, or I would have sent the Gypsies; indeed I was partly stopped by finding it impossible to procure a few words of their language.

Constable wrote me about two months since, desirous of having a new edition of Paul; but not hearing from you, I conclude you are still on hand. Longman's people had then only sixty copies.

Kind compliments to Heber, whom I expected at Abbotsford this summer; also to Mr. Croker and all your 4 o'clock visitors. I am just going to Abbotsford to make a small addition to my premises there. I have now
about 700 Acres, thanks to the Booksellers and the discerning public. Yours truly,

WALTER SCOTT

P.S. - I have much to ask about Lord Byron if I had time. His third canto is inimitable. Of the last poems, there are one or two which indicate rather an irregular play of imagination. What a pity that a man of such exquisite genius will not be contented to be happy on the ordinary terms! I declare my heart bleeds when I think of him, self-banished from the country to which he is an honour.

[Lockhart and Abbotsford Copies]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

MY DEAR LORD DUKE, - I am glad the tales arrived. James Ballantyne swore himself even blacker in the face than nature hath made him that they were regularly despatched, so I suppose that as once happend to Terry the player's trunk whereby I had to become his dresser for many days the packet went on to Carlisle and only reached Bowhill on its return. As your Grace is in the humour of looking after the Covenanters, I beg to add to the Bowhill collection the History of Wodrow in two volumes, folio, now become rare. I happen to have two copies, my father having lent his to an old friend, no great arithmetician, but a capital book-keeper, whose representatives had the honesty to restore it after his death. It is a prolix piece of work, and altogether unfit to be read from beginning to end; but there are many curious
passages, especially interesting to the local antiquary.
I add a collection of the lives of the most eminent
covenanting heroes, published by an old Cameronian farmer
called Wilson, a tenant of Lady Loudoun. He was still
alive when the present young Lady came of age, and at
the entertainment then given to the tenantry she
requested to have this singular remnant and record of times
and opinions pointed out to her. She was requested to.
look around, and assured she would not fail to distinguish
him. Accordingly she at once fixed on an old man with

SIR WALTER SCOTT 321 1816

long white hair, a bonnet of extravagant dimensions, a
blackish grey suit of an uniform colour, and coarse gaiters
of the same, which looked like the spirit of some old
covenanter come straight from a conventicle. Her
Ladyship made up to the old Trojan, and told him she
was aware for how many generations his ancestors had
possessed the farm of Loch something or other, and how
ready they had been to follow her ancestors in resisting
popery and arbitrary power, and therefore she was
determined the rent of that possession should never be
raised during her lifetime, and therewithal she gave him
her fair hand in token of her promise. But the cunning
old codger replied that he was infinitely bound to her
Ladyship, but that although in the good auld times licking
thumbs was the only ceremony necessary to make good
a bargain, yet in the slippery paths of this contumacious
and backsliding generation, a scrap of stamp-paper was
deem'd essential to ensure performance, and so he
converted what was perhaps a hasty compliment into a
tight life-rent lease. This book is a very singular one and
some winter day I will cover it with marginal notes for
your Grace: the account of the Battle of Bothwell Bridge
is very circumstantial and singular. I hope, my dear
Lord, you never refrain from asking any question respecting my scribbling, the answer to which would give you the least gratification. If I do not speak to your Grace on these subjects it is because I don't remember we ever wanted topics of conversation, and might be afraid of annoying you till your Grace should tell me as the German Prince told the Marquis of Tullibardine, Je suis fache de vous et de vos petites affaires.

My view of Scottish History is not yet gone to press, for I wait Thomson's proposed publication of the Chamberlain rolls, which cannot but clear some doubtful passages. If your Grace should in the meantime think of commencing a course of Scottish history, I would recommend Lord Hailes' Annals, Pinkerton's history, Robertson's history, Laing's history, which series contains the full history of Scotland. These books are very different in merit, but of this when we meet. I am truly glad of the example your Grace sets to the country, and am sure the good sense of Saunders will discover the difference between those old patrons who fill his mouth with bread, and now and then his noodle with a little punch, and those new ones who would fill his brain with political discontent, and still his hunger with universal suffrage. After all, "Le vrai Amphitrion est l'Amphitrion ou I'on dine," as is wisely concluded by Moliere's Sosia. I propose myself that pleasure at Bowhill one day soon. Maida is a little lame, but if he gets better I would like to slip him at a fox, should that matter be going any day next week. I shall be at Abbotsford on Monday to remain about eight days, wind and weather serving. I beg kind respects to Lady Anne and the rest of the
TO JOSEPH TRAIN

Mr. Train, Excise Office, Newton Stewart
By Portpatrick Mail

SIR,-I have been very much to blame not to write you sooner my sincere thanks for your very obliging and curious communications from which I have derived both instruction and amusement. I was in the country until the beginning of winter which has occasioned my being late in receiving your communications which were however lying safely for me in Castle Street. You have been uncommonly successful in some most interesting enquiries. You will be surprized to find Old Mortality has got into print. The novel in which he appears belongs to the same cycle and appears to be written by the same author as those of Waverley and Guy Mannering, and displays the same knowledge of Scottish manners and scenery and the same carelessness as to arrangement of the story which characterize these curious narratives. Why the author should conceal himself, and in this case even change his publishers as if to insure his remaining concealed is a curious problem. I get the credit of them and wish I deserved it but I dare say the real author will one day appear. As a trifling return for your attention and presuming that the tales will interest you I send a copy for your acceptance by the Portpatricke mail the Ballantynes having sent me a couple of copies as
they usually do of any thing that they print which they think have merit. The first tale in my opinion is rather below par but the second is exceedingly good indeed. I shall be glad if they afford you some amusement.

The Picts Kiln seems to be a very curious relique of antiquity. Is it not possible it may have [been] employd for burning lime? We know that these ancient people were traditionally renownd for their skill in architecture. They certainly seem to have been further advanced in the arts of life than their rival neighbours the Scots which may have arisen from their inhabiting the lower and more fertile part of the country. The murder-hole is also a curious tradition. It confirms me of [the] opinion that our lawyers misinterpret the right meaning of the old grants of Baronial jurisdiction which usually bore the right of pit and gallows. Our legal antiquaries hold that the pit means the dungeon of the castle, and that the grant applies to a right of imprisonment and execution, but I am pretty much convinced that the grant refers to execution by hanging or drowning. There seems no good reason for granting a right of mere imprisonment which in fact was common to almost all the kings Vassals whether possessing the higher powers of capital execution or not.

I am prevented from writing further by the necessity of saving post. Your obliged servant,

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 21 December 1816
DEAR CHARLES,- On a further communing with John Usher we have agreed somewhat to extend our bargain, he giving me a good field call'd the Grantongue field @ SIR WALTER SCOTT 1816 325

35 an acre and taking an eleven years lease of the said field at the rate of four per cent on the agreed purchase money. Our march is besides so far alter'd as to run along the head of his cultivated land from the point of the Grantongue-field to the southern bank of a [the MS. is torn at this point] with Mr. Ushers frankness in the whole concern. He will send you a letter I wrote him at his request stating the terms of the agreement both as to purchase & lease in order that the Disposition may be suitably framed.

Dicks Cleuch aforesaid is positively capable of being made the most beautiful dell in this neighbourhood. One part of it belongs to Kippilaw1 but I suppose he will have no objection either to join with me in enclosing & planting or to exchange his side of the glen for a sufficient indemnification on the other side of my march which indeed would be absolutely necessary as no fence can be drawn up the glen to [the remainder of the MS. has been torn off].

[Miss M. 0. Curle]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON
ABBOTSFORD, 23d December 1816

I HOPE you had the Tales of my Landlord, an early copy, though you have not said that they came to hand. They have apparently succeeded to a wish. At least no sale could be better than theirs is reported to be.

I beg to call to your mind the case of poor Henry Weber. You will find it better stated by his sister, Mrs. Fawcett, in the enclosed letter, than I can pretend to do. Her husband was a captain in the Militia. Now these are reduced, she also must have enough to do. If anything can be got from the Literary Fund, he is certainly a fair object, both from genius and distress. Here it is difficult to get English money, so I enclose a cheque for 10 sterling on Sir William Forbes, and pray you in lieu of it to forward a 10 note to Mrs. Fawcett, along with the enclosed letter, which please to seal with a head, and at the same time acquaint her whether or when anything can be done for her brother's assistance. You will see what I have said in the letter to her, which I hope is not drawing too deep on your friendship in a calamitous case of this kind, or committing you too much. From what I have known, of Mrs. Fawcett she seems much of a lady, indeed their whole connections are most respectable but Genus et proavi are of little consequence in such a case-

I have enlarged my dominions here not greatly in extent, but infinitely in point of beauty, as my boundary is now a strange secluded ravine full of old thorn trees, hazels, guelder roses, willows, and so forth, with a dashing rivulet and certain large stones which in England your
(4-326) cocknies would call rocks. I call it the Rhymer's Glen,
(4-326) as it makes part of the scene where Thomas the Rhymer
(4-326) is said to have met the Queen of the Fairies. Vulgarly, it
(4-326) is called Dick's Cleugh-a fico for the phrase. I hope
(4-326) Mrs. Richardson and the bairns are well, as we are at
(4-326) writing hereof. I am here for the Christmas recess.
(4-326) Would I could stay longer, for neither frost nor snow, and
(4-326) we have enough of both, could keep me within doors
(4-326) here, and fine weather hardly can drag me out to the
(4-326) plainstanes of Edinburgh.- Yours truly,

(4-326) WALTER SCOTT

(4-326) A Merry Christmas to you and yours. If the, books
(4-326) have not come (& a new one is sometimes kidnapped)
(4-326) pray let me know.

[Familiar Letters and Abbotsford Copies]

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TO DANIEL TERRY 1

(4-327) 25th Decr 1816

(4-327) MY DEAR TERRY,- The " leettle poopy dog " arrived
(4-327) in great preservation, a little lean & qualmish however
(4-327) after his sea voyage : from the length of his tail &
(4-327) thinness of the hair thereupon he promises to rival the
(4-327) fame of his predecessor & I account him a real treasure.
(4-327) We have got him safely out here maugre snow & wind
(4-327) which have been whistling finely on all sides of us : in
(4-327) fact we got through yesterday with great difficulty : I
(4-327) waded up to the knees about two miles in snow-however
(4-327) we made it out. To day it is soft weather & every thing
(4-327) afloat. But I hope to spend a week here in the midst
Tanuguqy du Chatel ou es tu? What work I should have for your measuring lines & compasses could a wish bring you to the side of these blazing logs and send you back again to your necessary & important avocations. Mr. Macgrath is one of the most correct as well as one of the sweetest singers I ever heard. How he may succeed on the stage may depend partly upon other [factors] but his vocal powers must be successful. He appears also to be a modest sensible man which is not also or even usually the case with those gifted with his extraordinary [powers.] 2 habits of life will permit. He flattered me much by being pleased with Sophias singing Scotch ballads.

Did I tell you Mr. Blore has made a beautiful exterior for my cottage? & did I tell you that I have acquired a new glen near the lake? a quiet invisible sort of a dell where a witch might boil her kettle in happy seclusion among old thorn trees & scathed oaks in a deep ravine totally out of sight unless you fall on it by accident.

My predecessor had an humour of digging for coal in it which prevented him including it in our first bargain but being cured of that folly he has bequeathed me two or three lateral excavations which a little coaxing will turn into natural caverns. The last man who wanted work in this parish has been for some time employ'd in constructing a path up this odd glen. I call it the Rhymers Glen because it makes part of Huntley Wood where Thomas the Rhymer met the Queen of fairies. All this is but a sort of trash but it is what my head is just now most busy about.

I hope you will make my respectful thanks acceptable to Mr. St. Aubyn for the very handsome & valued
present he has made me in Marmion. I have not yet ventured to change his name having been so called, though perhaps it would be a more proper epithet in another persons profession. I have some thoughts of calling him Harold if I get over this scruple. I expect him to win many a silver collar. It is in good company for I have two gallant brutes now as ever ran. I plagued your neighbour Mr. Bullock some days since about some plans which he carried up with him for my interior arrangements. I trust I shall have them in a day or two as my castle must stand still till I get them. Maida my great dog has been sitting at Mr. Blores instance to Mr. Nasmyth who admires him very much. I was obliged to attend the sittings myself for the subject though regularly supplied with a cold beef bone was apt to grow impatient. Mrs. Scott sends her kindest respects to Mrs. Terry: as for the pens I have intercepted them judging I was the most likely of the two to find employment for them: they are by far the most useful invention of the kind I have yet seen. I beg my compliments to the Lady & the kinchin & am truly Yours

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD

A merry Christmas to you.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

ABBOTSFORD, 26 December 1816

MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-You are very good to
think of your ungrateful correspondent, who thinks
much oftener of you all than his ungracious silence would
lead you to believe. But I have not been quite without
apology for I intended to write Mrs. Clephane or you
two goodly epistles by my friend Archie Park who goes
to settle in Mull as Comptroller of the Customs at Tobermory.
And who, say you is Archie Park? Archie is
the brother of Mungo Park 1 et c'est beaucoup dire.
Moreover he has been many a day the companion of my
mountain sports when I was at Ashestiel, and was a
picture of a man for make, strength and activity, with a
great deal of knowledge of his art as a farmer and a vein
of droll country humour besides. But alas! a third
brother chose, in an evil hour to become a banker, and
Archie was a cautioner. The banker speculated in land,
and Lord knows what besides, yet as being a very clever
fellow and a writer to the boot of a' that, might have
come off handsomely had he lived to unwind his own
ravelled hasps-But Writer and Banker though he was,
he was compelled to depart in five minutes notice, and
as his affairs were in disorder, my friend the said Archie,
was literally born[e] to the ground by his security
obligations and from a state of comfortable and independant
yeomanry, reduced to utter ruin. As besides his being a
capital fisher and shooter and player at the ball and sword-
exercise, and so forth, he was a very honest, worthy man,
I e'en tried my hand on Mr. William Dundas who was so
good as to give him this appointment at Tobermory.
He would have been made Land-waiter, or Tide-waiter,
or Lord knows what at Greenock, but there is a rule no
one can be recommended to that branch who is above 45
and Archie being about 10 months above that age, no
power would prevail on him to slur over that circumstance,
though the post was in his offer, and doubles in
temolument what he now holds. If Mrs. Clephane wishes
ty advice as to her farms, he is complete master of
rural economy and will be proud and happy to afford his
best opinions and you will see, though he is now somedele
old, a living model of the Hercules of Farnese. I presumed
to send him a letter to you, but I expect he will be

saild before I get back to Edinburgh as Admiral Hope
has promised him the cast of a revenue-cutter from
Greenock. If I get back in time from this sudden
escapade to Abbotsford I will take care you get Campbell’s
book, also a curious and interesting work, which,
notwithstanding an affected change of publishers etc. and
total silence concerning former adventures in literature,
I believe you will agree with me can only be by the
Author of Waverley. They call it Tales of my Landlord,
and I have not laughed so much this sometime as at
parts of the second tale. The first is hurried and I think
flat, but the second opens new ground (the scene being
laid in the covenanting times) and possesses great power
of humour and pathos. Such at least is the opinion of
all here and in London who are madder about it than
about anything I remember. If I find Archie Park is
saild when I get to Edinburgh I will get a post office
frank, as the volumes are of small bulk.

I am unhappily answerable and most reluctantly so
for the imperfections of Allan Moidart. The truth is
that I had promised Campbell to get him a proper sett
of the words, and always forgot to write for them, till the
man of music who is a kind of warrior came and beseiged
me with account of press stopping, and Lord in Heaven
knows what of grievance and vexation, till between hope
and despair I sat down and dictated the verses I remembered and as I remembered them. One verse I was sensible I omitted, but my utmost efforts could not recall it to my memory. Pray send me a correct copy, for Albyn's Anthology (blessings on their harmony who gave so absurd a name) is thriving like a green bay tree and we shall have a new edition forthwith.

As for your journey, I wish to God you had a gentleman with you. Why not Captain Clephane who has not much to do? I really fear you will find travelling uncomfortable notwithstanding Mrs. Clephane's firmness and good sense. At least, when I was on the continent, I found more than once a pair of loaded pistols in my pocket were necessary to secure both respect and security. It may doubtless be better now; but the English are always unpopular on the continent, and the innkeepers extremely encroaching and insolent when they see occasion and the speedy legal redress of the next Justice of peace altogether out of question. And I believe that the banditti are very troublesome just now in Italy although it applies rather to the road between Rome and Naples than to [undecipherable]. Do ponder all this well. -If you were men in your persons as you are in your sense and spirit I would wish you to go by all means. As it is, I sincerely hope you will have some proper male companion. I have not room to tell the fifty things I have to say. My bog has turned out excellent marle, an affair quite invaluable to my little property and plans of improvement. I am contracting for an addition to my house, connecting the little farm house with the bed rooms which you honoured by your occupation and which will afford a good parlour, a sort of den for my own
exclusive use a cabinet in addition to the little drawing room, and Lord knows what of bed rooms above, and servants' accommodation below. Make my kind respects to Mrs. Clephane and thank her for her post-script which I would answer specially, but writing to one is to both. I need not tell you how much I am interested in our dear travellers and all that they see and hear. If I knew our [undecipherable] I would fly a letter at them and indeed I must try.

Ever yours, my dear friends, most affectionately,

[Northampton]                       WALTER SCOTT

TO CHARLES ERSKINE

[27th December 1816]

DEAR CHARLES, - I have no recollection that a single word passed between Mr. Milne and me on the subject of my paying the expense of the writings and I am confident had this been the case we could not have forgotten to have it inserted in the minutes. I know no use of making written minutes unless it is to cut off all the questions which may occur from parties having different views of the subject in the course of verbal communings. I therefore beg to refer myself to the minutes of Sale & decline any expense to which these and the custom of the country do not subject me.

I have preferd Messrs. Sanderson & Paterson to my building job Smiths estimate being considerably higher.

Yours ever

ABBOTSFOKD friday evening
I fancy if I had not indulged Moss who is in very different circumstances we should have heard nothing of Mr. Milne's claim. Mr. Usher makes no such pretence, & has just as good reason.

[Curle]

TO D. TERRY

ABBOTSFORD, 28 Decr 1816

MY DEAR TERRY,- Your kind favor with the plans arrived yesterday. I am truly ashamed of the trouble the Abbots den is like to cost you all. Mr. Atkinsons plans are very ingenious indeed & would promise in many respects better interior accommodation than those which with Blores assistance I have hammered out of Mr. Skene's original idea. The exterior of Mr. Blores plan I prefer as being less Gothic & more in the old fashioned Scotch stile which delighted in notch'd Gable ends & all manner of bartizans. Besides I have already proceeded a good way in contracting on the general outside plan, though I can alter it in any particular point. But I am satisfied the interior may be greatly improved & at any rate should be anxious to have the views, of you three ingenious gentlemen concerning the mode of fitting up. I intend for example to throw out three sides of an octagon in the centre of the present house occupying the space of the present narrow stair & butlers pantry: by throwing the stair into the octagon projection we gain a handsome little lobby between the drawing room & parlour & if the stair case can be carried by
an arch cast over the window mark'd A the said
window will face the door at entrance & may be fill'd
with stain'd glass or otherwise managed to look handsome
while the sides of the arch which it terminates,
may be hung with arms or such like. But it is needless to
be particular as I design to send up Mr. Blores plan or
rather elevation & the clumsy sketch of the country
operative for consideration & alteration in every respect
according to the advice of my friendly counsel learned in
such service. Paterson (the country mason) has alter'd
Biores proportions in several places which must be in
some way balanced or restored. I fear the fountain must
be given up unless upon a very small scale, for I find I
could not depend on any steady supply of water from
above. I have therefore sunk a pit well in the south
side of the court yard & lighted on a most notable spring
which can be raised by a forcing pump to supply water
closets, although I think I may sink another well at the
north end & put the forcing pump there as the well
scarcely costs a guinea sinking & pipes are troublesome &
expensive. Now to be sure the fountain on occasion might
play from the cistern which supplies the water closet but
this could be only on a small scale, & not worth the
expense of keeping it piddling like an old woman in a
[illegible]. Item, for the Laundry you will see that the
wash house is distinct from it : it is only the smoothing
which goes on there which can be no annoyance—it is
moreover the maids bed room. The present parlour
which in Skenes plan was mark'd a bed room is to remain
a sort of school room or sitting room for the young people
being rather too damp for a bed room unless on some
special occasion when its being constantly aired will be in
its favour. The Green-closet, for it cannot be term'd

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which goes on there which can be no annoyance—it is
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which in Skenes plan was mark'd a bed room is to remain
a sort of school room or sitting room for the young people
being rather too damp for a bed room unless on some
special occasion when its being constantly aired will be in
its favour. The Green-closet, for it cannot be term'd
either a Green-house or Green-room, has not indeed room
enough to swing a cat in but I am no botanist or florist
& if it holds a few bow pots for Mrs. Scott through the
season it will serve well enough. If I made more glass
work I would have it in the garden for the purpose of a
grapery—a solid luxury. I am much puzzled how to
occupy the space call'd Aviary. Birds are out of the
question for Mr. Hinse the brindled cat would soon clear
the colony: besides they would be neglected in my absence
flowers would not flourish in an aspect due north &
shaded from the sun even on west: perhaps the aspect
might suit evergreens. In that case, we would have
in a manner two green houses one to the south the other
to the north of the boudoir. I know not whether the
same flue could heat both & be managed by means of
the vent in the boudoir. Mr. Atkinson will perhaps
device something better. You will see that the rest of
the old house is to be raised about three feet & the
windows in front brought to correspond with the new
buildings. I have some capital triangular stones from
the old Tolbooth of Edinburgh to terminate the tops of
these windows with fleur de lis & thistles at the upper
angle. A belt of granite & freestone like that at Bowhill
is also design'd to dignify Mother Retfords mansion.1 I
eyearly gave up Skenes idea of a great opening into the
Boudoir & substitute a pair of folding doors which by [words
Omitted] & may be kept safe, these I think should be wainscot
as should the fitting of Shakesperes boudoir. If the door
was surrounded with a handsome moulding & fitted up
in the old style I think it would look well. You will see
we intend to follow your idea of throwing out the drawing
room northern window in a more compleat manner.
The dining room should have a corresponding door
into the study which door should be concealed on the
side of the book room which may be easily done as the
[book] presses or some of them should have doors before
them. I intend to bring my whole set of curious Italian
Novels there & they are not altogether fit to be left out
to every body's handling. You will easily conceive the
extreme importance which I consider as attached to Mr
Atkinsons advice. I never in my life saw any thing so
well arranged as the offices at Bowhill which are a perfect
model of contrivance & at the same time of simplicity.
My trifling plan is bringing a profound scholar back to
his A.B.C. but since he is so kind as to propose it I
should be a great deal more negligent of my interest
than I can affect to be did I hesitate to avail myself of it.
Paterson is a good builder, but a bad planner & of
course totally ignorant of the nattiness required in executing
these ornamental matters. He is just now in town &
brings with him I expect the measurements exact of the
present buildings. But in case Mr. Atkinson should think
necessary to have Mr. Smallwoods measurements
(which I should think highly likely) I am sure Mr.
Smallwood would readily give his kind assistance & while
at Bowhill would also advise Paterson in any case of
difficulty. Of course I will not proceed till the month
of March, when we are likely to go on without
interruption by frost. In the accommodation beneath the
new buildings there is good cellerage & I sometimes
have thought of managing a bath & an ice house. But
on this dismal cold day the thought of either sets one's
teeth a chattering. Observe I have the old Tolbooth
door a door with curious Gothic mouldings also the
gate of the Parliament house with a carved lintel having

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the crown & cypher of Charles 1st : it is a large Porte
cochere. I thought of making a back door to the wash house out of the Tolbooth door and if it is thought proper to make any sort of screen where the present wood work to the east of the house is the other might be perhaps introduced into it. These things I mention as hints. They are pulling down so many of the old places here that carved stones are to be had for the asking. There are several scutcheons in the College which came down this summer & I have secured them. They also talk of taking down the west end of St. Giles's church which contains some fine Gothic niches &c worth all the rest particularly a projecting octagon window which rests on the shoulders of a kneeling Apostle-a very curious thing. By the bye I should tell you the Octagon which I intend to be projected for reception of the stair is to become square when it rises over the roof of the house which is nearly the shape of an old border tower, the roof of the tower will serve as an observatory or exploratory. I tried a scrawl but could make no intelligible hieroglyphick. You will see it however in the drawings of Mr. Blore rather better made out. In general the present drawings look well without, & give good accommodation within : but from the nature of the ground & the former buildings the communications are difficult & will require much consideration, and for the elegance of the interior furnishing I must be indebted to genius of the kind trio who are contented to employ their wits & their pencils on my behalf.

My brother has sent me a curious knocker from Canada the foot of a deer which he had killed mounted with silver : we must dispose that on one of the doors within as it might tempt our border honesty if left out of doors. I have an idea of opening the private door between my study & the dining room by means of a deers foot on the principle of " pull the bobbin & the latch will come
I have two deers legs tokens of hill sport many a

day since which might be brass mounted and adopted
by the way I have got over my Waterloo
armour, two sets of cuirasses & a ponderous cap : one
I shall give to the Duke of Buccleuch. Also the armour
of the celebrated Jalabad Sing Son of Nadir Shah 1 which
is most beautiful & compleat with head piece & hood of
mail, shirt of Do., noble arm pieces & gauntlets, plate
armour for back breast & sides, sword battle axe &
target. I think it worth while to have a masque painted
exactly like a common masquerade vizor with an Indian
copperer's visnomy such as we see in Malcolms history
of Persia or Elphinstones account of Cabatel.2 Fastening
such a vizor on a common barbers block which I have
arranged with arms &c will make the trophy compleat
& as the arms are inlaid richly they are worth displaying
with some care. I believe it will be rather a pleasure
than a trouble to you to get me such a masque. I have
four tolerable castes (busts) for which I might secure a
niche somewhere-in the proposed lobby perhaps. As
to wainscot it is one third dearer than fir, but query if
well varnished would it not save the expence of painting.
If the difference was not excessive in expence, I should
like even the dining room & study to be finished with the
old English material. I have now bored you sufficiently
with my own business, let me now speak to yours. I
will be most happy to give my attentive consideration to
the plan you talk of as soon as you can send me down the
sketch & you may rely upon it my good will shall not

be a wanting in the matter. I am truly glad Mrs. Terry
is coming round again. In such cases I am a great friend to these ancient & established Doctors, Doctor Diet, Dr. Quiet & Doctor Merriman. I will be cautious in speaking on the subject for fear of alarming her friends in York place. Maida (my large deer hound) has been sitting to Mr. Nasmyth as a figure for the foreground of a landscape. I have availed myself of Mr. St. Aubyns permission & changed Marmions name (in respect of his inky cloak) to Hamlet: he promises great things. Old Double the quondam Marmion of St. John Street is not only dead but forgotten for James I has got a little buntin baby & struts about "as great as the Prince of Conde," as the song says raising the eye to the cieling & meditating the grand mathematical proposition how one & one can make three. Do you think a commodity of real old stained glass can be picked up in London ? I dont much like the modem staining. I mean of course within reasonable compass, for all these matters will draw hard on my pocket. Mr. Magrath seems rather inclined to settle with us not as a performer but as a teacher of singing & music. He has received great encouragement for this, & I have no doubt will succeed in an uncommon degree for besides his own exquisite merit he has no considerable rival. In fact for nine months at least he is almost sure of as many pupils as he cares to be troubled with. I beg kind compliments to Mrs. Terry & the little hero. Very truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

The plans are arrived. I send them with a drawing of the plan in perspective copied from one by Mr. Blore: the drawing is not quite accurate but gives a good idea of the general effect. Paterson thinks that twelve feet of the Chapel must be unroofed, the walls raised & roofed in again with lead corresponding in height with the
(4-340)projection or lobby. Lead is very cheap just now, & a
(4-340)bartizan has always a good effect. But it will be necessary
(4-340)to consider where a sort of cornice should surround this
(4-340)space, whether a plain belt or balustrade or battled
(4-340)parapet. I wish to employ Mr. Bullocks ingenuity in
(4-340)executing as well as devising but I must learn something
(4-340)of prices & not run myself into too much expence.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(4-340)MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN,-I am truly glad the Tales
(4-340)have amused you. In my poor opinion they are the best
(4-340)of the four sets ; though perhaps I only think so on
(4-340)account of their opening ground less familiar to me than
(4-340)the manners of the Highlanders. I can assure your Ladyship
(4-340)your laudable curiosity about the author would not
(4-340)remain ungratified. But if Tom wrote these volumes
(4-340)he has not put me in his secret. He has certainly powers
(4-340)both of pathos and humour and has also read a great deal
(4-340)of old-fashioned sort of reading but I greatly doubt his
(4-340)possessing the steadiness of application necessary to write
(4-340)twelve or thirteen volumes in the space of two or three
(4-340)years. And moreover I do not see why he should so
(4-340)rigorously keep his secret.1 By-the-bye he and his family
(4-340)are coming home ; he has succeeded to about 3000 by
(4-340)my eldest brother's death and will have I suppose as much
(4-340)more when my mother is removed from us. So they
(4-340)cannot be said to be in distress if they will but be good
(4-340)managers especially as he has a small salary besides. His
(4-340)wife has come over.
To return to the Tales. General rumour here imputes them to a very ingenious but most unhappy man, a clergyman of the Church of Scotland who many years since was obliged to retire from his profession & from society and to hide himself under a borrowed name. This hypothesis seems to account satisfactorily for the rigid secrecy observed but from what I recollect of the unfortunate individual these are not the kind of productions I should have expected from him.

Burley is a real person and appears in the melancholy history of the period as the Leader of the party who killed Archbishop Sharpe on Magus Moor, near Saint Andrews. The command was first offered to Hackston of Rathillet (Balfour's brother-in-law), who declined it on account of there being some private dispute between the prelate and him which might lead to the misconstruction of what these fanatics called the execution of judgement. Rathillet and Burley were both at the skirmish of Drumclog where Clavers was beaten and at that of Bothwell-bridge. Hackston was afterwards taken and executed but Burley escaped and died almost immediately before the Revolution and if I mistake not was on board the Prince of Orange's own vessel at the time of his death. There was also in the Life guards such a person as Francis Stewart the grandson of the last Earl of Bothwell. I have in my possession various proceedings at his father's instance for recovering some part of the Earl's large estates which had been granted to the Earls of Buccleuch and Roxburgh. It would appear Charles I. made some attempts to reinstate him in these lands but like most of that poor monarch's measures the attempt only served to augment his own enemies for Buccleuch was one of
the first who declared against him in Scotland and raised a regiment of 1200 men of whom my grandfather's grandfather (Sir William Scott of Harden) was Lieutenant Colonel. This regiment was very active at the destruction of Montrose's highland army at Philiphaugh of which the country people still sing a rhime.

At Philiphaugh the fray began
At Hareheadwood it ended
The Scotts out o'er the Graemes they ran
Sae merrily they bended.

In Charles II.'s time this old knight suffered as much through the non-conformity of his Lady as Cuddie through that of his mother. It seems the Lady would not be kept from Eildon Hills when there was any worthy Mr. Kettledrummie or precious Mr. Rumbleberry to give her a screed of doctrine. So Sir William was repeatedly called before the privy council and fined at different times to the amount of several thousand pounds although he protested he was totally unable to rule his wife and requested the Council to take the management other Ladyship into their own hands. But notwithstanding what one would have thought a most reasonable plea they sent him to Edinburgh Castle and afterwards to the Bass Island where he suffered three years' imprisonment. My father's grandmother who lived to the uncommon age of 98 years perfectly remembered being carried when a girl to these field-preachings with her mother where the clergyman thundered from the top of a rock, and the ladies sate upon their side-saddles which were placed on the turf for their accommodation while the men all stood round armed with swords and pistols and watches were
kept on each neighbouring eminence to give notice of the

approach of the soldiers. I mention these minute circumstances
in order to make your Ladyship aware how nearly
our oral and family traditions connect themselves with
these disorderly times.

I do not know that there is precisely such a place as
the Linn described at the end of the tale. But in most
of the mountainous parts of Scotland such strange places
are to be found. I went on a pilgrimage with the Duke of
Buccleuch to visit one of them not long since and it was
as horrible a place as imagination can form and of a very
break-neck character. Here also some of the heroes of
the covenant are said to have held out though it passes
belief how humanity could hold out against the cold wet
and accumulated horrors of such an abode—Only I don't
think it could be much worse than we have had with
snow flood and tempest for these eight days that my wife
and I have inhabited this cottage. But I feel very like
Goldsmith's Swiss

Dear is the shed that to my soul conforms
And dear the hill that lifts me to the storms.

So I have been among the mists and snows about five or
six hours every day—On looking over my letter it reminds
me of the character Captain Bobadil gives of Squire
Downright: " All old iron and rusty proverbs a good
commodity for a smith to make hob-nails with"—After
all I recollect one circumstance which may interest you
concerning these tales. Old Mortality was a living
person—I have myself seen him about twenty years ago
repairing the Covenanters' tombs as far north as
Dunlottar. It was his sole occupation and only business on earth. I have an indistinct recollection that he was from the parish of Closeburn in Nithsdale and that his name was Paterson.

So here have I written your Ladyship a long stupid letter to which I have only to add that if you like farming as much as formerly you will be pleased to learn that I have made a great discovery, in draining a peat-bog for the sake of getting mess[?]earth, of an inexhaustible fund of shell marle which will be of the utmost consequence to my property. I beg my respects to the family & am with great respect & regard Dear Lady Abercorn

[Signature cut away]

ABBOTSFORD 28 Decr. [1816].

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

Janry 1. 1817

MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,- You will already know better than I do that the tales are like the fame of Don Quixote-

Now their fame is up & may go From Toledo to Madrid.
My private agent reports 4000 copies sold & 2000 in active preparation all bespoke: so that they have come off with all acceptation. No circumstance in the matter however can give me half the pleasure of your Ladyships kind approbation which I value beyond a whole wilderness of critics or monkies either. I hope there is no great harm in the lies I am obliged to tell in self defence since my secret would otherwise be at the mercy of every one who chose to ask a blunt question. I very often qualify my denial with this statement. It is very diverting how people are divided—but from those I have lived much with I cannot escape & they have only the politeness to be silent on the question. I suppose a thousand peculiarities of feeling & expression besides little anecdotes rooted in ones mind mark such compositions to those who see much of you. In the meantime the mystification of those who would see very far into the mill stone is sufficiently diverting. Morritt is in the secret: you may communicate with him on the subject with all freedom. We (an important monosyllable which includes on this occasion my wife & me) have been here since the day before Christmas amidst a beautiful succession of snow, hail, rain, flood, & frost. Twice the Tweed has been as high as I remember seeing it & we are nearly forty years acquaintance (man & boy). We live in the little cottage like the memorable Cobler making it serve for every thing but the actual kitchen & such is the contradiction of human nature that each day when our only dish is placed on the table I thank heaven that I have escaped the feasting of Edinburgh at this jovial season. Yet had any one said "go do this," I suppose I would have consider'd it as a great affront & hardship. Is not this among the twenty things in life that deserve the title...
Dryden gave his poem of "the Medal reversed." -
However the cottage is destined (if such visions of splendour are not reversed in their turn) to rise like Rome under the empire of Augustus, who used to boast he found the city of brick & left it Marble. We meditate adding to the old Butt & Ben a splendid tenement to contain an eating room & two good little sleeping apartments with their dressing rooms & a book closet for my own use: so that I trust the next time your Ladyship comes to Scotland (if there be faith in the Masons of Galashiels) we will be able to accommodate you for two or three days: the outside is rather fantastic but I think will look well from the irregular combination of the various parts of the building. I must not forget to thank your Ladyship for your acute & indisputable criticism on the application of the word sentimental: how it escaped my pen I know not unless that the word owed me a grudge for the ill will I have uniformly borne it & was resolved to slip itself in for the express purpose of disgracing me. I will certainly turn it out the first opportunity. I am going up to Bowhill to day to see the Master & trust I shall find him better: he writes in good spirits & complains less of his cough: he will have the goodness as Win Jenkins says to wrap up my piece of nonsense under his own kiver. Mrs. Scott offers her respects & I ever am Dear Lady Louisa Your very much obliged & faithful servant WALTER SCOTT

All good things attend you this new year.

[Abbotsford Copies]
TO CHARLES ERSKINE

(4-347)MY DEAR CHARLES,-Mr. Milne is quite right and I
(4-347)was wrong in our recollection of what passd between us.
(4-347)I observe by the enclosed jotting of our bargain that I
(4-347)was to pay the disposition. It is great good luck I laid
(4-347)my hands on it as I would not for both the lands & price
(4-347)have challenged a just claim. I think I should pay the
(4-347)Minutes of Sale. Pray set his heart at ease about it and
(4-347)let me have your own account which shall be thankfully
(4-347)settled.

(4-347)I return processes Grieve v. Lees & the fishing case.
(4-347)In the former I wrote an Interloqr. on a reclaiming
(4-347)petition which must have shuffled among the other papers.
(4-347)Those herewith returnd are exhausted by an Interloqr.
(4-347)on Minute No II of process.

348          LETTERS OF               1817

(4-348)I am going up to Bowhill today. No small exertion for
(4-348)it blows great guns. I send you a specimen of Marles.
(4-348)Yours ever                                 W. S.

(4-348)I January 1817

(4-348)ABBOTSFORD

[Curle]

MEMORANDUM ABOUT EASTER ABBOTSLEE & OTHER PORTIONS

(4-348)Thomson at Galashiels

(4-348)Mr. Milne agrees to sell Mr. S. a portion of the lands
(4-348)of Abbotslee bounded on the North & partly on the east
(4-348)by Kaeside on the South & partly on the east by Toftfield
(4-348)on the west by the Roman road & by a line this day
(4-348)perambulated by the parties & to be fixd by pitting [?]
(4-348)running from the said Roman road in a straight line or
(4-348)nearly so to the extreme south march of Abbotslee.

(4-348)Mr. Scott agrees to pay for the same at the rate of ₤ 22.,
(4-348)per acre to be payable at next Martinmas & is to have
(4-348)entry to such part of the land as is not under crop.

(4-348)As there are two years current [?] of the lease Mr. Scott
(4-348)to pay 5/ per acre to the tenant or to Mr. Milne.

(4-348)Mr. Scott to pay a proportional quantity of public
(4-348)burdens & feu duty effering to the extent of the grounds
(4-348)sold.

(4-348)Mr. M. & Mr. S. to be at the mutual expence of building
(4-348)& upholding a march dyke.

(4-348)Mr. S. to relieve Mr. Milne of expence of Disposition.

(4-348)The stripe of planting to be valued by two persons
(4-348)mutually chosen.

(4-348)ABBOTSFORD

[Curle]

349       SIR WALTER SCOTT     1817

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY 1

(4-349)MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I have been thinking anxiously
(4-349)about the disagreeable affair of Tom Hutson, and the
impudent ingratitude of the Selkirk rising generation
and I will take the usual liberty your friendship permits
me of saying what occurs to me on each subject.

Respecting the shooting the crime is highly punishable
and we will omit no inquiries to discover the individual
guilty. Charles Erskine who is a good police-officer will
be sufficiently active. I know my friend and kinsman
Mr. Scott of Harden feels very anxious to oblige your
Grace and I have little doubt that if you will have the
goodness to mention to him this unpleasant circumstance
he would be anxious to put his game under such regulations
as would be agreeable to you. But I believe the
pride and pleasure he would feel in obliging your Grace
as heading one of the most ancient and most respectable
branches of your name (if I may be pardoned for saying
so much in our favour) would be certainly much more
gratified by a compliance with your Graces personal
request than if it came through any other channel. Your
Grace knows there are many instances in life in which the
most effectual way of conferring a favour is condescending
to accept one. I have known Harden long and most
intimately—a more respectable man either in feeling or
talent or knowledge of human life is rarely to be met with.
But he is what the ladies call a dawdler habitually irresolute
or rather indecisive and requiring generally some instant
stimulus in order to make him resolve to do not only
what he knows to be right but what he really wishes to

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do and means to do one time or other. He is exactly
Priors Earl of Oxford

Let that be done which Mat doth say—1
"Yea "—quoth the Earl—" But not to-day."
However he wishes you well - thinks highly of your Grace and rather regrets he is not better acquainted with you. And so Exit Harden and enter Selkirk.

I know hardly anything more exasperating than the conduct of the little blackguards and it will be easy to discover and make an example of the biggest and most insolent. In the mean while my dear Lord pardon my requesting you will take no general or sweeping resolutions as to the Selkirk folks. Your Grace lives near them-your residence both from your direct beneficence and the indirect advantages which they derive from that residence are of the utmost consequence and they must be made sensible that all these advantages are endangerd by the very violent and brutal conduct of those children who have behaved so ill. But I think your Grace will be inclined to follow this up only for the purpose of correction not for that of requital. They are so much beneath you and so much in your power that this would be unworthy of you especially as all the inhabitants of the little county town must necessarily be included in the punishment. Were your Grace really angry with them and acting accordingly you might ultimately feel the regret of my old schoolmaster who when he had knockd me down apologized by saying he did not know his own strength. After all those who look for any thing better than ingratitude from the uneducated and unreflecting mass of a corrupted population must always be deceived and the better the heart is that has been expanded towards them their wants and their wishes the deeper is the natural feeling of disappointment. But I am afraid it is our duty to fight on doing what good we can (and surely the
disposition and the means were never more happily united
than in your Grace) and trusting to God Almighty whose
grace ripens the fruits we commit to the earth that our
benefactions shall not fall wholly to the ground but will
bear fruit in some instances not to be repented of. After
such a motive it would be degrading to mention that in a
state of avowed dislike to those people the unthinking among
them are like to catch a sort of esprit de corps are easily
seduced into mischief and become troublesome neighbours.

And now my Lord asking your pardon for this discharge
of my conscience and assuring your Grace I have no
wish to exchange my worsted gown or the remote pisgah
expectation of a silk one for the cloak of a presbyterian
parson even with the certainty of succeeding to the first
of your numerous Kirk presentations I take the liberty
to add my own opinion. The elder boys must be looked
out and punished and the parents severely reprimanded
and the whole respectable part of the town made sensible
of the loss they must necessarily sustain by the
discontinuance of your Graces patronage. And at or about
the same time I should think it proper if your Grace
were to distinguish by any little notice such Selkirk people
working with you as have their families under good order
which would show your resentment was to the guilty
& not to the community. In the mean time we will
endeavour to find out & make an example or two
mingling judgment and mercy together as well as we can.

I am taking leave of Abbotsford multum gemens and
have been just giving directions for planting upon
Turnagain. When shall we eat a cold luncheon there
and look at the view and root up the monster in his
abyss. I assure you none of your numerous vassals can
show a finer succession of distant prospects-for the homeview
-ahem! -we must wait till the trees grow. Ever
I return the Appeal case which I have read over with deep interest. It is capatally drawn but the strength lies on page [blank] which is as close and satisfactory a piece of reasoning as I ever read or heard.

I also inclose a Note of prices of forest trees which may be added to your Graces Schedule & I think will reveal the cheapest. Please have the goodness to enclose it when you return Sharpes Manuscripts. Shillinglaw is a very active sedulous sort of fellow & the plants he has furnishd me with are capitally good.

TO CLARKE WHITFELD

MY DEAR SIR,-I have been silent, but not at all thoughtless of your request. Please to consider I have had a volume of four hundred & fifty pages to compose since my return. I have notwithstanding found time to compose the enclosed, of which however I thought so ill that after much hesitation I could not think it likely to answer your purpose & so gave it to the Edin: Ann: Register with a view to try something else. My printer however who is very musical shewed it to Braham, & from the said Braham's anxiety to get it argued that it is of some value with a view to Music. If you should think so I will rewrite the whole & make the additions which
TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR SIR, - Mr. Hogg who takes the trouble of delivering you this informs me that the Editorship of the Farmers Magazine is like to be vacant and it has occurred to him and to me that William Laidlaw a man of most uncommon genius is like to be the very person who will suit you in conducting this important work. I take a very warm interest in his prosperity yet not so much so as to recommend him to you in this manner were I not absolutely convinced that he [is] one of the fittest men you can possibly engage with. He has an uncommon degree of genius, and an active and even speculative turn in farming matters writes a good stile, and is besides a man of excellent character. I am the more anxious about him as I fear his farm which is much over-rented may prove too hard for him in these bad times. I am certain I am doing a good thing for two friends in
(4-353) anxiously recommending a fit man to such a situation. (4-353) But I will not the less consider it as a personal favour (4-353) which I will be anxious to return on some fitting (4-353) opportunity, if your engagements can permit you to give Mr. (4-353) Laidlaw a preference in this matter.-Yours truly,
(4-353) WALTER SCOTT
(4-353) EDINR. Sunday [January 1817] 

[Kilpatrick]

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TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(4-354) MY DEAREST SHARPE,-The Sonnets which I return (4-354) are capital. The D. of B. is much interested in your (4-354) work & anxious to give every facility to help you on so (4-354) far as he is concernd. I will be at Bowhill next week (4-354) so if you will state what picture you want I have no doubt (4-354) your wishes will be met with. Macte animo my dear (4-354) friend you want nothing but confidence in yourself if (4-354) you will permit an old adventurer like myself to say so (4-354) to turn the genius & spirit which delights your friends (4-354) to the instruction & amusement of the public. I carry (4-354) two transcripts with me to show to the Duke who is (4-354) waxing curious in these matters a disposition to be (4-354) cherishd with all acceptation. My address during next (4-354) week will be Abbotsford, Melrose. Yours ever

(4-354) WALTER SCOTT
(4-354) CASTLE STREET, Saturday [1817] 

[Hornel]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE
DEAR SHARPE,—It would be most highly proper to borrow Russell for collation. I expect the transcript tomorrow.

Item. The Helvetic League & Helvetic Confession are frequently used by good authors but always sound in my ear like gallicisms. I like Helvetian better.

Moreover as to bargain with Ballantyne I made none because you wrote twice to me waiving the view of profits. But I told him that though you did so yet in the case of the work being successful I continued to hold you entitled in one shape or other to a corresponding compliment. I will be bail that he will return a fair account of his sales and deal liberally. But I dont think he could afford to accept a bill for the half profits before they arise though there are cases in which that may be done.

I dont believe there is a word about the pretended correspondence of Dundee with the P. of Orange whether in Dalrymple or Macpherson.2 I have them both & will look [out or at] Macpherson this evening. He mentions I know that James was advised by Dundee when at Rochester not to leave the kingdom but to summon his dispersed soldiers around him & give battle to the Dutch. I will call on you tomorrow. Ever yours W. SCOTT

CASTLE STREET, Sunday [Jan. 1817]

[Horne]l

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE
MY DEAR SHARPE,-I saw Ballantyne today & gave
your note to him before I had yours-he is quite agreeable
to do what is reason and for my part I think it would be
most scandalous to let the godly carry it off there-If they
are virtuous shall there be no cakes and ale-Aye by our
lady & ginger shall be hot i’ the mouth too-

I have one or two ill arranged ideas to cut the back
sinews of their impudent undertaking. But time presses

& we must as they say run it off- Tomorrow is a holiday
and if you could be here at three I would make the men
of trade meet you &

We will ordain them such a breakfast
As never was in the north before.

All that is done in the matter of Jedediah depend on it
you shall see. It is very odd the Vol. of Wodrow containing
the Memoir of Russell concerning the Murder is
positively vanished from the library-neither book or
receipt is to be found. Surely they have stolen it in the
fear of the Lord. And yet it does look extremely queer.-
yours ever

W. SCOTT

I had almost forgotten to say that I wish much you
would dine here friday to meet my Top of kin the Laird
of Harden-only one or two friends.

Let me know in the morning if you can come at three
that I may secure the Ballantini.
TO JAMES BAILEY

DEAR SIR, - I was duly favoured with your letter and sincerely hope we will be able to arrange matters one way or other to your satisfaction. Before any new Librarian can be appointed to the Faculty of Advocates the present incumbent must be somehow provided for. This renders the probability of a vacancy there precarious & I think I mentioned to you that if a certain friend of mine stood for the office as I hope & believe he will not I reckoned myself engaged to do what I could on his behalf. There is indeed but little in my power for I have been long retired from the bar and have but few connections with the faculty. I think the Election will or ought to turn very much on the literary pretensions which can be brought by each candidate which will of course be judged of better than from the certificates of those qualified to pronounce of such attainments.

As to the trifling assistance I have been able to render you allow me to say that as the public has been very generous to me I have always endeavoured as the very best mode of evincing my gratitude to be of service to such young men of promising talents as may afterwards contribute to instruct or delight my Many-headed benefactor. Therefore the cheque has a brother whenever your occasions require the use of it & as to the mode of repayment I leave it entirely to yourself under the sole condition that you do not give it a moment's thought till it is complete summer or rather harvest weather in your

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(4-357)
affairs. I do not exactly know what may be the expense of your residence at College but I think it will be hard if it cannot in one way & another be comfortably provided for.

In the mean time I have a little job for you—a friend of mine a bookseller John Ballantyne by name is going to try a periodical paper to be called the Sale-Room.1

I have advised him to apply to you for an occasional classical paper and he has fixed the recompence for 3 papers at ten guineas which I think very handsom[e]. They need not cost you six days labour for something light and popular and intermixed with poetry like Cumberland's Essays on the Greek Tragedians in the Connoisseur will best answer general readers.1 I will not fail to write to Gifford in your behalf & to tell you the truth am heartily glad you are to devote your talents to that side of the question. There is but too much wasted on the other and although I am not by any means so bigotted a politician as to confer my friendship or regard to those who think with me on such matters yet unquestionably it is a lia[ison de plus that your sentiments are the same on these points which a long course of observation on public affairs have led me firmly to persevere in though I trust without factious or malignant feelings. I have been in the country about some pressing business or I would have written to Gifford before now.

The matter of taking orders does not seem to press for a hasty decision. I trust you will land in the Church if no better mode of provision occurs but it may be considered at present as a sailor regards a haven under his lee which he can run for if unable to keep the sea. Your ambition
respecting the stage is very natural but dramatic
composition is in a degraded state. The theatres are
neglected by competent judges as from their immense
size they no longer afford the rational amusement which
they used to give to the better ranks of Society. They are
unfortunate also in the hours of performance differing
from those of better life & being accommodated only to
mechanicks & tradespeople. All these have their source
in one great end—the Monopoly of the two patents.
It arises from this also that instead of actors being found
for new parts, parts must be written with a view to the
talents of some particular actor and above all it follows
that on an immense stage the eye is addressed rather than
the ear so that half the spectators hearing imperfectly &
the other half not at all are impatient of anything
approaching to length of speeches however beautiful
the poetry and the author is obliged to keep moving from
beginning to end of his piece and every word that does
not carry forward the action is heard with impatience—
The success of the piece being thus made to rest
exclusively in action one grand difficulty recurs—that
namely of giving a variety of interest or novelty of story—
feeling and diction can be easily varied at [sic] infinitum—
but the detail of a plot has been so often twisted & twined
that it seems difficult to afford anything like novelty.
Yet with all these difficulties and many others I would
strongly encourage you to attempt the drama—it is just
now at a low enough ebb & who knows but the tide may
change in its favour. Above all consider your plot well
and take care that the interest is not exhausted before
the conclusion of the piece. I think I can ensure your
play a patient consideration at one of the London
theatres when finished.
I am much interested in your hieroglyphical communications. You seem nearly to hit upon the link which is wanting. The first idea of commemoration is by sculpture representing the action to be commemorated. By degrees metaphor is introduced to express abstract qualities & this joind to abbreviation & contraction makes the more common hieroglyphic. But how the step was made from this class in which single characters are used to express whole words and a very brief combination to express whole sentences & even a train of

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ideas to the Alphabet in which sounds and by their combinations words are expressed has always seemed to me a most curious circumstance. The art may almost be supposed to have retrograded in order to acquire a greater stile of simplicity & the transition seems less in the train of continued discovery than of a new art. Observe too the hieroglyphic and the alphabet derive themselves from different organs the first from the eye the second from the speech & hearing. To express what he means the representation we shall suppose of a King the Savage draws a figure as like him as he can-the hierogliphist takes an emblem a crown perhaps or sceptre, or a metaphor the hawk of the Egyptians. All these are taken from objects of sight- But in writing the word King according to the Alphabet we give signs imitative of the various sounds necessary to pronounce the word. The principle of the two modes of writing is therefore substantially different. And it will be most curious to observe the steps by which one had glided into the other. I think your discovery of a subordinate Alphabet for proper names is very likely to afford us a clue. For as in many cases it must have been difficult
to express a proper name by any emblem or metaphor derived from visible objects so the recorder must have employed some sign in that instance applicable not to objects of sight but to the impression received from hearing. When this step was once taken the superiority of the alphabetical character embracing all the aural as well as the visible world & comprehending every sort of sensation or idea which could be expressed by language must soon have superseded that which derived from the visible sense only must necessarily be more narrow in its range. I do not know if I have explained myself distinctly or if my ideas are worth being explained nor have I the means or learning necessary to ascertain how far my hypothesis is supported by fact. But such are the reflections to which your communication have given rise in the brain of a half-lettered Goth. Be assured I shall not mention any part of your theory as I hope you will be able to develope it in a complete & satisfactory manner. I am Dear Sir your faithful Servant WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 4 January 1817

Any communication to Mr. Ballantyne or myself may always be sent post-free by addressd to me under cover to Francis Freling Esq Secretary Post Office General London who will forward them. His franks carry any weight.

Mr. Bayly Trinity College Cambridge

[Fitzwilliam Museum]
TO GEORGE HUNTLY GORDON

[Extract]
(4-361) EDINBURGH, 5th January, 1817

(4-361)... I AM very sorry your malady continues to distress
(4-361)you; yet while one's eyes are spared to look on the

(4-362) wisdom of former times, we are the less entitled to regret
(4-362) that we hear less of the folly of the present. The Church
(4-362) always presents a safe and respectable asylum, and has
(4-362) many mansions. But in fact, the great art of life, so far
(4-362) as I have been able to observe, consists in fortitude and
(4-362) perseverance. I have rarely seen, that a man who
(4-362) conscientiously devoted himself to the studies and duties
(4-362) of any profession, and did not omit to take fair and
(4-362) honourable opportunities of offering himself to notice,
(4-362) when such presented themselves, has not at length got
(4-362) forward. The mischance of those who fall behind,
(4-362) though flung upon fortune, more frequently arises from
(4-362) want of skill and perseverance. Life, my young friend,
(4-362) is like a game at cards—our hands are alternately good
(4-362) or bad, and the whole seems at first glance to depend on
(4-362) mere chance. But it is not so, for in the long-run the
(4-362) skill of the player predominates over the casualties of the
(4-362) game. Therefore, do not be discouraged with the
(4-362) prospect before you, but ply your studies hard, and
(4-362) qualify yourself to receive fortune when she comes your
(4-362) way. I shall have pleasure at any time in hearing from
(4-362) you, and more especially in seeing you. ...

[Lockhart]

TO CHARLES ERSKINE
DEAR CHARLES,—I thought it as well to show the
precognition to the advocate who has made a jotting on
the back recommending the big boys to be punish’d
summarily by a few days imprisonment. I would confine
this to the two ringleaders & give a general admonition
to the others in the court house on the first court day.
Eight days should be the term & some pains taken to
keep them separate and at work. I have return’d the
precognition to Bowhill by this days post. The proclaiming
the reward will probably scare Cairns out of
the country. I hope Harden will put his tenants under
some regulation as [to] harbouring quite so many of these
rogues but as the Duke is to write to him himself it is
unnecessary to speak to him about it unless he should
ask you questions.

The state of the public mind here begins to be
unsatisfactory much agitated by inflammatory tracts &
pamphlets distributed as in 1793-4. We must keep an
eye both on Selkirk & Galashiels for although their
movements cannot but be trifling with reference to the
country at large yet any disturbance would be of bad
example however easily it might be put down.

If necessary which however I do not apprehend will
be the case the respectable inhabitants must be sworn in
as special Constables a measure which has always a
good effect because they know the men they have to
do with. In the mean time it is sufficient to be a little
on the alert and I trust the Magistrates will see what sort
of persons (strangers) are passing through for itinerant
politicians are dangerous persons & should be watch’d.
TO JOHN MURRAY

MY DEAR SIR,—I have this day sent under Croker's cover a review of Lord Byron's last poems.1 You know how high I hold his poetical reputation but besides one is naturally forced upon so many points of delicate consideration that really I have begun and left off several times & after all send the article to you with full power to cancel it if you think any part of it has the least chance of hurting his feelings. You know him better than I do & you also know the public & are aware that to make any successful impression on them the critic must appear to speak with perfect freedom. I trust I have not abused this discretion. I am sure I have not meant to do so and yet during Lord Byron's absence and under the present circumstances I should feel more grieved than at any thing ever befell me if there should have slipd from my pen any thing capable of giving him pain. There are some things in the critique which are necessarily & unavoidably personal and sure I am if he attends to it which is unlikely he will find advantage from doing so. I wish Mr Gifford & you will consider every word carefully if you think the general tenour is likely to make any impression on him. If you think it like to hurt him either in his feelings or with the public
in God's name fling the sheets in the fire & let them
be as not written. But if it appears I should wish him to
get an early copy and that you would at the same time
say I am the author at your importunity. No one can
honor Lord Byrons poems more than I do and no one
had so great a wish to love him personally though
personally we had not the means of becoming very intimate.
In his family distress (deeply to be deprecated & in which
probably he cannot be excused) I still lookd to some
moment of reflection when bad advisers & except you
were one I have heard of few whom I should call good
were distant from the side of one who is so much the
Child of feeling & emotion. An opportunity was once
afforded me of interfering 1 but things appeard to me to
have gone too far yet even after all I wish I had tried it
for Lord Byron always seemd to give me credit for
wishing him sincerely well & knew me to be superior
to what Commodore Trunnion would call the pigs-
kitchen brash of literary envy & petty rivalry.

I got your letter in the country but was able to do
nothing till I came to town both because I was occupied
all day in my agricultural improvements & on account
of certain curious cramps in the stomach which occupied
three nights very ungraciously & threaten to send me
out of this excellent world upon very short warning.

I have pressed Erskine to undertake the Novel with
all the arguments I can use & trust I shall succeed as I
have offerd him all the accumulated lore which I am
possessd of to facilitate his labour. I find James Ballantyne
had already spoke to him on the subject.2 I only

returnd from Abbotsford last Saturday very unwell but
EDINR. 10 January 1817

John Murray Esq.

Bookseller Albemarle Street London

TO JOHN WILSON CROKER

My DEAR SIR,-I enclose a packet for Murray a review on Lord Byron whom I would fain bring back to sound politics and sound sense as his talents are really of such extraordinary description. I have no great confidence in the power of my eloquence yet nevertheless in sincere goodwill to him and to the country he belongs to I have done my best to give him a rally.

And now I have a piece of advice to ask of your unceasing kindness by which I will be implicitly guided. My youngest (now my only) brother is in the Canadas, paymaster to the 70th regiment. He has besides some fortune of his own which makes him comfortable though his family is large. But he has been lately attacked by rheumatic complaints caught in the course of last war and his wife has come over to Scotland principally from an idea that I might have influence enough to get his appointment in the 70th where he is exposed to residence in huts block-houses and so forth a sort of life for which neither he nor I am so fit as we were twenty years ago, when we cared less than most folks where we slept or what we eat or how we were clothed. But as it is in the case of his imperfect health and the state of his family, two or three handsome growing girls being rather unfit
subjects to follow a regiment, I am most anxious to find
him some situation more fitted to his health and years and
to the state of his family. What therefore I have to
request of you as a kind and often tried friend is to point

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out to me through what channels I could get a
recommendation to Sir Geo. Sherbrooke the present Governor
of Canada to provide my brother in any appointment for
which he may be found qualified. If Lord Dalhousie
my old friend and school fellow had gone there I know
he would have looked after him. If you think it right
for me to apply to Lord Castlereagh I believe he would
attend to my request : In truth as my brother is a man
of varied talent and understands business perfectly, I
should think he is as likely to be useful in the Canadas
where education and talents are rather scanty, as any
competitor that can offer himself for the public service.
He is the reputed author of the novels which have so long
filled the public ear and tho I do not know how truly he
is said to be so yet I can aver he possesses the knowledge
and talent equal to a greater task. He is besides a man
great spirit and a zealous loyalist on principle which
he manifested on several occasions. I would not have
troubled you in this matter but I am under the necessity
of waking some interest independent of our Scotch
friends for I shall presently need to beset them on my own
account. There is entre nous some chance of my getting
a Baron's gown in Exchequer through the warm and
strong support of my feal friend the Duke of Buccleuch.
But if this takes place it will cost me a brush for it-the
difference in emolument is not above 400 a year but in
respectability and in the time which a Baron's situation
leaves at my disposal besides the power of living chiefly
in the country it is very desirable and government will have
1300 to give away besides a pension of 300 which I would be willing to throw up. The difference of stile
however trifling would swallow up some part of the difference but yet I own I will not give up my views of the silk gown if my friends can fight it through for me. But in the meantime I must trouble them as little as I can and must pray you to point out the English path to get good strong effectual recommendations to the Canadas and their Governor Sir George Sherbrooke. I do not know Lord Bathurst in the very least who I suppose is the most obvious channel of recommendation. But as my brother does not propose to settle and has some good prospects at home the object is only to secure him a situation for four or five years and therefore I hope it may be attainable without any great difficulty if one knew the right channell.

I have not yet been able to get a fitting spouse for Maida (my great dog) though I have sent everywhere where I knew that large breed of grey hounds to be kept when I was fond of the Chasse. I doubt the breed is now extinct on the border but I can apply to the highlands in spring.

I beg my best respects to Mrs. Croker and trust you will always believe me. My dear Sir, Most truly and affectionately yours, WALTER SCOTT

EDINH. 10 January [1817]

Archie Park is gone the happiest man in the world to be a Comptroller of Customs in the Isle of Mull which he
owes entirely to your recommendation so there is an honest fellow made easy who might have starved with five children.

Great pains begin to be taken here to influence the public mind by cheap publications of a democratical tendency. We are thinking of means to counteract them if possible.

[Brotherton]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY

MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I am honoured with your Graces letter. You never need a flapper I where either humanity or propriety are concerned and you have only to pardon the officious zeal which intruded on your Grace considerations which readily occurred to your own generous disposition.

I received Charles Erskines precognitions yesterday and I forward them by the Mail coach of this day addresed to your Grace. I thought it as well to show them to the Advocate whose opinion coincides with my own that the elder boys or the most guilty of them should be summarily tried before the Sheriff & sent to Bridewell for a few days. This may be done upon the present petition. A tight admonition in the Court may also be useful. Should this meet your Graces ideas Charles Erskine will so sentence them next court day. I should have liked to have been out myself but Hector MacDonald my brother [clerk] has got a fit of the gout and the Court will not get on without us both. I agree with your Grace it is a most disgusting business and I cannot but think
worse of the Selkirkers than I have yet done. But it is also awkward as a sign of the times. Indeed the 1792-3-4 is coming fast back on us for the country is inundated with cheap tracts of the most inflammable description calculated to debauch the minds of the lower orders which in towns especially are so open to that species of Seduction. Macconochie is usefully & actively employd in reestablishing the communication between the officers of state & the general police of the country which was entirely neglected during the reign of the late Advocate 1 who cared for no communication except that between his pocket & the Exchequer. For my own part I have not the least dread of the issue of the business once people of property take the alarm and do themselves justice by a little exertion. But this seldom happens among the middle classes till they get afraid of being plunderd and in this view of the matter Mr. Watson's escapade is like to do good.

'tis a good horror-
First let them fear for rapes and ransackd houses
The very fright-
Will harden their soft city-courages
Cold burghers must be struck & struck like flints
Ere their hid fire will sparkle... .2

I fear government have been greatly too hasty in disbanding the Volunteers in Glasgow & Edinburgh.

I beg best compliments to the Ladies & kind love to my young friends. Ever your Graces truly obliged & grateful

EDINR. 10 January [1817] WALTER SCOTT
Will your Grace have the goodness to let your groom enquire after the parcel if it is not forthcoming. I have the Waterloo cuirass for your projected armoury—do you wish it sent to Bowhill or shall it wait your coming to Dalkeith.

[Buccleuch]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY

MY DEAR LORD DUKE,—I am honoured with your letter and am truly glad you find yourself able to resume what Hamlet calls the "custom of your exercise." This is delightful weather for it is quite contrary to the diabolical storms which visited Tweedside when I was there last. But I trust you will be cautious in the outset that caution may not be long necessary. We have a good Scottish proverb Long ill long well. We shall certainly send Mr. Cairns to carry on his sport elsewhere—he must be a proper impudent scoundrel and in all respects fit to be made an example. Andrew Lang is a very good lad & always does his duties. I wish I could say so much for Geo: Rodger the Procurator fiscal who is a stupid pudding-headed short-houghd bothering body & perpetually lets the public cases slip through his fingers. The other day I was obliged to acquit a black fisher & find him liable moreover to the expense of suit because although the offence was clearly proved as a thing could be yet Mr. Rodger had not chosen to bring his action within the statutory term of six months.1 I wrote to Erskine to dispose of the rioters which is really a very bad hearted piece of work.
I have been putting a curious investigation in train.

Your Grace may remember that there was a commission granted some years since to examine the Crown Room in Edinburgh Castle which had been locked up since the union in hopes of discovering some part of the Scottish records. The commissioners (the late Duke being one) found nothing in the room but a great chest supposed to contain the Scottish regalia. Your Grace will find an account of the whole transaction in the Appendix to Thomson's publication concerning the Jewels & Wardrobe of our Auld Scottish Monarchy. I Now when I was last in London I contrived to set the Prince Regent's fancy agog to learn the contents of this chest & to examine the state of the regalia if so be that they are still there. And two days since I got orders to prepare a scroll of a warrant to open the said chest & to examine the state of the regalia & also to suggest commissioners to act under the same. So I finishd my scroll with all dispatch remembering to place at the head of the list our trusty and entirely well beloved cousin & counsellor Charles W. D. of Buccleuch & Queensberry with the officers of state & bringing up the rear with my own name & Thomas Thomson. I expect the warrant will be made out very soon and I anticipate the pleasure of opening a chest that has been shut for one hundred and ten years. It is something like the adventures of the merchant Abudah in the Tales of the Genii who travels over the world in pursuit of the keys of an iron chest. I trust it will interest your Grace as much as it does me.

In reference to what passd between Your Grace and the
Lord Chief Baron I have been able to ascertain and your Grace may consider it as a certain fact that our well-tempered and deserving friend & useful Servant of the Crown the late Advocate had a positive promise from government of Baron Norton's gown in case the said Baron Norton had pre-deceased Lord Frederick Campbell and that in that event Baron Adam an English Barrister being on the bench would have been considered as sufficiently making up the constitution of the court. So that when occasion offers if they should happen to have the same wish to oblige your Grace which they had to serve that great and good man there is as little objection to their doing the one as there would have been to their doing the other. This is verbum sapienti to be noticed when time serves. For I have generally observed that these points of mere form which are often reared up as plausible evasions of the requests of men of rank and consequence never stand in the way of that influence which ministers exert directly & of their own motion.

I have found out a curious border law declaring that no Englishman or Scottishman shall be entitled to prove his property in goods taken from him & carried into England otherwise than by the body of a man, that is in single combat. This must have meant work among the lifters. David Hume to whom I told this enactment says if it was not the best mode of proof it was the shortest. Ever your Graces truly obliged & faithful

EDINR. 14 January [1817] WALTER SCOTT

I have not sent out the cuirass understanding the armory is to be at Dalkeith.

[Buccleuch]
TO JOSEPH TRAIN

DEAR SIR,- I got your letter 1 and am much obliged by your communications, past, present and to come. This is a letter on business and must be brief. A late change among our Crown Council has placed a particular friend 2 of mine in the situation of King's Advocate who possesses much patronage in the Revenue Department. I have made it my particular request that he will attend to your promotion, and he has kindly promised to neglect no opportunity to do so, and desires to be furnished with a note stating your date of service, etc. I know I had a letter from you formerly on this subject, but I cannot find it and am loth to lose time in rummaging for it.

Pray therefore send me as soon as possible the necessary information and I trust you will find advantage from taking that trouble. I remain always Your obliged servant

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH. 14 January 1817.

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

MY DEAR LORD DUKE,- Many thanks for Tom Hutson's 3 Minstrelsy, which I never heard before, and I quite understand. It has a wild poetical sort of turn about it, singularly fitted to Tom's occupation, and I think if Campbell has a good lilt for it, I will endeavour to patch it up with a

SIR WALTER SCOTT
verse or two in the same tone. Your Grace (or Tom) has made no mistake as to win, but as to break in the second line, which should be brook or bruick, signifying in old Scotch and northern English to enjoy, for which it is used as a synonym in our law as "to bruick or enjoy a farm." The word brook is still used in English in an oblique sense. I cannot brook it, i.e. endure it, or rather relish it. The moorcock therefore gives his solemn oath

"He cannot brook the carle's win."

He cannot, that is, relish the carle's (churle's or husbandman's) mode of living-win being equivalent to wene, habit of life-or perhaps win, mode of acquiring gain.
The point turns on the preference given to a mountain life and scenery, in which I think your Grace coincides with your vassal the moorcock, although perchance that tribe may occasionally rue your similarity in taste.

I said nothing about the Records in the scroll of a Commission, but e'en put the saddle on the right horse, at least on the right hobby-horse, setting forth the lodging of the Regalia, and the reasons there were to suppose said Regalia were deposited in said chest, and the probability that said Regalia had suffered or might be suffering damage by remaining unexamined for such a length of time, and therefore issued "our sovereign will and pleasure to open said chest and examine the state of the regalia, if therein found, and report thereon, that our pleasure may be made known in the premisses," and so forth, in good set terms.

Now as to the danger of the quest:-the Mob we need not fear, for it is a solemn article of the treaty of Union that the Regalia are never to be removed from Scotland.
And as to the Devil-hang him, foul coallier, as Sir Toby
(4-375)says. Besides, it would be hard if between the authority
(4-375)of the chieftain and the magic of the minstrel of the clan
(4-375)we cannot borrow Michael Scott's conjuring book; and so

(4-375)" Devils all, as swart as pitch,
(4-375)Be ye cock-tail'd, be ye switch,

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(4-376)Be ye horn'd, or be ye poll'd,
(4-376)To defy you I am bold."1

(4-376)I have a curious manuscript song (a most perfect blast)
(4-376)which I copied with many others from an old manuscript
(4-376)at Arniistoun,2 upon the lodging of the Regalia in the Castle;
(4-376)if it could be set to music and solemnly performed before
(4-376)the Big wiggs of the law, when they set forth to seek for
(4-376)the royal treasure, it would have a striking and novel
(4-376)effect. The chest ought not to be heavy—there is nothing
(4-376)stated to be lodged in it but the crown, sceptre, and sword
(4-376)of state—none of them very weighty articles. I think it
(4-376)most likely they are still there; the removal of them
(4-376)would have inferred dire responsibility; nor have our
(4-376)sovereigns since Queen Anne's time been so hard pushed
(4-376)as to pawn the Crown jewels, which could have been the
(4-376)only purpose of abstracting them. It is very true there
(4-376)is a crown shown in the Jewel Office in the Tower,
(4-376)London, called the Scottish Crown, but no notice of the
(4-376)sword and sceptre which must have accompanied them.
(4-376)Should these Regalia be returned non sunt inventa, I will
(4-376)believe that the said sceptre and sword went to pay the
(4-376)knowing cutpurse who, like Hamlet's uncle—

(4-376)From the kist the precious diadem stole,
(4-376)And put it in his pocket.
Our friend Lord Clerk Reg. has been very unwell. I think he may give the Lord of the Merse another chance one day. I trust this will find your Grace safely arrived at Bowhill, to which I propose to bring my cargo of old iron as soon as I learn you are settled. I hope Lady Margaret is quite stout again. - Ever your Grace's most truly faithful,

WALTER SCOTT
EDINR. 22 January 1817

I am about to sign my name some three hundred times for variety's sake, in order to attest officially a set of the papers in your Grace's appeal for the process before the House of peers.

[ Buccleuch and Familiar Letters]

TO JOHN MURRAY

DEAR SIR, - I received both your letters and all the inclosures together with your note which is more than the service required by one half. When I can assist you I am always happy to do it but it is only particular subjects on which I can be really useful so that I have neither right nor wish to be considered as above a common labourer in the trenches. Talking on that subject there is a young man in whom I take much interest because he is poor and friendless though of great learning and promising talent. The occasional correspondence I think would be of great consequence to himself and some to the review. His name is Bailey of Trinity College Cambridge in which university he has carried away most of the literary prizes. The last he obtaind was for a most
(4-377) curious dissertation on Hieroglyphics. In politics you may assure Gifford that he is sound wind and limb. I think he might be safely entrusted with an article of a learned cast and you should always be looking for young labourers as the old drop off or grow lazy.

(4-377) I am truly happy Lord Byron's article meets your ideas of what may make some impression on his mind. In genius poetry has seldom had his equal and if he has acted very wrong in some respects he has been no worse then half the men of his rank in London who have done the same and are not spoken of because not worth being raild against.

(4-377) I will speak to Mr. Erskine again about the tales. He is very busy just now and I fear the end of the session as hardly a circumstance to mend it. But I will jog his memory & let you know what can be done.

(4-377) I reenclose Sir John Malcolms & Crokers letters which as you will see have done yeoman service in my behalf.

(4-377) I am in the midst of plans and elevations for enlarging my cottage which needs it as you cannot but remember.

Yours truly, W. S.

(4-378) EDINR. 22 January [1817]

[John Murray]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY

(4-378) [23rd January, 1817]
My DEAR LORD,-I enclose Charles Erskines report, of the beastly Selkirkers & their punishment. I would greatly have preferd a gentle Switching to imprisonment but there are doubts (very foolishly I think) of the legality of private flogging & public discipline would have required summoning a jury. What is done however will on the whole make an impression and show the ungrateful hounds that they must look to their children if not for decency at least for fear. Ever your Graces truly obliged & faithful.

EDINR. Thursday                         W SCOTT

[Buccleuch]

TO HAY DONALDSON

DEAR SIR,-I send the factory as it was returnd to me. A sum of money belonging to Daniels estate was in Toms hands when he left Scotland on this I received a composition & granted an acknowlegement as Mr. Fergussons

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accompts & Mr Wrights will show. Also I received I think since your management a sum in behalf of Daniels trustees. I have paid and rather over paid all interest &c devolving on me viz the annuity to the boy & the interest to my mother. The amount of the principal sum in my hands may be easily ascertaind. I have an exact state of it but it is buried among a mass of papers & I have not time to look for it. Yours ever W SCOTT

EDINBURGH Thursday [23rd January 1817]

[Glen]
TO JOHN MURRAY

(4-379)28 Jan. 1817

(4-379)DEAR MURRAY,- I write to assure you the article is in
(4-379)hand with much curious matter about the Whiggs - a sort
(4-379)of folks whose religion was as whimsical in the 17th
century as their politics in the 18th & 19th.

(4-379)The Solemn League & Covenant
(4-379)Came Whigging up the hills, man
(4-379)Thought Highland trews durst ne'er refuse
(4-379)For to subscribe their bills, man
(4-379)But Farinish & stay a while
(4-379)And speak a word or twa man
(4-379)The Highland lads wi' loud placads
(4-379)Cried fourough Whigs awa, man.

(4-379)With which scrap of minstrelsy I beg to announce a
(4-379)Killie-crankie article which you will receive in the course
of a few days. yours truly W. S.

(4-379)I shall content myself with furnishing materials to Mr.
(4-379)Erskine who on assurance of my finding him straw has
(4-379)agreed to make the bricks.

(4-379)John Murray Esq.

(4-379)Bookseller Albemarle Street London

[John Murray]

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TO HAY DONALDSO
MY DEAR SIR,-My Mother put into my hand today a parcel of papers belonging to the poor Major with which I think it necessary to trouble you because one of the letters contains a bill of mine to him for 1500 being part of the balance I gave up of his effects. He never could find this bill which was one reason for my not granting new obligation for the money or giving up that I had as I did not know where it might have gone in his way of leaving his papers about.

I return you the note about Tom's affairs and would wish you to look further [into] the receipts from Daniel's Estate because Tom got them all previous to his giving up business. I believe there was a division of about 80 apiece among us three. Yours truly

WS

Thursday night [30 January 1817]

[Griffith]

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

EDINBURGH, Jan. 31, 1817

MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,-This accompanies Harold the Dauntless. I thought once I should have made it something clever, but it turned vapid upon my imagination; and I finished it at last with hurry and impatience. Nobody knows, that has not tried the feverish trade of poetry, how much it depends upon mood and whim: I don't wonder, that, in dismissing all the other deities of Paganism, the Muse should have been retained by common consent; for, in sober reality, writing good
verses seems to depend upon something separate from the volition of the author. I sometimes think my fingers set up for themselves, independent of my head; for twenty times I have begun a thing on a certain plan, and never in my life adhered to it (in a work of imagination, that is) for half an hour together. I would hardly write this sort of egotistical trash to any one but yourself, yet it is very true for all that. What my kind correspondent had anticipated on account of Jedediah's effusions has actually taken place; and the author of a very good life of Knox has, I understand, made a most energetic attack, upon the score that the old Covenanters are not treated with decorum. I have not read it, and certainly never shall. I really think there is nothing in the book that is not very fair and legitimate subject of raillery; and I own I have my suspicions of that very susceptible devotion which so readiably takes offence: such men should not read books of amusement; but do they suppose, because they are virtuous, and choose to be thought outrageously so, "there shall be no cakes and ale?" "Ay, by our lady, and ginger shall be hot in the mouth too." As for the consequences to the author, they can only affect his fortune or his temper—the former, such as it is, has been long fixed beyond shot of these sort of fowlers; and for my temper, I considered always, that by subjecting myself to the irritability which much greater authors have felt on occasions of literary dispute, I should be laying in a plentiful stock of unhappiness for the rest of my life. I therefore make it a rule never to read the attacks made upon me. I remember being capable of something like this sort of self-denial at a very early period of life, for I could not be six years old. I had been put into my bed in the nursery, and two servant girls sat down by the
embers of the fire, to have their own quiet chat, and the
one began to tell a most dismal ghost story, of which I
remember the commencement distinctly at this moment;
but perceiving which way the tale was tending, and
though necessarily curious, being at the same time

LETTERS OF 1817

conscious that, if I listened on, I should be frightened out
of my wits for the rest of the night, I had the force to
cover up my head in the bed-clothes, so that I could not
hear another word that was said. The only inconvenience
attending a similar prudential line of conduct
in the present case, is, that it may seem like a deficiency
of spirit; but I am not much afraid of that being laid to
my charge—my fault in early life (I hope long since
corrected) having lain rather the other way. And so I
say, with mine honest Prior—

"Sleep, Philo, untouch'd, on my peaceable shelf,
Nor take it amiss that so little I heed thee;
I've no malice at thee, and some love for myself—
Then why should I answer, since first I must read thee?"

So you are getting finely on in London. I own I am
ever glad of it. I am glad the banditti act like banditti,
because it will make men of property look round them in
time. This country is very like the toys which folks
buy for children, and which, tumble them about in any
way the urchins will, are always brought to their feet
again, by the lead deposited in their extremities. The
mass of property has the same effect on our Constitution,
and is a sort of ballast which will always right the vessel,
to use a sailor's phrase, and bring it to its due equipoise.

Ministers have acted most sillily in breaking up the
burgher volunteers in large towns. On the contrary, the service should have been made coercive. Such men have a moral effect upon the minds of the populace, besides their actual force and are so much interested in keeping good order, that you may always rely on them, especially as a corps in which there is necessarily a common spirit of union and confidence. But all this is nonsense again.

quoth my Uncle Toby to himself. Adieu, my dear Lady Louisa; my sincere good wishes always attend you.

W. S.

[Lockhart]

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TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

MY DEAR MORRITT,-I have to send you in a couple of days Harold the Dauntless which has not turned out so good as I thought it would have done. I begin to get too old and stupid I think for poetry and will certainly never again adventure on a grand scale. For amusement and to help a little publication that is going on here I have spun a doggrel tale called the Search after Happiness 1 of which I will send a copy if it is of a frank-able size if not I will put it up with Harold the Dauntless. Among other misfortunes of Harold is his name but the thing was partly printed before Childe Harold was in question.

My great and good news at present is that the bog (that perpetual hobby horse) has produced a commodity of most excellent marle and promises to be of the very last consequence to my wild ground in the neighbourhood. For nothing can equal the effect of marle as a top-dressing. Methinks (in my minds eye Horatio) I see
all the blue-bank the hinny-lees and the other provinces
of my poor kingdom waving with deep rye grass and
clover like the meadows at Rokeby. In honest truth it
will do me yeomans service.

My next good ridings are that Jedediah carries the
world before him 6000 have been disposed of and 3000
more pressing onward which will be worth £ 2500 to the
worthy pedagogue of Ganderscleugh. Some of the Scotch
Whigs of the right old fanatical leaven have waxd wroth
with Jedediah

But shall we go mourn for that my dear
The cold moon shines by night
And when we wander here and there
We then do go most right.

After all these honest gentlemen are like Queen Elizabeth
in their ideas of historical portrait painting. They

require the pictures of their predecessors to be likenesses
and at the same time demand that they should be painted
without shade being probably of opinion with the virgin
Majesty of England that there was no such thing in nature.

I have made my arrangements for building this summer
and have so many gimcracks to look after, that I must
postpone my visit to the continent or run the risque to
see some of my proportions departed from for as the whole
plan is a whimsicality there will be no trusting to the
common builder who is to execute it.

I presume you will be going almost immediatly to
London 1 at least all our Scotch members are requested
to be at their posts the meaning of which I cannot pretend to guess as one would think the oppositions would be much divided in views and in opinions. The finances are the only ticklish matter but there is after all plenty of money in the country now that our fever fit is a little over. In Britain when there is the least damp upon the spirits of the public they are exactly like people in a crowd who take the alarm shoulder each other to and fro till some dozen or two of the weakest are born[e] down and trodden to death; whereas if they would but have patience and remain quiet there would be a safe and speedy end to their embarrassment. How we want Billie Pitt now to get up and give the tone to our feeling and opinions! As for the Reformers I for one have little fear of them. Indeed as if they were determined to show what sort of concord would be among them were they masters they seem disposed to quarrel about the division of spoil before the battle is fought. At the same time vague and wild as their schemes and opinions are they have still a captivating effect on the lower orders which they augment by all sort of incendiary publications. Our advocate was anxious to form some plan of counteracting the effect of these boute-feu publications by sending abroad others of a contrary tendency. I differ from him however unless ours are to be of a satirical or humourous character such as would push the war into the enemies quarters for by keeping on the defensive we should give the others every advantage. The "weary knife-grinder" and your own squib over broad bottoms grave did more upon the public mind than a hundred grave arguments would do. And sure I am that the sort of light skirmishers capable of sustaining such a warfare must be levied in London and not here.

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As I take up this letter to finish the same I hear the Prince Regent has been attacked and fired at. Since he was not hurt (for I should be sincerely sorry for my fat friend) I see nothing but good like to result from this assault. It will make him a good manageable boy and will I think secure you a quiet Session of parliament. At least bullying the House of Commons is a course which of late years has never succeeded. Adieu my dear Morritt god bless you. Let me know if your gimcracks come safe-I mean the book &c. Ever yours W. S.

31 January 1817

EDINBURGH

[Law]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICKE SHARPS

MY DEAR SHARPE,-It was not without exertion & trouble that I this day detected Russells MS. also Kirkton & two or three others which Mr. Macrie had removed from their place in the library and deposited them in a snug & secret corner. Now I think you should apply either to Sir William Hamilton or some other of the Curators and borrow Kirkton which on their receipt will be given to you. I intend to borrow Russell when I return from Abbotsford on Wednesday meanwhile I have set my Amanuensis at work on him with the view to run him on to the end of Kirkton. If you think fit to
defer the application till I come back you may but I caIId
today to say no time should be lost.

I have given an infernal row on the subject of hiding
books in this manner. You must push on as fast as you
can & in your ear my friend James Ballantyne is more
sure than swift. He requires spurring. Yours ever

Saturday WALTER SCOTT
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT 1

GENTLEMEN,-I was honoured with your letter enclosing
Ja. Ballantyne's acceptance to me not duly honoured at
which I was both hurt and surprized as the Messrs.
Ballantynes have always transacted their extensive
dealings with me very honourably and as I should be
extremely sorry to have reason to think worse of them
than I have hitherto done Mr. James Ballantyne advises
me that the money was remitted to your house the day
after due and that his delay arose from the intervention
of an holiday so that I have no doubt it has now reached
you. I am deeply concerned that anything unbusinesslike
should have occurred in a transaction which you
so kindly entered into for my accommodation and which
in the present times and with such extensive literary
connections as mine I account no common favour.

I will give up the bill to Mr. Ballantyne on being advised
that the contents have reached you and am Gentlemen,
Very much your obliged humble Servant
TO DANIEL TERRY

(4-388)MY DEAR TERRY,-My men of mortar begin to be pressing for their directions as the weather is so favorable for commencing their operations. I am sensible how ungracious it is in my case to be urgent with my kind advisors who have so many more important matters to do. But what can I do? My mother as Sancho says whips me & I whip the top. I do not intend they shall begin before the 1st of March but I suspect they will desert me & go to some other undertaking unless I can furnish them with my building plans by that time. I did not fail to boast to the Duke of Buccleuch whose guest I am at present that I was to be favored with Mr. Atkinsons assistance. You will get I hope by tomorrows post Harold the Dauntless which I think would make a good pantomime or melodrame. It is a dashing thing but too many [blank in copy] about it & I do not augur great things of its success. What chance is there of seeing you in Scotland this season? Abbotsford will be partly uninhabitable but I intend to fit up my neighbouring farm house (that sounds grand) of Kaeside 1 to accommodate a part of my family & therefore can promise Mrs. Terry & you a sort of accommodation. Ever yours truly

(4-388)WALTER SCOTT

(4-388)DALKEITH HOUSE 9 February 1817

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN MURRAY
DEAR SIR,-Give yourself no uneasiness about the Killiecrankie article. It is in great forwardness and when I have done with it Erskine has promised to revise it and make such additions & corrections as may be necessary.

I was very much entertained by Mariners book 1 very much indeed-his narrative seems perfectly authentic and lets us into an hundred curious particulars which without such a narrative we should never have known. These people if they do not fall again into the rage of war & conquest may one day make a figure in the history of the world. I have not seen Miss Waldies book 2 which I take to be distinct from that on Waterloo. I know her father & grandmother well but am not acquainted with the young lady. Her account of Waterloo was extremely interesting.

I cannot return Southeys letter being at this House on a visit of a day or two & having left it behind me but I will send it by my first parcel. We have delightful weather almost like an English spring. Yours very truly

DALKEITH HOUSE 9th February

John Murray Esq.

Bookseller Albemarle Street London

[John Murray]
TO JOHN RICHARDSON

(4-389)MY DEAR RICHARDSON, I am always giving you trouble, but this is on an affair of taste and I know no person to whom I can more readily trust than yourself with the classical assistance of our friend Mr. Bell. The point is the purchase of a snuff-box which many of our young gentlemen here with one or two old ones, are desirous to present to Mr. John Kemble to whom on the same occasion we give a dinner. The value of the box is to be about eighty guineas and we would be greatly obliged to you to get from Rundell and Bridges or any other esteemed artists in gold and silver such a box as elegant as your taste can choose and the price I have mentioned compass. Mr. Anderson who takes the trouble of acting as collector and treasurer will write more fully on the subject. But I know your good inclinations to Auld Reekie so well that I do not apologize for giving you trouble which will apply also to Mr. Bell in any case where his credit for taste is interested. My best compliments attend Mrs. Richardson. I am happy to tell you what I am sure you will hear with pleasure that I am still continuing greatly better and have had no periodical return of my vile spasms. Perhaps we meet in spring in case I get up: surely in summer when you will probably come down. Ever yours most truly,

EDIN. 13. february [1817].

WALTER SCOTT

[Brotherton]

TO MR. CUTHILL

(4-390)MY DEAR SIR,-Your very kind favour reachd me here.
I heartily wish we may [be] able to pause for the great advantages so likely to be derived from engaging Mr. Smallwood in the service of my lime & freestone proceedings.

Our country masons are however so lazy that I fear they will make a terrible handle of any stoppage at the outset & perhaps under that pretence leave me unroofd this season which would be a real scrape. I have taken the freedom to write to Mr. Atkinson to thank him for his kind intentions & to hope he will be able to give some assistance to our scrambling proceedings if he will favour us with the means of correcting (as you experienced seamen would say) our observation. I am very much obliged to you my dear Sir for the kind interest you take in my little villa & am ever very truly Yours

1817 SIR WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 15 February [1817] WALTER SCOTT

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH, DALKEITH HOUSE

MY DEAR LORD,-This serves to cover a letter to Mr Cuthill who has kindly been the Go between between Mr Atkinson & me. My men of mortar here get impatient so I must permit them to go on with the under-story of the new house but will not touch the old one untill we can have Mr Smallwoods valuable assistance-See what it is to be a Chief-the Welch proverb says that he who would be a Chief must make himself a bridy, and truly I think there is some reason in it, since the talents of your retainers are to be in requisition for your clan as well as yourself so that you can carry every one through
(4-391)dryshod.-

(4-391)Besides there are the holly-berries when they arrive.
(4-391)Moreover I shall sing

(4-391). . Hey ho for the green holly
(4-391)Most friendship is feigning most loving mere folly.

(4-391)I sincerely hope your Grace sufferd no inconvenience
(4-391)from being out on Tuesday. I did not much like your
(4-391)experiment. I intend to stay here to shew face at the
(4-391)meeting for the address at Selkirk on Thursday. Theres
(4-391)nobody with me but Sophia who is an excellent manager.
(4-391)I am ever my Dear Lord Duke Most truly & affectionately
(4-391)your obliged                             W SCOTT

(4-391)ABBOTSFORD 15 febr. [1817]
[Buccleuch]

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TO CHARLES ERSKINE

(4-392)[20th February 1817]

(4-392)DEAR CHARLES,-I sent up or rather carried up the
(4-392)two processes to Selkirk this day so I am clear till next
(4-392)batch. I leave Abbotsford tomorrow & return again
(4-392)on the 13th. as I hope.-Keep a sharp look out on the
(4-392)police especially at Galashiels. The London treasons
(4-392)are deep & atrocious & all prepared for open violence-
(4-392)on this subject the Secret Committee are unanimous.

(4-392)If Laird Milne speaks to you or gives you a prudent
(4-392)opening to speak to him about the land above Abbotsford
(4-392)I wish you would persuade him of two things. One is
that I will on no account whatever part with a yard of the thicket - not if he would give me a good farm in exchange. The other is that if as his brother in law Knox mentiond to Tom Purdie he is inclined to come out of the thicket I will give him what the land cost him. I think drawing a line along his new plantation to the road to the lake would suit us both. But if we bargain at all my concern in the lake must be acknowleged. I find it in the old titles of the Abbey and have little doubt of being able to show my claim or the Dickies (?) which is the same thing to joint possession. Also I should expect Mr. Milne to plant a little there & should on my part be ready to do any thing that would accomodate him.

But all this I entrust entirely to your prudence as a much better bargain-maker than myself. Only this much I do not greatly care about the land and I know no body else would purchase it in the circumstances. And yet as completing my property on the South I would strain a point to buy it.

I have been trying to come to a point with John Moss to know whether he means to flitt or sitt still at Whitsunday. He seems strongly inclined to the former alternative which would suit me well also for I think I shall be obliged to use Kaeside as a chapel of Ease to a part of my family during the summer. But I will not turn old John out of the place if he inclines to sit still. I would not like to turn a man out of his father's house. Only I hope you will take him on your way as you ride up to Selkirk and find out his intention as he should know his own mind by this time. Yours truly

ABBOTSFORD Thursday

WALTER SCOTT
TO DANIEL TERRY

ABOTSFORD, Feb. 21, 1817

... I UNDERSTAND Maturin is bringing [out] something tremendous in the way of a Melodrame.1 Shall we see you and Mrs. Terry and young Walter this summer? I have in my offer and think I shall buy it: an ebony cabinet six feet wide which would just fill the place where the book press now is in the little drawing-room. All my planting is now really over but I have had upwards of twenty hands working all winter which I am old-fashioned enough to think is a better thing than if I could have given each of them suffrage for a Member of parliament and what is more uncommon the people think so too. I have not allowed one man in the parish to ask work in vain and must have been half ruined but for certain things you wot of. Pray send Mr [Atkinsons] letter. Compts. to Mrs. Terry. Ever yours

[Abbotsford Copies] W. S.

TO JOSEPH TRAIN

DEAR SIR,—I am much obliged and entertained by your continued and kind communications. That on the subject of the Invernahyle family I am much interested in 1; for Alexander Stewart, with whom the pedigree
concludes, was my father's most intimate friend, and I was very fond of his society when a boy, and of listening to his old stories. I have still on my memory no small stock of legendary lore derived from that source, and always think of his memory with peculiar fondness.

Pray secure me as many Galloway traditions as you can, for they are most interesting. Were I as poetical as I have been, I would most certainly weave the Tale of Plunton into verse. I have been a week at Abbotsford, and only found your kind communication on my return.-

Believe me. Sir, very much your obliged friend,

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH, 22d February 1817.

[Memoir of Joseph Train]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

MY DEAR MRS. BAILLIE As I am uncertain whether your brother is in London or at Windsor I send the enclosed under your cover. It respects a very violent and acute complaint—the cramp I believe in my stomach for I have no pretensions to the honour of the gout—

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which I have been assaild three or four times this season with the greatest possible violence. Last night in particular the agony was so great that I fainted which was quite a novelty to me and truly I thought the grim skeleton was about to take my harp out of the Minstrels hands. I have never in my life, at least since I was a boy, had any occasion for medical advice but now independent of comfort which whatever stoics say is not quite compatible with violent pain I have no desire to quit this
So that I am humble petitioner to your brother that he will give a few minutes consideration to my case as I agree entirely with the said world in believing his authority in such a case is worth half the faculty beside. This is one of the penances which he must undergo for having a sister of such poetical genius since it brings on him all the rest of the beggarly tribe and without fees into the bargain. I am much tired and exhausted by passing the whole night sleepless and in such violent pain that it was all my manhood could do to combat a strong disposition I had to groan roul and roar like a Bull calf. And here I am in the Court where I shall presently disgrace my office and fall soundly asleep. And so dear Mrs. Baillie Goodnight to you. W. S.

EDINR. 1st March 1817.

TO DANIEL TERRY

DEAR TERRY,-The hand is the hand of Esau but the voice is the voice of Jacob—in other words your friend J. Ballantyne is writing for your friend W. Scott. The day after your kind letter reach'd me I had a violent attack of cramp in my stomach with inflammatory symptoms which only gave way to repeated & copious bleedings & blistering. I am now quite well but very weak & unable to write owing to the tremor incidental to the loss of blood. I have given the good folks of Edinburgh a fright as like other people they are not
sensible of the value of a good thing till they think there
is a chance they are going to lose it. This matter has
been in debate from Tuesday at midnight (with an
interval of six hours which I foolishly employ’d in seeing
company on Wednesday) until yesterday morning great
part of which was occupied in the Clowns universal
exclamation of " O Lord Sir ! " I am now able to think
of business again & to reply to your kind letter which I
shall do succinctly to save our friends fingers.

Upon Friday 4th instant I sent the " Plan for dimensions ")
marked E to be fill’d up as you wished by an
accurate measurement. I desired Paterson to take it
himself & send it to Mr. Atkinson strait under Lord
Montagues cover to save time. Hurry is of less consequence
as the weather is totally unfit for building the
ground being cover’d with snow. The plans of Mr.
Atkinson Nos. A & B. do each of them exceed in easements
& conveniences our original idea as much as
guerdon is better than remuneration. Of the two I
incline to prefer No B. [This opinion Mr. Scott afterwards
retracts.2] The green house it is true lacks two
windows which it has in No A. but that to the east cannot
be very useful as the sun will seldom come upon it &
that of the west will be obscured also from the sun by
the range of building call’d the chapel. We must attend
that the greenhouse should have its entry distinct from

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the house, otherwise the taxing man will charge it as
windows. This may be done I suppose by having a
sashed door in the centre. Another door as in the plan
No B. will connect with the little space which you propose
for an armoury or repository for curiosities & may be shut
up at pleasure. If however the entry in front would
greatly break the arrangement of the Etage I would give
the point up.

The little apartment corresponding to the armoury at
the west end of the green house will I suppose be a lobby.
It would be better if it could be saved for that very
necessary accommodation a butlers pantry but of this I
see no hope. In the case therefore supposed, there will
be no occasion for more than glass doors to these two
apartments. That of the armoury to be opened or kept
close as we find most convenient. Such doors are marked
in No. A. but not in No. B. I only prefer introducing
them into the latter also. N[o] B remembers our winds
& rains are tremendous. You Englishers are apt to
forget this, & the best mode of securing the inside from
the invasion of the water at sashed doors & so forth is
with us a matter of deep importance. I was at Abbotsford
one day this winter when a strong & active young
fellow six feet high was actually blown from the door.
But the proposed addition will remedy this grievance
greatly. Before leaving the green house I pray leave to
state my doubt whether, considering the eminence in
front which intercepts so much of the morning sun, the
three windows in front will be sufficient to keep the plants
in a healthy state. Should such be the opinion of skilful
persons a sloping roof might be disposed over the green-
house to the breadth of perhaps four or five feet which
being hidden by the cornice would afford a slope of two
feet beginning the slope from the line of the side walls of
the two side lobbies. This would be perilous however in
time of snow & troublesome at all times from being liable
to many accidents. It may however be considered. The

very important passage gained by Mr. Atkinsons
ingenuity between the dining room & the back of the
green house should it threaten to be somewhat dark may
be illuminted in the centre by a skylight upon the leads.
I quite agree with you that all the space which does not
rise higher than the first story, that namely occupied
with the green house & the two little lobbies will be best
roofed in with lead which is just now to be had very
cheap. I greatly approve of raising the roof of the kitchen
buildings at least of the eastern part of them for they are
divided into two by a thick wall, & gaining a second rate
bedroom or two. The kitchen might be allowed to stand as
it is which would only occasion another Gable rising higher
than that which terminates the range. In fact I always saw
the necessity of raising these buildings but thought of
covering them with lead which seems unnecessary.

Proceeding in order of your letter I come to the dining
room which I entirely approve of, having no doubt that
Mr. A's plan for the workmen will explain the difficulty
my operators have found in the construction. Pillars
are awkward if they can be avoided. I also subscribe
to the great propriety of saying nothing about the old
house at present the mode of connecting it with the new
being distinctly arranged & understood. Concerning
the stone I have a very fine Quarry of Whin stone in
Cayside which will serve for the ruble work, & it is now
producing specimens as it gets deep of as dark & fine a
blue as that at Bowhill. The front is to be hammer
dress'd & laid in courses. The free stone is dark grey
from Sprounten 1 a beautiful soft colour which harmonizes
with the blue of the Whin stone. And if I cannot get
the Whin stone to my mind at Cayside it is but sending
to Needpath where it can be raised in blocks of any size.
This looks more substantial than stucco which besides
suffers from our climate & in ten years looks like the most
(4-399)miserable of all objects, a ragged beau. There is a sort
(4-399)of unsoundness about it at best, a plaster look which an
(4-399)eye used to our fine freestone cannot well away with.
(4-399)I stand already contracted for the rough part of my wood
(4-399)& at very reasonable rates. So small a job would hardly
(4-399)afford the expense of a Clerk of the Works though I am
(4-399)quite aware the work would be much better performed
(4-399)under such inspection. But weighing the matter every way
(4-399)I could, with the difficulty of accommodating such a person
(4-399)during our absence, prices &c. I believe I must trust
(4-399)to the honesty of my friends Saunderson & Paterson.
(4-399)But the Duke with his usual goodness will permit Mr.
(4-399)Smallwood when he comes back to Bowhill (which will
(4-399)be the end of the month) to give a frequent look to
(4-399)their operations: he will not for many reasons find
(4-399)them indocile & I can easily make it worth his while.
(4-399)I quite agree to have the doors & wood work in wainscot
(4-399)& I will go a fishing for oak trees as I may. To get them
(4-399)on the spot is impossible: they cannot all be brought
(4-399)from Leith: much of this will depend on Mr. Bullocks
(4-399)executing his kind promise in my favour respecting the
(4-399)plan of fitting up & disposing the rooms. On this subject
(4-399)I must say that the securing the library from damp will
(4-399)be a matter of the last importance. The west wind
(4-399)would blow the devil through the walls horns & all, let
(4-399)alone rain, & the damp whinstone does not mend the
(4-399)matter: I sometimes think of having a coating of
(4-399)cartridge paper covered with pitch laid upon the lathing
(4-399)or on the plaster behind the book presses. I do assure
(4-399)you this is an evil the extent of which you southern folks
(4-399)happily for you cannot learn to appreciate. It is felt at
(4-399)Bowhill with all the appliances & means used to prevent
(4-399)it. For this, as well as another reason I incline to have
(4-399)book presses in the dining room as well as the study: my
books are growing too many for me here, & there are already a good many at Abbotsford. If you have seen Mary Vines letter in which she hesitates thro' an order of about three pages directed to a mantua maker whether her cloak shall be made of cloth or duffle 1 & when in addition you consider that my head is at present none of the clearest you will not be surprised that on arriving at a passage on the 3d page of your letter I incline after all to subscribe to your reasoning in favour of No. A instead of No. B. contrary to what I said before, for being more simple & involving less expense I cannot see that it yields to No. B. in any practically useful or ornamental circumstance. No. B. therefore shall stand postponed & No. A. be preferred as you advise. Besides one of the side windows of the greenhouse No. A. ought perhaps by extension of a few inches [to] be coaxed into a door for the gardeners access. A glass door in the drawing room will make all the difference instead of the window proposed to look into the green house. The bed chamber apartment brings light & convenience out of intricacy & confusion. I incline to think we shall have no chimney to the northern dressing room next the old house, but open it with a door into the north principal bed room. It gives thus the advantage of a double dressing room to our best bed room which is not only convenient when we have guests of rank but most particularly & especially so when we have a visit of a country gentleman with his wife & family : as a young lady can very conveniently be quartered in her mothers dressing room which in this case will be a very large one. The southern bed room I destine for Mrs. Scott, & from the dressing room thereof will I myself sally to my morning walk on the leads. After all like those ingenious artists the spider & the bee we have begun
at the top of our building, for we have yet no vidimus of
the sunk story, which, I have little doubt however will
redound equally to the honour of Mr. Atkinsons
ingenuity, who has brought light out of darkness & order
out of confusion in so satisfactory a manner. Pray do
not let him hurry himself. It is time enough to begin

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when we have fixed our first principles. I do most
sincerely & fervently hope that your natural alarm for
Mrs. Terrys health may exaggerate the cause of your
apprehensions. Youth patience & good humour in the
frame of a delicate female will often stifle the seeds of
disease. I will write on this & other matters with my own
time as soon as I am able. In the mean time I beg you
will send me the papers you mention without delay
however rude or confused they may be : as it will be an
amusement to me to look them over & to put them into
some order. I should like the collection of prints you
mention very well if not too expensive : for you must
suppose that I am to have my knuckles pretty deep in my
purse. Do not let Mrs. Terry work on painting on glass
or painting on any thing. All that will be in time for
1818, besides I must send you the Scutcheon of my Avi &
attavi merry men all of Robin Hoods persuasion superior
in the legal distinction of meum & tuum who scorned pen &
ink in their day as much as their unworthy descendant
even from his youth to this unlucky hour despised beef
tea & panada.1 Make my best compts. & thanks to
Messrs. Bullock & Atkinson & my kind remembrances to
Mrs. Terry adding love to my Godson & apologies for a
weary letter which has beguiled a weary morning & I am
truly yours WALTER SCOTT with my hand at the pen.
Thine truly & contritely
TO THOMAS THOMSON

Monday Morning, 39 CASTLE STREET,
10th March 1817

MY DEAR THOMSON,—Would you have the goodness to get me out of the Library to-day or to-morrow Blakater's Letters of 1817. They are in a small quarto among the Wodrow MSS. I want to make some collations which will amuse me while I get out of this scrape. I am still in bed, but hope to get up and to be able to see you this morning if you can call. My right hand not having as yet recovered its cunning, I must subscribe like my border forefathers with my hand at the pen, led by Sophia Scott, writer hereof.—Yours truly, WALTER X SCOTT

His mark

TO DANIEL-TERRY

EDINBURGH, 12th March 1817

DEAR TERRY,—I am now able to write to you on your own affairs, though still as weak as water from the operations of the medical faculty, who, I think, treated me as a recusant to their authority, and having me once at advantage, were determined I should not have strength to rebel again in a hurry. After all, I believe it was...
touch and go; and considering how much I have to do
for my own family and others, my elegy might have been
that of the Auld Man's Mare-

"The peats and turf are all to lead,
What ail'd the beast to die?"

You don't mention the nature of your undertaking in
your last, and in your former you spoke both of the Black
Dwarf and of Triermain. I have some doubts whether
the town will endure a second time the following up a
well-known tale with a dramatic representation—and
there is no vis comica to redeem the Black Dwarf, as in the
case of Dominie Sampson. I have thought of two

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subjects for you, if, like the Archbishop's homilies, they do
not smell of the apoplexy. The first is a noble and very
dramatic tradition preserved in Galloway, which runs
briefly thus:—The Barons of Plenton (the family name,
I think, was--by Jupiter, forgot!) boasted of great
antiquity, and formerly of extensive power and wealth,
to which the ruins of their huge castle, situated on an
inland loch, still bear witness. In the middle of the
seventeenth century, it is said, these ruins were still
inhabited by the lineal descendant of this powerful family.
But the ruinous halls and towers of his ancestors were all
that had descended to him, and he cultivated the garden
of the castle, and sold its fruits for a subsistence. He
married in a line suitable rather to his present situation
than the dignity of his descent, and was quite sunk into
the rank of peasantry, excepting that he was still called—
more in mockery, or at least in familiarity, than in respect
-the Baron of Plenton. A causeway connected the
castle with the mainland; it was cut in the middle, and
the moat only passable by a drawbridge which yet subsisted, and which the poor old couple contrived to raise every night by their joint efforts, the country being very unsettled at the time. It must be observed, that the old man and his wife occupied only one apartment in the extensive ruins, a small one adjoining to the drawbridge; the rest was waste and dilapidated.

As they were about to retire one night to rest, they were deterred by a sudden storm which, rising in the wildest manner possible, threatened to bury them under the ruins of the castle. While they listened in terror to the complicated sounds of thunder, wind, and rain, they were astonished to hear the clang of hoofs on the causeway, and the voices of people clamouring for admittance. This was a request not rashly to be granted. The couple looked out, and dimly discerned through the storm that the causeway was crowded with riders. "How many of you are there?" demanded John. "Not more than the hall will hold," was the answer; "but open the gate, lower the bridge, and do not keep the ladies in the rain."--John's heart was melted for the ladies, and, against his wife's advice, he undid the bolts, sunk the drawbridge, and bade them enter in the name of God. Having done so, he instantly retired into his sanctum sanctorum to await the event, for there was something in the voices and language of his guests that sounded mysterious and awful. They rushed into the castle, and appeared to know their way through all its recesses. Grooms were heard hurrying their horses to the stables-sentinels were heard mounting guard—a thousand lights gleamed from place to place through the ruins, till at length they seemed all concentrated in the baronial hall, whose range of
bro ad windows threw a resplendent illumination on the moss-grown court below.

After a short time, a domestic, clad in a rich but very antique dress, appeared before the old couple, and commanded them to attend his lord and lady in the great hall. They went with tottering steps, and to their great terror found themselves in the midst of a most brilliant and joyous company; but the fearful part of it was, that most of the guests resembled the ancestors of John's family, and were known to him by their resemblance to pictures which mouldered in the castle, or by traditionary description. At the head, the founder of the race, dressed like some mighty baron, or rather some Galwegian prince, sat with his lady. There was a difference of opinion between these ghostly personages concerning our honest John. The chief was inclined to receive him graciously; the lady considered him, from his mean marriage, as utterly unworthy of their name and board. The upshot is, that the chief discovers to his descendant the means of finding a huge treasure concealed in the castle; the lady assures him that the discovery shall never avail him. In the morning no trace can be discovered of the singular personages who had occupied the hall. But John sought for and discovered the vault where the spoils of the Southrons were concealed, rolled away the covering stone, and feasted his eyes on a range of massy chests of iron, filled doubtless with treasure. As he deliberated on the best means of bringing them up, and descending into the vault, he observed it began slowly to fill with water. Bailing and pumping were resorted to, and when he had exhausted his own and his wife's strength, they summoned the assistance of the
neighbourhood. But the vengeance of the visionary lady was perfect; the waters of the lake had forced their way into the vault, and John, after a year or two spent in draining and so forth, died broken-hearted, the last Baron of Plenton.

Such is the tale, of which the incidents seem new, and admits of the highest degree of decoration, both by poetry, music, and scenery, and I propose (in behalf of my godson) to take some pains in dramatizing it. As thus-you shall play John, as you can speak a little Scotch; I will make him what the Baron of Bradwardine would have been in his circumstances, and he shall be alternately ludicrous from his family pride and prejudices, contrasted with his poverty, and respectable from his just and independent tone of feeling and character. I think Scotland is entitled to have something on the stage to balance Macklin's two worthies. You understand the dialect will be only tinged with the national dialect-not that the baron is to speak broad Scotch while all the others talk English. His wife and he shall have one child, a daughter, suitored unto by the conceited young parson or schoolmaster of the village, whose addresses are countenanced by her mother-and by Halbert the hunter, a youth of unknown descent. Now this youth shall be the rightful heir and representative of the English owners of the treasure, of which they had been robbed by the baron's ancestors, for which unjust act, their spirits still walked the earth. These, with a substantial character or two, and the ghostly personages, shall mingle as they may-and the discovery of the youth's birth shall break the spell of the treasure-chamber. I will make
the ghosts talk as never ghosts talked in the body or out
of it; and the music may be as unearthly as you can
get it. The rush of the shadows into the castle shall be
seen through the window of the baron's apartment in
the flat scene. The ghosts' banquet, and many other
circumstances, may give great exercise to the scene-
painter and dresser. If you like this plan, you had better
suspend any other for the present. In my opinion it has
the infinite merit of being perfectly new in plot and
structure, and I will set about the sketch as soon as my
strength is restored in some measure by air and exercise.
I am sure I can finish it in a fortnight then. Ever yours
truly.

W. SCOTT
[Lockhart]

TO HAY DONALDSON

MY DEAR SIR,-The enclosed letter which I communicate
to you in strict confidence will apprize you of the
very unpleasant objection which has occurred to the
efforts which my kind and partial friends were making
at my instance in favour of my brother Tom. The
objection is even of less consequence as a total and final
blight on his present prospects than when considered as
one affecting his moral character and conduct, his
reputation in short through life and after death; leaving
a stain even upon his family and near connections. It is
therefore of the utmost importance to have his conduct
placed on the right footing and the cause and extent of
his misfortunes ascertained by the best and most impartial
evidence to be obtained. Your own evidence however
respected being the confidential agent of our family I think is of less consequence than that of Mr. Guthrie Wright Trustee on my brothers affairs and under whose eye and by whose means those affairs were placed from the very beginning conducted and finally adjusted and settled. My brother and he had I know some dispute in the course of those affairs which I dare say have since been matters of regret to both as interruption of old friendship. But this can only serve to render Mr. Wrights statement of these matters entirely free from partiality. I think you should also apply as my brother's agent to our friend Mr. William Erskine who was confidentially consulted as a lawyer in all those affairs and I am quite content to rest the fate of my brother's application in the present and every subsequent instance upon their report. For me to make an application would have the air of indelicacy you as my brother's agent can ask for their testimony as a matter of justice and it is a mode of enquiry which leaves them perfectly at liberty to say the truth without fear or favour. I intreat you to use post haste dispatch in this matter and am very truly Yours

WALTER SCOTT
EDINBURGH 14 March [1817]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

MY DEAR FRIEND I have been so very ill since I wrote to you that all around expected to have seen the last of me: on Tuesday 4th. I had dined at Dalkeith and finding myself rather unwell I declined to stay all night which is my usual custom in that hospitable family. When I came home and got to bed I had a severe attack
of the cramp which kept Mrs. Scott up all night and gave me exquisite torment. Yet on the Wednesday after lying in bed till two o'clock a thing so unusual with me that I cannot remember having had occasion to do so for thirty years, I thought I might get up to receive some friends of my sister in laws. She had come from Canada on a visit to us and was to leave us next day so I could not think of breaking up a little family party. About nine o'clock however pain grew too violent for my stoicism. When put to bed (having broken up the good meeting with most admired disorder) my stomach rejected every species of medicine and an inflammation taking place the men of art had recourse to profuse bleeding and liberal blistering. This brought the disease to reason after about four and twenty hours much of which was spent in such acute agony that what intervals of rest intervened felt like the sleep of the poor Indian during the intermission of his tortures. The medical gentleman used me as monarchs do a rebellious province, and levied such exactions and requisitions on my blood and bones as I shall not forget in a hurry I promise you. My head is still as giddy as a top and I have been these five or six days endeavouring to get rid of the consequence of the remedies. I assure [you] I consider the event as a warning and a lesson to keep as my old riding master used to say my horse well in hand and be prepared as well as I may for the tremendous halt which must one day and may any one day stop the career. Two remarkables struck me in my illness-the first was that my great wolf-dog which is positively the most magnificent animal of his species ever seen clamourd wildly and fearfully about my bed when I was very ill and could hardly be got out of the room-the other that when I was recovering all factitious or acquired tastes seemed to leave me and I could eat nothing but parritch and listen to no
better reading than a stupid Scottish diary which would have made a whole man sick. As I am infinitely indebted
to your kind brother for his letter which I received the third day after I was ill I intend to make one of [my]
medical friends make a memorandum of symptoms mode of treatment &c in this violent paroxysm to accompany my letter of thanks in case they should suggest any thing additional to Dr. Baillie. He has tied me short up to the manger but I never drank wine to intemperance and am totally indifferent about the meat I eat so that I shall comply regularly being like Master Christopher Sly 1 loath to fall into my tantrums again.

I will not trust myself to say anything on the subject of Lady Byrons letter 2 but I feel a great deal. I must say I never heard any one say any thing to her disparagement though several have endeavourd to palliate and apologize for Lord B's conduct—all the Whigs by the way. I wish I had been born and bred a Whig—it is a saving faith which cloaks many an error—but this will vex you who need wear no cloak yourself and therefore cannot think how convenient it might be for other folks. I have a letter from friend Morritt (a great friend of Lady B's by the way) with this postscript "People here swear you wrote the Revw. on Ld. B. in the Quarterly you get great credit by it I hope it is true at least it contains your sentiments more than those of most others I meet with, and it does credit to your good humour." Now Morritt who is Downright Dunstable would not have let this sentence slip him if he could have dreamt of the review injuring Lady B. So I am much cheerd about this cursed blunder. I will lay up your letter and Lady Byrons with great care. The time may come when we
are all dead and gone for many a day when it may be interesting to some one.

To a better subject-your own poems-I am delighted.

(4-409) the touching story of Lady Grizzell 1 with which I have been familiar from my infancy from the misfortunes of my own forbears. My mothers maternal grandfather was Sir John Swinton of Swinton who was an exile in Holland at the same time with Ld. Marchmount and my mother who is thank God still well and hearty tells many of the singular occurrences as if she had been there herself.

Lady Diana Scott daughter of the last Earl of Marchmont (Popes friend) is alive and equally communicative and from some other family connections being far too fatally connected with these state plots I have heard a great deal about them and could almost paint Lady Grizzel. I will be delighted to see how You will treat this beautiful tale of domestic generosity and distress.2 There is no chance of my being in London this spring and I conceive Mr. Frelings cover would be the safest and surest means of conveying them to me for you may believe I will not easily forgo the hope of seeing them before publication. I deny what you allege of your unpopularity. Your name stands with the highest and above most who are accounted such for strength and originality of genius. I never heard this disputed by any one whose opinion I would give a farthing for. Why an author should be in high repute and generally known and esteemed and yet his works be less rapidly dispersed by sale than many of inferior reputation and far inferior value may in some measure be answered by supposing that Dramas being properly an entertainment designd for the stage plays...
which are given to the public without being acted want
the usual and natural introduction to general sale. But
I lay almost no weight upon this remark and only notice
it because I have heard it mentioned by others. My

own idea is that our friends Longman & Co. have a sort
of mercantile mode of treating all their books alike and
according to what they call the rules of trade which is
unfavourable to rapid sale. They have an immense
collection of stock of every various description and it is
their business to make the fat carry off the lean. They
therefore do not and will not make the allowances to the
retail trade upon a stirring article which others in the
trade would do but let it shift for itself wisely considering
that it will want less assistance than the rickety brats
which their ware-houses are loaded with. Now what is
the consequence? There is a selling time for every popular
work which may last perhaps from four to six months or
a year at most. A pushing bookseller keeps the market
full during that period and contents himself with smaller
profits on each copy that he may be reimbursed by the
quantity disposed of. He will contrive that while it is
the subject of conversation it may be procured at the next
Stationers in every town in England and this can only
be done by giving the retail dealer handsome discounts.
But if these shopkeepers are only supplied slowly and at
high rates they will be sparing in their orders buying no
more than they are pretty sure to sell immediately. If
the demand increases and cannot be rapidly supplied
people borrow from each other, or according to a yet
more common practice see all about it in the Reviews and
escape the disgrace of ignorance which ten chances to
one was their chief motive for purchasing the book.
Other works are publish'd other topics of conversation
occurr, the story is rememberd the author praised but
the period of rapid sale has gone by. Perhaps you will
think this an unjust account of our book-purchasers but
you remember the quack's answer to a regular physycian
" You see how many individuals pass the windows of this
coffee-house-what do you suppose may be the proportion
of men of sense ? " " Probably as one to nine "
replied the graduate. " Do you take for your patients

these and leave the rest to me "-answered the Empiric.
I do not at all blame Longmans house for their mode of
managing in this respect. They could not let down the
price of a good article without exciting a demand for
greater abatements in the case of a bad one and immense
as their stock is this would make a dreadful hole in their
profits which in the case of the heavy-selling book would
be totally uncompensated by any extension of the sale.
So on the whole their plan of equalizing is for them a
prudent and good system. But it tells severely upon us
clever folks. I had occasion (this is in strict confidence) to
make some enquiries at a sure hand concerning the sale
of the popular novels and I have this result from a sure
hand.

Waverley managed by Constable-9000 copies
G. Mannering- Longman-5000.
Antiquary Constable-8000.
Tales of my Landlord (Murray)-8000.

I cannot think there would have been this inferiority of
sale in the case of Guy Mannering to all the others had
the work been equally well husbanded. The author
must have lost 600 or 700 by the mode of management.
Yet it is as widely known as much talkd of and as
much admired as the others.

In my own case (and as Sir Terence O'Fay says if I cannot manage them I don't know who can) I have always found it best to allow a liberal but a temporary interest to booksellers in my labours. I sell editions but never of late years copyrights and submit to some temporary loss to keep up my right in these things the value of which may be supposed to be increased after the death of the author. Perhaps however this mode of management would be troublesome to you. But I must bring this long lecture to a close. Suffice it to say my experience and advice is always at your slightest command and that I long to see the new efforts of your muse. The grasshopper is still a burthen to me and I feel tired and giddy with making black lines on white paper. Our kindest love attends Mrs. Agnes. Ever affectionately yours,

SIR WALTER SCOTT

17 March [1817]

[Royal College of Surgeons, London and Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT, M.P., PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON

MY DEAR MORRITT,-I hasten to acquaint you I am in the land of life and thriving though I have had a light shake and still feel the consequence of the medical treatment. I have been plagued all through this winter with cramps in the stomach which I endured as a man of mould might and endeavour to combat them by drinking scalding water and so forth. As they
grew rather unpleasantly frequent I had reluctant
recourse to Bailey. But before his answer arrived on the
5th. I had a most violent attack which broke up a small
party at my house and sent me to bed roaring like a
bullcalf. All sort of remedies were applied as in the
case of Gil Blas's pretended colic but such was the pain
of the real disorder that it out-deviled the doctors hollow.
Even heated salt which was applied in such a state that
it burnd my shirt to rags I hardly felt when applied to
my stomach. At length the symptoms became inflammatory
and dangerously so the seat being the diaphragm:
they gave way only to very profuse bleeding and blistering
which under higher assistance saved my life. My
recovery was slow and tedious from the state of exhaustion
I could neither stir for weakness and giddiness nor read
for dazzling in my eyes nor listen for a whizzing sound
in my ears nor even think for lack of the power of arranging
my ideas. So I had a comfortless time of it for about
a week. Even yet I by no means feel as the copy book
hath it

The lion bold which the lamb doth hold.

On the contrary I am as weak as water. They tell me
(of course) I must renounce every creature-comfort as
my friend Jedediah calls it. As for dinner and so forth
I care little about it-but toast and water and three
glasses of wine sound like hard laws to me. However to
parody the lamentation of Hassan the Cameldriver

The lily Health outvies the grapes bright ray
And Life is dearer than the Usquebae-
So I shall be amenable to discipline. But in my own secret mind I suspect the state of my bowels more than any thing else. I take enough of exercise and enough of rest. But unluckily they are like a Lapland year divided as one night and one day. In the vacation I never sit down. In the Session time I seldom rise up. And all this must be better arranged in future and I trust I shall live to weary out all your kindness of which I am deeply sensible.

I am truly glad you are at length setting seriously to the Poors Laws: the great antiquity of the evil and the deep root it has taken in the constitution of England renders it like an old & inveterate cancer an evil difficult to be eradicated. The tendency of Poors Rates to increase where ever they are once introduced is a singular feature. In a small property which belonged for several years to my uncle & afterwards to myself in the neighbourhood of Kelso the rates were at first 10/ and when I sold the property amounted to about 8 in the course of fourteen or fifteen years. A great advantage would be to destroy your whole system of overseers, throw the management into the hands of the heritors, and release them from the obligation of maintaining those who are capable to earn their own livelihood. I could not but hold up my hands in wonder at a proposal in the Quarterly Revw: that those who had money deposited in a Poors' Bank should be entitled to claim parish aid as if they were penniless. The truth is the poor in England seem to be getting at the effective part of Spences system without other means than the parish rates. The D. of Buccleuch says that in the Parish of Kettering Northampton the poors rates are as 17/6 to 1 of the rent.
The Devils in it if the poor have not a due proportion of the produce of the soil.

I am obliged to break off hastily. I beg particular remembrances to Lady Louisa to whom I will soon write a long letter. I trust I will be able to get over the Fell in the end of summer which will rejoice me much for the sound of the woods of Rokeby are lovely in mine ear.

Ever most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 18 March 1817

Will you let Billet Doux commonly call'd M[r] Dove throw the inclosed into the 2d. post office.

[Law]

TO DANIEL TERRY

[22nd March 1817]

MY DEAR TERRY,- You think too much about the supposed favor. Gold & silver have I none but such as I have it is natural I should try therewith to help any old friend & my godson. My head is still Whiggish much inclined to giddiness so I work slow & cautiously. I think the matter will be something tragic, the decay'd Baron for Young & for you a certain Edie Ochiltree of a half warlock half mendicant. But my present cause of writing is about these damned measurements. Paterson insists he forwarded them a fortnight since so I fear they must be lying about Lord Montagues hand or mislaid by the carelessness of the servants. I will write to Lord
Montague tomorrow. I sincerely hope the accident you mention may give a favorable turn to Mrs. Terrys complaint. My best compliments attend her. Yours very truly

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH.

John Kemble is here taking leave, as great as ever. I saw him.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN,—I am very much flattered by your kind remembrance of me & truly sorry for the cause of your long silence. I sometimes think I could almost part with my thumb to have a good apology for leaving off writing & yet I no sooner have a moments release than I tire of idleness & begin to scribble again. I have got safely through a bad inflammatory complaint in the stomach but I still feel the effects of blistering & bleeding being weak & at times giddy. I do not think I shall come quite round till milder weather will permit me to go to the country & take gentle exercise on my own hills.

Kemble is beating himself as I hear: tonight I intend to venture to the theatre & see Coriolanus 1 for the last time. As good actors may perhaps succeed him in other parts but in his own peculiar line I think he will never be matched. The fine figure & dignified manner joind

1817 SIR WALTER SCOTT 417
to the perfect good taste with which he presents before us the heroes of ancient Rome places him in a rank far beyond what I ever expect to look upon again.

I have some prospect of getting your old acquaintance Tom a better situation in Canada unless his former follies rise up in judgement against him through the means of interested competitors for I think mere ill will would hardly follow him to the wilds of America. I know no one whose ill report he has greatly to fear unless it be Lord Abercorns whose kindness he certainly neglected and misused at a moment of great strait & desperation. He has had a terrible penance for it however of broken health & ten years struggle with narrow circumstances & I am sure I may trust to Lord Abercorns natural generosity that if (which I do not consider as the least likely) Toms name should be mentioned to him he will dwell upon faults so long past as lightly as he finds it possible. And if the said Tom should happen as your Ladyship supposes to prove the author of this celebrated family of Novels his genius as in the case of greater men may be allowed to shelter past failings.

My family are all well & beg respectful remembrances. My eldest son is grown too tall to be your page. He is fully half an inch taller than I am but strong & healthy in proportion a tolerable scholar & a skillful & graceful horseman. He is to have a command in the Yeomanry this year & will be a smart officer which I am glad of as we are not unlikely to need these corps.

Mrs Kemble tells us that you take all your gaity at home & that my friend Lady Charlotte Campbell chaperones Lady Julia. Pray remember me to both
ladies as well as to the Marquis. I ever am, Dear Lady Abercorn, Your truly obliged & faithful

22 March [1817]. WALTER SCOTT

EDIN.

Terrible hard frost.

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

[23 March 1817]

MY DEAR MRS. CLEPHANE,-This comes to let you know you had nearly seen the last sight of me, unless I had come to visit you on my red beam like one of Fingal's heroes, which Ossianic as you are, I trow you would not readily dispense with. The cause was a cramp in my stomach which after various painful visits, as if it had been sent by Prospero and had mistaken me for Caliban, at length chose to conclude by setting fire to its lodging, like the Frenchmen as they retreated through Russia, and placed me in as proper a state of inflammation as if I had had the whole Spanish committee in my unfortunate stomach. Then bleeding and blistering was the word, and they bled and blistered till they left me neither skin nor blood. However they beat off the foul fiend and I am bound to praise the bridge which carried me over. I am still very totterish and very giddy. Kept to panada or rather to porridge, for I spurned all foreign slops and adhered to our ancient oatmeal manufacture. But I have no apprehension of any return of the serious part of the malady, and I am now recovering my strength, though
looking somewhat cadaverous upon the occasion. Many
thanks (too long delayed), for the real Allan of Moidart
and no fewer for the very funny verses on St. Mary's well.
I have cause to remember it having very nearly stuck in
the bog in my pious and persevering efforts to pay my
respects to the sad and deserted spring. As for the
Collector, it is my fault that the same knight of the yellow
not sanguine yoke is collecting there at all. For it was
the Collector's place which Park should have had, and
it was only at the particular request of Mr. Earle, Chairman
of the board here, and under promise of certain
advantages to Archie Park that I agreed he should take
the Comptroller's place and the Comptroller, who I take
to be the Inspector of eggs, should be Collector. But
though I had it in my power to have given Park the latter
appointment yet as his future promotion must depend on
the board, I thought it imprudent that he should sit at
Rome and strive with the Pope. By the way, he is
exceedingly grateful for your kindness, about which he
writes in the warmest possible terms. I enclose a few
lines to him under this cover which may go to Tobermory
when opportunity occurs. They are merely to wish him
joy of his settlement. Our Ettrick Foresters, very
abstemious in general, are sometimes terrible fellows for a
screed, and temptations occur frequently where there is
plenty both of whiskey and idle time to drink it.

I much approve of your going to Italy by sea: indeed
it is the only way you ought to think of it. What a
famous thing it would be to get a cast in a King's ship-
perhaps Capt. Clephane might arrange such a matter
for you. It would save expense, and then the having it
in your power to land here and there would render the
voyage so interesting. But I do not know how far this
(4-419)is possible. I am only sorry you are going to leave us
(4-419)for a while, but indeed the Isle of Mull might be Florence
(4-419)to me in respect of separation, and cannot be quite
(4-419)Florence to you since Lady Compton is not there.-I

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(4-420)heard her mentioned in a company where my interest in
(4-420)her was not known, as one of the very few English ladies
(4-420)now in Italy whose acquirements, conduct, and mode of
(4-420)managing her time induced that part of foreign society
(4-420)whose approbation is valuable to consider with high
(4-420)respect and esteem. This, I think, is very likely, for
(4-420)whatever folks say of foreigners, those of good education
(4-420)and high rank have a most supreme contempt for the
(4-420)frivolous, dissipated, empty, gad-about manners of many
(4-420)of our modern belles-And we may say among ourselves
(4-420)that there are few upon whom high accomplishments and
(4-420)information sit more gracefully.

(4-420)John Kemble is here to take leave, acting over all his
(4-420)great characters and with all the spirit of his best years.
(4-420)He played Coriolanus last night (the first time I have
(4-420)ventured out) fully as well as I ever saw him, and you
(4-420)know what a complete model he is of the Roman Patrician.
(4-420)He has made a great reformation in his habits, given up
(4-420)wine, which he used to swallow in pailfulls, and renewed
(4-420)his youth like the eagles. He seems to me always to play
(4-420)best those characters in which there is a predominating
(4-420)tinge of some over-mastering passion or acquired habit
(4-420)[of] acting and speaking colouring the whole man. The
(4-420)patrician pride of Coriolanus, the stoicism of Brutus and
(4-420)Cato, the rapid and hurried vehemence of Hotspur mark
(4-420)the class of characters I mean. But he fails where a ready
(4-420)and pliable yielding to the events and passions of life
(4-420)makes what may be termed a more natural personage.
Accordingly, I think his Macbeth, Lear, and especially his Richard, inferior in spirit and truth. In Hamlet, the natural fixed melancholy of the prince places him within Kemble's range of excellence. But many delicate and sudden turns of passion slip through his fingers. He is a lordly vessel, goodly and magnificent when going large before the wind, but wanting the facility to go "ready about" and tack, as occasion demands, so that he is sometimes among the breakers before he can wear ship.

Yet we lose in him a most excellent critic, an accomplished scholar, and one who graced our forlorn drama with what little it has left of good sense and gentleman-like feelings. And so Exit He. He made me write some lines to speak when he withdraws and he has been here criticizing and correcting till he got them quite to his mind, which has, I think, rather tired me, for he would not make the alterations on the broad ground that as he was to speak them, he had a title to please himself, but dragd me into the land of metaphysics and rythmical harmony where I am not at present very equal to follow him.

I wish I was near you to "sit on silken seat," hear the harp and drink goat's whey, for unto that I am come for the present; or I wish I was at Abbotsford if this iron frost would give way and let me get there. Did I tell you my bogg has afforded me an inexhaustible store of good marle, and I have found a tolerable quarry which tempts me to build a connection between the present farmhouse and the Chapel, in which you were tenants. So you see I have fair temptation to ruin myself with improvements and buildings for it is with quarries and marle mosses that the Demon who wasted Sir Vista's wealth baits his
hook now-a-days. I trust we will see or hear of you as you come or go towards your place of embarkation, and I hope you will find us at Abbotsford. Certainly either there or here. Mrs. Scott joins in kind respects. She was greatly obliged to Miss Clephane for some seeds with which she expects to work wonders at Abbotsford.

Ever my dear friends, most truly yours while

WALTER SCOTT
[Northampton]

TO HAY DONALDSON

MY DEAR SIR, - I will enable you in the course of two or three days to send Mrs. Scott 1 the hundred and eighty pounds which with twenty more advanced to her will reduce my note to 2000 instead of 2200. It will be proper that you apprize her of this for there should be no mistake betwixt us. I have some money lying in the country which will serve this purpose well. Yours truly

W. SCOTT
[Northampton]

EDINB Tuesday [24th March, 1817]

To Hay Donaldson
[Griffith]

TO DANIEL TERRY

DEAR TERRY, - Your very welcome epistle with the plan of the Basement story of the pigeon house at Abbotsford with which Mr. Atkinson has so kindly supplied me, reached [me] yesterday & I forwarded it immediately to
the operative gentry. I saw one of them the day before & I believe not a day's time has been lost; for if they had begun, the frost must have stopt them. I trust they will now get on without delay & shall wait with confidence the working plan of the ground story also what Mr. Bullock has to say about the shape of the doors, furnishing the wainscotting &c with a view to his own cost for labour that we may have them of a price. Pray don't you think there should be niches or provisions made for arranging any busts, arms, &c in the space between the Green house & drawing room. If two niches could be made in the North wall which divides that little lobby which we will call the Armoury from the Boudoir, I would put the Indian Armour in the one, & the Gothic in the other: both suits are nearly compleat. You see I follow the old trade of beggars for though it is said they ought not to be chusers yet they are importunate from the very nature of that profession. I soon tired of painting my heraldick trash & never having attempted such a thing before I have made horrid work. The coats are

Paternal Maternal
Scott of Harden Rutherford
Haliburton of Mertoun Swinton of Swinton.

As I tired of colouring I hope the description of those of Scott & Swinton may be intelligible.

I shall be anxious to hear of Mrs. Terry: those able physicians Doctors Quiet, Diet & Merryman will I trust bring her round.

The arrangement of the Basement is admirable, only
I shall keep the butlers cellar for some other purpose as I always take charge of my own wine. God help me it could be easily done if I am to get only three glasses a day but I trust when we meet I shall be able to drink a bottle of claret, "For a' the ill it does me yet."

I will very soon send you a prima cura of the first act of the Fortunes of Devorgoil. Yours in haste

WALTER SCOTT
EDINBURGH 28 March [1817]

I do not expect to get to the country till this day fortnight. I hope Mrs. Terry will get over the agony of flitting without verifying Dr. Franklins calculation that three white washings are equal to a removing & two removals to one fire.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO DANIEL TERRY

[29 March 1817]

MY DEAR TERRY,-The plans & measurement for the iron beams arrived safely. I have just expedited them to Paterson. I have been prevented from going to Abbotsford partly by the death of one of my brethren of office whose duty devolves on my shoulders until his successors commission is signed by the Prince Regent, partly by some recurrence of my vile spasms with an oppressive
pain in my chest & other inconveniences. These are ugly twinges as your friend Lord Ogleby 1 says but such things come when youth goes & strength wanes. I am however as anxious about my hall as if it were to be for ages my dwelling place & thank you kindly for the interest you take in it. I intend to be at Abbotsford for certain on Saturday 7th May so that if I get the result of your Sundays deliberation any day next week I shall have the opportunity to talk it over on the spot with my operative friends which will be the greatest possible convenience. I shall not I fear get out again till after the 12 July avis au lecteur which avis intimates that the sooner I can get the advice of my counsel learned in the laws of taste the more likely I am to profit by them. If the packet is sent to me addressed to me under cover to William Kerr Esqr. Secretary Post Office Edinburgh it will reach me safe & save some time in troubling Mr. Freeling for his cover & Mr. Kerr will forward it in case I should chance to be at Abbotsford when it comes. I should like whatever requires care of the wood work done either here or in London. My honest neighbours of Galashiels are excellent masons & have been since the building of Melrose but very sorry carpenters. I therefore joyfully acquiesce in having the windows furnished 2 in London as far as they may be supposed to require any particular neatness & care. Staircase & bed-room windows I suppose we may find here, as the expence of packing carriage &c would be very great in proportion to any advantage which could be desired. I am going to despatch to Messrs. Longman a small packet for Mr. Atkinson containing a set of my poetical labours : he will probably wonder at the disproportioned size of my poems & my house but I have Ariostos excuse, words are
more easily put together than bricks. I sought every
where to make up a large paper set but it is quite
impossible & after all it is the Ex dono which can alone give
value to the volumes. I would like when your counsels
are so far settled to know what articles should be finished
in London which here. I understand the second (that is
the parlour) story of the house is well on. I thought of
making the balcony in front of the house a veranda of cast
Iron : the bars will of course be correct with painted boards
which will be removed in the winter season. Little
advantage would arrive from making it of iron which
would be expensive & I think heavy. I have some
thoughts of adopting the Gas lights should I find on an
accurate enquiry that they emit no smell. In other
respects the saving & beauty is immense. Now suppose
I do adopt this mode of lighting I intend to have the
principal rails of my balustrade cast hollow & to finish at
top with a fleur de lys or thistle with burners. Along the
bottom will be a tube of communication which on any
rejoicing occasion can be filled with Gas, & lighting the
burners at the top of the rails you have an extempore
illumination at pleasure. I say this is a whim that
floats about my head with other whims & waits for some
breeze of approbation to drive it ashore. I have some
other things to write to you about but the business of the
Session & this cursed pain in my breast is inimical to a
prolong’d correspondence : I trust I will soon get rid of
both. I am heartily glad Mrs. Terry gets stout : quiet
& good hours will I trust confirm what care has begun.
I am not much alarmed with the little fellows inflammatory
complaint : it is the sign of a strong constitution but
must of course be watched carefully. I have made some

(4-425)more easily put together than bricks. I sought every
(4-425)where to make up a large paper set but it is quite
(4-425)impossible & after all it is the Ex dono which can alone give
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(4-426)progress in ye ken what I but not to my satisfaction ; it
smells of the cramp as the Bishop of Grenadas sermon did
of the Apoplexy 2 & I must get it into better odour before
sending it to you. Most truly yours,

EDINBURGH. WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO HAY DONALDSON

DEAR SIR, - I enclose you a cheque or rather first Bill
for $180 received this morning from the Country. There
is a bank at Dumfries 3 so I suppose it will be as good a
mode of remittance as any other. I also enclose two
receipts of Mrs. Scott for $20. I send both but only
wish you to give me credit for one of these sums the other
to equip my Godson being a free gift. But as the sums
are alike and the dates near each other it might be forgot
that there were two of these payments. My advance
being thus $200 I request that may be marked on my bill
of $2400. Ever yours truly WALTER SCOTT

EDINB 29 March [1817].

TO [JAMES BALLANTYNE]

DEAR JAMES, - As I wrote the last three or four pages in
great pain I had better look them over before going to
press. I should be glad to see Mr. Hogarth 4 in the course
of today if convenient to settle about counsel! etc. I
should not have advised Moncrieff. As this is in my
department a little I should be glad to consider it regularly
Mr. Laidlaw leaves town tomorrow. I beg you will settle with him poor fellow for his penmanship. You have not sent me the bill. Yours ever 

[After March 1817] W. S. [Signet Library]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[1817]

DEAR JAMES,- I beg you will make the following correction in the poem.1

A tramontane, a heretic, the buck

Poffaredio ! still has all the luck.

Cazacco has rather a licentious derivation though constantly used. I wish much to see you this morning about Sharpe's book. Yours W S

Sharpe is to be here at three but I must see you earlier.

I am at home all the day. W S

[Glen]

TO W. LAIDLAW

EDINBURGH, April 5, 1817

MY DEAR SIR,-Nothing can give me more pleasure than the prospect of your making yourself comfortable at Kaeiside, till some good thing casts up. I have not put Mr. Moss to any inconvenience, for I only requested...
an answer, giving him leave to sit if he had a mind—
of free will he leaves my premises void and red at
Whitsunday. I suspect the house is not in good order, but
we shall get it brushed up a little. Without affectation
I consider myself the obliged party in this matter—or at
any rate it is a mutual benefit, and you shall have grass

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for a cow, and so forth—whatever you want. I am sure
when you are so near I shall find some literary labour for
you that will make ends meet.1 Yours, in haste,

W. SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO J. WILSON CROKER

MY DEAR CROKER,—I have been so plagued with
making up the long lee way occasiond by my illness that
I almost forget my mysterious mode of correspondence.2
I now send a sheet in which it is used in its most simple
form & I have written the words expressd opposite to the
lines in which the letters occur of which they are formd—
that is when so many letters make the word I write that
word opposite to the line in which the last letter occurs.
It is in fact using the common alphabet in the common
way—the difficulty of discovery lies in the unsuspicious
form of the medium employd. A decypherer would at
once find it out were [we] to give him a sheet of paper &
say the secret lies here but were a secret agent arrested
with a newspaper or prayer book or any other ordinary
volume about his person it would scarce occur to any
one to be the depositary of his secret. And I can
conceive an order of marking the letters to be adopted in
which those intended to be used in the correspondence
should be distinct from all others which chance or accident
might put on the same paper. I could make this very
plain were I at your elbow. I conceive you to be quite
at liberty to take any sound opinion on the utility of this
device. What I chiefly want to know is whether it be
original or no—if not original it is wonderfully simple.
You will observe that to enable you to understand the
principle distinctly the points in the present case are made
as distinct as possible were a person acquainted with the
secret & in the habit of using it to be addressed the letters
would be marked more faintly & in a varied order.
Sympathetic ink might be used to mark the letters.

I am now in haste to enjoy at Abbotsford the coldest
Spring I have seen these some years. Our treason trials
are proceeding & our great Whigs make them a party
question. What can these poor devils think but that so
many gentlemen of fortune and respectability are of their
own mind in private though they do not put themselves
in the van of deliberation. There are some things funny
enough. It was remitted to a committee of five weavers
to consider whether the new Constitution should have
any religion—psalm singing weavers they were not for
they answered in the negative. The lawyers were cried
down at once:1 they agreed that parochial juries should
settle all disputed questions without troubling either
bench or bar. I hope we will get a conviction or we
will have awkward times here. Yours very truly

EDINR. 12 April 1817    WALTER SCOTT
[L. M. Mackay]

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE
ABBOTSFORD, Monday. [April 1817]

DEAR JOHN,- I have a good subject for a work of fiction in petto. What do you think Constable would give for a smell of it? You ran away without taking leave the other morning, or I wished to have spoken to you about it. I don’t mean a continuation of Jedediah, because there might be some delicacy in putting that by the original publishers. You may write if anything occurs to you on this subject. It will not interrupt my History. By the way I have a great lot of the Register ready for delivery, and no man asks for it. I shall want to pay up some cash at Whitsunday, which will make me draw on my brains.1 Yours truly, 

W. SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,- Your letter reachd me this morning. I am sick of the encroachments of these gentlemen 2 and will not give up an inch beyond what you proposed, that is nine months bills. They seem to have totally forgot that the credit was extended for no reason whatever to 12 months from six months upon the first three payments. There is no end of this- Were they to refuse the offer you have made I have no doubt but the edition might be sold to Constable & Longman upon very advantageous terms although under the condition that they were to
wait till these gentlemens 600 were off; or else to buy them. Indeed were Constable to engage in the transaction I would probably give him four volumes more by next season on proper conditions and John might have such a share in the transaction as he could manage safely for himself. I would expect either a good lift of stock or something very handsome for 6000 of the new Jedidiah. I could not engage with any other person except Constable to write the continuation this summer because it would postpone his history. Perhaps you had better wait untill John comes to town before answering these gentry as one would not like to slip one knot till we were sure we could knitt another; and John could easily as from himself sound the man of fraud & suet. I saw him here but he took trench leave in the morning before I was up. Your cash matters cannot I think push you to a hasty settlement & you can hasten Johns return to town by a letter. I am really tired of being supposed to receive favours when I am in fact conferring them & besides Mr. Blackwood in holding the door of his puritanical magazine open to all sorts of abuse on Mr Jedidiah has no particular title to expect a continuance of his favours. I wish you had written to Murray but it now seems [too] late. I never saw the sense or propriety of considering Blackwood as his organ. I hope you will remember to pay my bills the day before due to prevent bankers clerks calling in Castle Street- Your not speaking to Blackwood for some days will have a good effect every way.

I hope you will do your utmost to break off bad habits even after forty five. It is never they say too late to mend and you suffer habits of abstraction & forgetfulness to interfere with the exercise of your good sense & excellent parts.

I will certainly look over Mr Hogarth's proofs since he wishes it conditionally that he will look over mine &
suggest whatever occurs for I am aware he may detect
errors which would escape both you & me.

I have not yet seen the critique on Kean, the saleroom
not having found its way here. I think this is all I have
to say. Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 16 April 1817

TO ROBERT JOHNSTON[E] 2

DEAR SIR, - Nothing can be more obliging than your
attention to the old stones, you have been as true as the
sun dial itself. Of the two I would prefer the large one
as it is to be in front of a parapet quite in the old taste.

I agree with you perfectly as to the state of the periodical
press in Edinburgh: unfortunately great difficulties
occur in any proposal to remedy it. Nothing but
advertisements will ever pay a paper & every body
advertises in the old established papers. The Herald
sunk in spite of poor Browns efforts & now the Correspondent
gone certainly because it did not pay. Ballantyne
bought the Edinr. Weekly Journal 3 the other day &
will make a good thing of it as I counted 75 advertisements
in the last No. this is sure in its principles the rest are all
so except Donaldsons. I do not quite understand what
you allude to about the . . . but I think any thing in that
quarter disagreeable to the Magistrates could only arise from inadvertance or misinformation.

WALTER SCOTT
[Abbotsford Copies]

SIR WALTER SCOTT 1817 433

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY

MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I have no better reason for encroaching on your patience just now than what is to me a very important one as well as to many a man besides & that is to enquire about your health. The people here will have it that you are indisposed. If it is a goutish affection I trust you will think of Bath which though a tiresome place is famous for fixing any of those uncertain attacks of that Proteous of diseases, old Podagra.!

I have been well enough to toil a day by the loch-side (with trimmers) and catch no fish though we had a glorious nibble or two. The very monster would not show himself. But the day was delightful beyond measure. Of late it has got into frosty mornings and that repining race the farmers begin to clamour for rain—So do not I—for when our climate begins once to weep it knows as little when to stop as a Miss of fifteen at a sentimental comedy. Bowhill is by all accounts superlatively improved by shifting the road to the other side and report speaks of an aqueduct for draining the loch in mighty terms.

I have been fortunate enough to find a beautiful & excellent quarryst of blue granite for the front of my future mansion which harmonizes most charmingly with the grey freestone. It bears dressing with the hammer into square pieces of any size & seems inexhaustible. Obstinacy
(4-433) (said to be inherent in the four letters of our clans
surname) is sometimes a good thing for I stuck by this
quarry on my own opinion (knowing nothing of such
subjects & being therefore obstinate & not persevering)
against all sober mens advice.

(4-433) As I will take this opportunity to improve my kitchen-
grates I would be greatly obliged to Florence if he would
write down the name of the person who framed that very
excellent one at Bowhill-Thrift-Thrift-Horatio-we
must save coals if we can for Nicol Milne can find none at

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(4-434) Lindean 1 and Hardens experiment at Maxton is equally
hopeless.

(4-434) I have a very curious petition from the Kerrs to Queen
Mary after the slaughter of Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch
in 1553. They say they could neither go to kirk nor
market but were obliged to forsake their houses & dwell
in woods & caves from the revenge of their enemies.

(4-434) Charlotte & I are here alone but I return on the lath
May to their Lordships of the Session humble service.
I am ever with great respect My dear Lord your ever
faithful & obliged WALTER SCOTT

(4-434) ABBOTSFORD 24 April [1817]

[Buccleuch]

TO ADAM FERGUSSON

(4-434) DEAR ADAM,- The worthy Knight of Riddel has
generously rewarded with a frank (volunteer upon honour)
the trouble you took in opening a battery on Mr. Spalding
- The breach it seems was stormed before your letter
arrived. Mr. Spalding had some how become convinced
that Maxwell did not quite make his canvass with the
approbation of government and that four or five good
friends (in the planting line) were not like to be satisfied
with his vote if given to the friends of that gentleman.
So if Mr. S. has learned among other negative propositions
what it is that does not butter parsnips he has probably
also learned what it is that does. The fact is they are
more afraid than hurt. These honest burgesses will
alway[s] rally to the clap of the lid of the corn-chest, though
they may fast and fling for a season to accelerate the turn
of the key.

We have all force on, on Monday to gravel the road at
Toftfield. The Chief & Chas. Adam 2 have made out

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their visit, and we had two rare days that wanted only
your presence. The Chief seemed extremely pleased
with what he came to see especially with your accomodations
and declared though as unlike to the Queen of Sheba
as his entertainer to Solomon that " the half thereof had
not been told to him."

I hope to see you shortly-remember I am bound to go
on the 12th and I wish to let you hear a cousin of mine
play on the Pipes-the small pipe is as delightful a thing
as I ever heard. Also we have a probationery piper for
Abbotsford to take into consideration- So pray come
so soon as you can possibly. There is much to do for
your convenience in which I would like to have your own
views & assistance- In short I trust to see you so soon
as possible. Yours truly
W. SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 24 April [? 1817]

Kind compliments to the ladies & Skipper - The Cellar will be quite dry, which was all I was afraid of - The garden seems to be very nicely arranged indeed & I trust is as well sown & stocked. The new fence is in a great measure up and gives you a very pretty paddock - I have seen a number of grey fowl. Sir John is very grateful for your reinforcement and has sent it off by express to secure the victory over Mr. Spalding -

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO DANIEL TERRY

[29th April 1817]

MY DEAR TERRY, - Mr. Atkinson has certainly the wand as well as the good nature of the fairy Goodwill & I am not the less indebted to him that he bestows his kindness on me out of regard in a great measure to you. The place I had proposed for my grapery was the angle of my garden wall having its aspects nearly due south & west. The ground is perfectly drain'd and dry & may be made still more so : the southern wall is something obscured by the hill rising in front so that the sun does not reach it early in the winter mornings but to the west it is quite open. I have no thoughts of proceeding with this however until next year & I devoutly hope I may have an opportunity of seeing Mr. Atkinson & returning
some of his kindness (at least acknowledging it) in the
course of this summer & I will be then guided by his
better judgment in the position of the said grapery: the
bearing of the garden is about this supposing the lines to
form the angle I mentioned

West angle aforesaid South.

North with about a point to the east.

The Garden is sheltered from the north & east by thriving
plantations & banks. There is a space between the
north wall & the nearest plantations where I keep hot
beds at present, very fit for a grapery. I intend to finish
all my new buildings this year because I shall wish to have
possession of it while they unroof & raise the walls of my
present house next year. In this way I shall never be
utterly ousted from the premises. I have made a great &
important change in the arrangement of my basement
story. What was marked Laundry & Wash house is
now turned into kitchen & servants hall & our dinner
is brought so much nearer to us. The accommodation is
ecellent & what was whilome kitchen & scullery makes
or rather is to make very good laundry & wash house
close by the pump, well, & opening into the yard. For
two of my massive triangular carved stones I have found
destination on the summit of the square
tower containing (with reverence be it spoken) the water
closets. It has been hitherto drawn as if to be flat on
the roof above the cistern but these triangular stones
which are about six feet 8 inches in length by four in
height will enable me to finish it like one of the square
turrets of an old Scottish mansion thus they will form
the upright gables & we will slate it between them :
Of course they must rest on a projecting block cornice.
Nothing can look handsomer of its kind than the
greyish blue granite of my new Quarry when neatly
dress'd with the hammer & laid in courses & it
harmonizes uncommonly well with the freestone
which I chose for its sober grey tint though it
costs some more expence in drawing. The basement
story is now well up & in a few days my masons will be
like Michael Scotts fiend roaring for employment &
certainly doing mischief until the arrival of the plans give
them the means of proceeding by line & level : the
weather has been most favorable & the building advances
in proportional rapidity so that we will look anxiously
for the promised plans. I intend to do nothing about the
interior until I hear the voice of Mr. Bullock on that
important subject.

Were you to see Abbotsford now it would confirm you
in your vocation of planting groves & plantations for our
labours begin now to make a distinguished appearance &
every year will add to them. The banks next the house
are allowed to have thriven faster than any in this
country & make some show though only between four &
five years planted. The Counsellor slipp'd through my
fingers like a knotless thread through muslin, so I had no
opportunity to charge him with special greetings. I just
had a glimpse of him on one of Keans squeezes as I was
handing an old lady to her carriage & when I came back
lo ! he was not. I am bothering my brains about
Devorgoil but I have it at heart to try my hand fairly &
handsomely. Even the sketch I will send you shortly
I consider as a mere Esquisse. Have you read Schlegel
on the Drama? There are good things in it though he is something too dogmatical. I have taken a few lessons from him. But whether the fancy of a modern audience will entertain the supernatural I have some doubts. It must be previously strongly excited if possible. That you may not think us altogether strangers to the drama here I will inclose you by the first parcel a couple of bills for the theatre at Melrose being for the Lady of the Lake & Guy Mannering. By the way Listons Dominie 1 is a very fine thing & does him infinite credit. I saw him for a second behind the scenes. I am delighted to hear Mrs. Terry is restored to health & to the occupation she understands so well but do not let it amount to fagging. The little pickaninny has my kindest wishes. They grow up on us fast these young sprouts: Mine you would hardly know. The girls are fast becoming young women. Walter is taller than I am by an inch: he is a most beautiful horseman & I resign my yeomanry saddle & broad sword to him this summer as I do not now get on horseback once in a month.

The eldridge knight gave up his arms With many a sorrowful sigh!

However people must grow old or die which is the best apology I have for folks declining in activity or strength. In the meantime let us live while we live & be merry & build the lofty & the lowly cottage as long as we can. Pray look at Swifts verses on Vanbrughs house 2 & you will see a very apt comparison between the

SIR WALTER SCOTT 1817

writing a play & building a house. I fear in this case the Architect will beat the Playwright. We will be in great want of precise directions for our green house: that is a
matter in which my free & accepted brethren have no experience. It occurs to me that in the passage between the green house & the dining parlour, a borrow’d light from the greenhouse will be necessary. As I design to make the little armoury between the drawing room & green house, a closed anti room & not a mere lobby the passage will take no benefit from its window & very little from the light in the lobby at the other end which will I suppose be a fan light over the outward door. Talking of the said armoury or anti room should it not communicate by folding doors with the Boudoir which doors being made to correspond in breadth with the thickness of the partition might be fasten’d back on occasions & thus throw the two appendages to the drawing room into our room communicating with it & with each other. I pray Mr. Bullock to think on this—also whether it would not be possible by handsome arches to open all these three rooms as it were into one: to be sure the fire would be in the middle which would be something new except in a herds cottage. Hamlet (cidevant Marmion) turns out a most beautiful dog & to judge from his activity in puppyhood will maintain the honors of his illustrious descent. Yours truly

W. S.

ABBOTSFORD

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN BALLANTYNE

ABBOTSFORD, Saturday, May 3, 1817

DEAR JOHN,—I shall be much obliged to you to come here with Constable on Monday, as he proposes a visit, and it will save time. By the way, you must attend that
Letter to George Bartley

TO GEORGE BARTLEY

DEAR SIR, - I am this morning favoured with your obliging letter and thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to add my name to the list of Mr. Kemble's admirers who have come to the honourable resolution of testifying their respect for him and [? sincere] sorrow for the loss which the stage is about to sustain through his retirement.

I trust you will excuse my declining to write anything for the occasion considering how very lately I have been engaged on the same topic and I have the less hesitation in pleading this apology as from the literary talents belonging to the names which you enumerate you must certainly be considered as having Moses & the Prophets on your side of the border and cannot need assistance from our northern regions.
I have been here for about three weeks recovering as well as I can from the effects of a severe inflammatory disorder or rather of the Doctors treatment of it. Mrs. Scott joins in kindest respects to Mrs. Bartley & I remain - Dr Sir

Dr Sir
WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

MY DEAR SIR,-For once I have got what you I know will think too good an apology for long and ungracious silence for I have been extremely ill, and not far from giving up the ghost. The complaint was of an inflammatory nature and it was only brought under by copious bleeding, blistering and so forth. The doctors (whom I have not consulted on my own account for thirty years) used me as if they had a mind that I should not with my good will come near them again for thirty years more for besides all the ill usage I have alluded to they have laid my victuals and drink under so many restrictions that you would think Sancho's physician in ordinary had presided on the occasion at their consultation. I believe however they have acted for the best for now that I have got over the weakness incidental to their first operations my health is better than it has been all winter and I feel none of those abominable spasms which used to remind me of the cramps with which Prospero visited Caliban.

I have been in this place for about a month superintending my numerous improvements. I shall make as many
changes as Augustus did at Rome (I love a grand comparison)
when he found it of brick and left it of marble.
A considerable addition to my cottage is at present going
on so when you next favour us with a visit you will find
more comfortable accommodation than the last time.
I still retain the old cottage in which however I must
make some alterations next year. You know I have
purchased two small farms in addition to Abbotsford
proper so last season I was enabled to keep a great many
of mine honest neighbours at work who would otherwise
have had little enough to do. I do not call this charity
because I wanted the work done and could never have
done it so economically—but it is a pleasant sauce to such
indulgences that the expense goes to support the honest
labourers. I hope things have not been so bad in your
island as with us for the labouring poor have suffered much
notwithstanding all that has been done to relieve them
and find them work.
Two kind remembrances arrived from you two days
ago under Mr. Frelings cover. The Valliados I is a little
book of great rarity and I need not say both as your gifts
are most acceptable to me. It is singular among all the
poetry Wallace has given rise to how little there is of any
real intrinsic merit. Blind Harry the old rhiming minstrel
beats the whole of them. Then as if it were not [enough]
that he was murdered by Edward I, he has been murdered
on the stage in about a dozen bad tragedies. I intend
to read Valliados in order to discover if it forms any
exception to the general rule.
I have little or no news to send you except what relates
to my own family—the girls are fast becoming young
women and Walter is an inch taller than I am and one of
the best horsemen of his age I ever saw. So fast do young
people grow up on their elders. Do you intend to look
about you this year and if so, do you design to take
Scotland into your tour or have you it in your thoughts
to sit down quiet in the Green Isle and look out for a
companion and house-keeper. " Get thee a wife-get
thee a wife " as Benedict says, a man is never settled in
this world without it.- I have the songs with which you
have obliged Campbell and will endeavour to get them
fitted in whole or in part with tunes so soon as I can
muster courage to face Alaster Dhu for I have promised
him some rhimes myself and never found myself in the
humour of writing them which I fear he has not taken well.

Do you ever hear of the Edgeworth family ? Beast
that I am I have fallen into disgrace with them too for
putting off writing till I am ashamed to write at all and
besides I have half a letter lying by me which stares me
in the face every time I open my writing desk as if to say
Why don't you finish me ? It is Goldsmith I think says
that he loves his correspondent as much as a dog loves
roast-beef and yet felt when taking up the pen the same
reluctance that the same dog exhibits to mounting the
wheel in the capacity of turnspit. Mrs. Scott joins me in
kindest compliments and I am ever truly yours,

ABBOTSFORD, 6 May, 1817. WALTER SCOTT

I must leave this on Monday-Alas ! Alas ! durum
cano for all the trees are bursting into leaf. The season
has been the driest ever known.

[Brotherton]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY, NO. 15 QUEEN ANN STREET,
MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-I have been a strangely negligent correspondent for some months past more especially as I have had you rarely out of my thoughts for I think you will hardly doubt of my sincere sympathy in events which have happened since I have written. I shed sincere tears over the pilgrimage to Waterloo.1 But in the crucible of human life the purest gold is tried by the strongest heat and I can only hope the continuance of your present family blessings to one so well favoured to enjoy the pure happiness they afford.

My health has of late been very indifferent. I was very near succumbing under a violent inflammatory attack and still feel the effects of the necessary severity of the treatment. I believe they took one third of the blood of my system and blistered in proportion so that my flesh and blood have been in a woeful reduced state. I got out here some weeks since where by dint of the insensible exercise which one takes in the country I feel myself gathering strength daily but am still obliged to observe a severe regimen.

It was not to croak about myself that I took up the pen but to wish you joy of your triumphant answer to that coarse-minded scoundrel William Smith.2 He deserved all he has got and to say the truth you do not spare him and have no cause. His attack seems to have proceeded from the vulgar insolence of a low mind desirous of attacking genius at disadvantage. It is the ancient and
eternal strife of which the witch speaks in Thalaba. Such a man as he feels he has no alliance with such as you and his evil instincts lead him to treat as hostile whatever he cannot comprehend. I met Smith once during his stay in Edinburgh and had what I seldom have with anyone in society a high quarrel with him. His mode of travelling had been from one gentleman's house to another abusing the well-known hospitality of the highland gentlemen by taking possession of their houses even during their absence, domineering in them when they were present and not only eating the dinner of today but requiring that the dinner of to-morrow should also be made ready and carried forward with him to save the expense of inns. All this was no business of mine. But when in the middle of a company consisting of those to whom he owed this hospitality he abused the country of which he knew little the language of which he knew nothing and the people who have their faults but are a much more harmless, moral and at the same [time] high-spirited a population than I venture to say he ever lived amongst I thought it was really too bad and so e'en took up the debate and gave it him over the knuckles as smartly as I could.

Your pamphlet therefore fed fat my ancient grudge against him as well as the Modern one for you cannot doubt that my blood boiled at reading the report of his cowardly and insulting speech. Enough of this gentleman who I think will not walk out [of] the record in a hurry to slander the conduct of individuals. I am at present working at our head-court of freeholders, a set of quiet unpretending but sound judging country-gentlemen and whose opinions may be very well taken as a fair specimen of those of men of sense and honour who are not likely
to be dazzled by literary talent which lies out of their beat
and who therefore cannot be of partial counsel in the
cause and I never heard an opinion more generally even
more warmly expressed than that Smith had acted like
an ungenerous scoundrel and that your triumphant
indication brands him as a slanderer in all time coming.
I think you may not be displeased to know this because
what men of keen feeling and literary pursuits must have

felt cannot be unknown to you and you may not have the
same access to know the impression made upon the general
class of society.

I have to thank you for the continuation of the history
of Brazil one of your gigantic labours, the fruit of a mind
so active, yet so patient of labour. I am not far advanced
in the second volume reserving it usually for my hour's
amusement in the evening as children keep their dainties
for bonne bouche. But as far as I have come it possesses
all the interest of the commencement though a more
faithless and worthless set than both Dutch and Portuguese
I have never read of, and it requires your knowledge
of the springs of human actions and your lively description
of hair-breadth scapes to make one care whether the boy
bites the dog or the dog bites the boy. Both nations
were in rapid declension from their short-lived age of
heroism and in the act of experiencing all those retrograde
movements which are the natural consequence of selfishness
on the one hand and bigotry on the other.

I am glad to see you are turning your mind to the state
of the poor. Should you enter into details on the subject
of the best mode of assisting them I would be happy to
tell you the few observations I have made not on a very
small scale neither considering my fortune, for I have kept above thirty of the labourers in my neighbourhood in constant employment this winter. This I do not call charity because they executed some inclusive plantations and other works which I could never have got done so cheaply and which I always intended one day to do. But neither was it altogether selfish on my part because I was putting myself to inconvenience in incurring the expence of several years at once and certainly would not have done so but to serve mine honest neighbours who were likely to want work but for such exertion. From my observation I am inclined greatly to doubt the salutary effect of the scheme generally adopted in Edinburgh and elsewhere for relieving the poor. At Edin. they are employed on public works at so much a day 10d I believe or 1/- with an advance to those who have families. This rate is fixed below that of ordinary wages in order that no person may be employed but those who really cannot find work elsewhere. But it is attended with this bad effect that the people regard it partly as charity which is humiliating and partly as an imposition in taking their labour below its usual rateable value to which many add a third view of the subject, namely that this sort of half pay is not given them for the purpose of working but to prevent their rising in rebellion. None of these misconceptions are favourable to hard work and the consequence that I never have seen such a set of idle faineants as those who work on this system on the public works and I am sure that notwithstanding the very laudable intention of those who subscribed to form the fund and the yet more praiseworthy because more difficult exertion of those who superintend it the issue of the scheme will occasion full as much mischief as good to the people engaged in it.
Private gentlemen acting in something like a similar system may make it answer better because they have not the lazy dross of the metropolis to contend with, because they have fewer labourers to manage and above all because one individual always manages his own concerns better than those of the country can be managed. Yet all who have employed those who were distressed for want of work at under wages have had less or more similar complements to make. I think I have avoided this in my own case by inviting the country people to do piece-work by contract. Two things are only necessary—one is that the nature of the work should be such as will admit of being ascertained when finished to have been substantially executed—All sort of spade-work and hoe-work with many other kinds of country-labour fall under this description and the employer can hardly be cheated in the execution if he keeps a reasonable look-out. The other point is to take care that the undertakers in their anxiety for employment do not take the job too cheap. A little acquaintance with country labour will enable one to regulate this but it is an essential point for if you do not keep them to their bargain it is making a jest of the thing and forfeiting the very advantage you have in mind—that namely of inducing the labourer to bring his heart and spirit to his work. But this he will do where he has a fair bargain which is to prove a good or bad one according to his own exertions. In this case you make the poor man his own friend for the profits of his good conduct are all his own. It is astonishing how partial the people are to this species of contract and how diligently they labour acquiring or maintaining all the while those habits which render them honorable and useful members of society. I mention this to you because the rich much
to their honour do not in general require to be so much
stimulated to benevolence as to be directed in the most
useful way to exert it.

I have still a word to say about the poor of our own
parish of Parnassus. I have been applied to by a very
worthy friend Mr. Scott of Linton in behalf of an
unfortunate Mr. Gilmour 1 who it seems has expended a little
fortune in printing upon his own account poems which
from the sample I saw seem exactly to answer the
description of Dean Swift’s country house.

"Too bad for a blessing, too good for a curse
I wish from my soul they were better or worse." 2

He tells me you take some interest in him and I understand
that all Mr. Gilmour’s hopes of fame and fortune now rest
on getting a play acted on Drury Lane Stage. Against
his hopes there are terrible odds: for it is two to one they
will not receive the play-three to one that being a regular

tragedy it will not succeed and four to one that if it do he
will never get a farthing for Drury is bankrupt an hundred
times over. But you are the Dean of our corporation and
I am informed take some interest in this poor gentleman.
If you can point out any way in which I can serve him I
am sure my inclination is not wanting but it looks like a
very hopeless case.

I cut a slip off a letter I have just received from my
friend and chief the Duke of Buccleuch who is a Noble of
the right old stamp, firm, generous and manly. I think
you will like to know how much all sorts of people enjoy
the trimming you have given Master William Smith who
(4-449)will choose another anvil for himself I think the next time
(4-449)he wishes to rise a clatter.

(4-449)I beg kindest regards to Mrs. Southey and am always
(4-449)sincerely and affectionately Yours

(4-449)WALTER SCOTT

(4-449)ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE

[Symington]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY

(4-449)MY DEAR LORD DUKE,- It was with equal pain and
(4-449)surprise that I yesterday learn'd the melancholy loss
(4-449)which your Grace and your family have sustained in the
(4-449)loss of my much regretted friend, Lady Douglas,1-a loss

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(4-450)which life cannot easily fill up ; for where are we to look
(4-450)for so much sound sense and penetrating judgment, joined
(4-450)to such powers of fancy and kindness of disposition, or
(4-450)for wit so happily blended with gentleness and good-humour ?
(4-450)When I last saw her we parted in a place of
(4-450)public amusement, and with the hope on my part that
(4-450)I should soon enjoy her society for two or three days in
(4-450)the ensuing summer. And now I learn, that with all
(4-450)who knew her, I must regret her as lost to us during
(4-450)the reign of time. As we advance in life, and those whom
(4-450)we most honour and value are snatched from us by
(4-450)unexpected strokes of fate, it requires some reflexion not
(4-450)to form a conclusion that the best and worthiest are
(4-450)earliest called home, and to tremble for the friends whom
(4-450)life yet holds among us. But it is not so ; the same
doom waits us all, and these strokes seem most frequent only because they are most impressive, and because, while we should hear with comparative indifference the loss of those less marked by worth and talents, the death of one so much distinguished by both as Lady Douglas seems to form a landmark and an era in our life, from which all who were distinguished by her friendship are to begin a new career, deprived of what afforded pleasure to their past journey in proportion to the intimacy which they had the happiness to hold with her. It is now many years since Lady Douglas honoured me with her regard, and such was my respect for her good opinion that I feel I shall have an object fewer in any task I may in future undertake, since I can no longer look forward to the approbation she so often and so kindly conferred. To her own family & to that of your Grace I well know how extensive this loss must be & how painful from its suddenness since the state of Lady Douglas's years & health by no means prepared [you] for such a rapid dissolution. Receive my deep sympathy which also attends her family & poor Lady Louisa Stuart to whom this will be a heavy blow.

I return to Edinburgh to-morrow & will take an early opportunity of waiting on your Grace at Dalkeith when I learn that you are likely to be disengaged. Believe me with true regard My dear Lord Duke Your Graces most obliged & truly grateful

ABBOTSFORD ii May [1817]
[ Buccleuch and Familiar Letters]
MY DEAR RICHARDSON,-Many thanks for your kind remembrances and the pleasant prospect they give me of seeing you in summer. I am always bringing you trouble, and what is worse, inefficient trouble, and I fear the romantic circumstance which I am going to apprise you of will be only another draught on your benevolent patience. But it is a story in which you will be somewhat interested, and I will give it to you at length.

About two years ago, a man in the extremity of poverty and distress applied to me for work. He had ten children, he said, and was nearly starving. Finding that his character was good, I did employ him in such work as his exhausted strength permitted him to undertake, and having been bred a nurseryman, he was able to do many little things, though not in Tom Purdie's phrase "to work a day's work." It seemed to me that this poor devil was really marked out for a butt for misfortune to shoot at. He fell on the ice at one time and injured himself greatly; at another he had a slow fever; at a third a rock fell on him from the quarry, and nearly smashed his hand off; and the scarlatina has been perpetually wrestling with one or other of his ten children-one down, t'other come on. The very servants called him par excellence "the poor creature." I do not know whether fortune has reserved as a final blow, to hold out to him a Pisgah prospect of great wealth, and then puff the vision away, or whether she intends to make a real fortunate youth out of poor Aitken, but there is a large property of an intestate merchant of London in which there seems to be a
considerable chance of this man having some interest. The father of this man had a younger brother bred a gardener and who left this country early for the West Indies. His name was George Aitken, and my pauper says that he is named after him. He returned to London a great many years since, certainly much above twenty, wrote to his brother from London more than once, and sent them a trunk with presents. But none of these letters have been preserved, though perhaps should it prove worth while, something might be found out concerning them; and I believe the existence of George Aitken and his departure for the West Indies, also the fact of his returning and settling in London, could be established. This however would be a very imperfect step towards proving the identity of my labourer's uncle with the defunct. I hope you will be able by looking over the enclosed letter to me from my very sensible Sheriff-Clerk, Andrew Lang,1 to obtain without much trouble the information which he points at, and I will reimburse any of the necessary expenses. As the body is under my banner, I would not like him to lose any right which he may actually possess, at least for want of a little inquiry.

Many thanks to you for your classical efforts on behalf of John Kemble.2 I am informed the medallion is most beautiful. I hope we shall soon have some merry days on Tweedside.—Ever yours most truly, WALTER SCOTT

[Familiar Letters]

SIR WALTER SCOTT 1817 453

TO JAMES BAILEY

DEAR SIR,—I write a hasty note to say that your letters have no otherwise miscarried than as being directed to
a man in health they found a valetudinary. I was very near bidding the world goodnight in the month of March and when my physicians commanded me to get me to Abbotsford and remain quiet they positively interdicted me the use of pen and ink & indeed my head was for a long time too giddy to make it easy for me to write letters. So all my correspondence literary & of business has run into one great chaos & I am but now (for I only came to town last week) busied with bringing up my leeway. Mean while how does the res domi stand with you ? I ask the question because I shall have in the course of ten days a small cheque heartily at your service and to take off the unpleasant feeling of obligation real or supposed I will request the favour of you to copy a very curious Manuscript for me call[d] William & the Wer-Wolf 1 a sort of romance which is in the Maudlin College library. Professor Smythe once got it for me but I had no friend at that time to whom I could entrust the transcription. This will be a change from your classic labours but every thing has its time and to read old Manuscripts of all kinds distinctly & currently is a great requisite in a librarian. I will endeavour to get access for you to the Manuscript should that be difficult if you think you can undertake the task of copying it. There is no hurry whatever and I entreat you will not think of it untill you have time on your hands. Believe me dear Sir Your very faithful Servant  

WALTER SCOTT  

EDINR. 20 May 1817.

Mr. James Bailey Trinity College Cambridge.

[Fitzwilliam Museum]
TO CHARLES ERSKINE

(4-454)MY DEAR CHARLES,-Above is a cheque of two hundred
(4-454)& fifty pounds which I beg you will have the goodness to
(4-454)apply in payment of Mrs. Mercer &c. There will not be
(4-454)enough to clear with Moss as he must have the balance
(4-454)of 400 paid [the MS. has been torn at this point] besides his
(4-454)70 interest. But I intend to be out on Saturday se'en
(4-454)night to settle matters with John Usher and if you will let
(4-454)me know what balance on a full accounting is due to Moss
(4-454)I will put you in cash for that at the same time. Pray
(4-454)allow him whatever is necessary for his fixtures to let him
(4-454)part in good humour. I am always ready to purchase
(4-454)peace at a little expence, and am now thank God more
(4-454)able to do it than at some former periods of my life.
(4-454)The processes came safe I will bring them out with me on
(4-454)Saturday for out I must be if I should travel all night.
(4-454)Our new Clerk is Robt. Dundas but he has not yet got his
(4-454)commission. I trust in heaven he will get it in the course
(4-454)of the week that he may do my business on tuesday 3d. &
(4-454)the 4th. being a holiday I shall be a man at large for two
(4-454)days & will have full time to settle my marches with Mr
(4-454)Usher &c. Yours ever

(4-454)EDINR. 23 May [1817]             [Signature torn out]
[Curle]

1817             SIR WALTER SCOTT             455

TO MAJOR PRYSE LOCKHART GORDON, BRUSSELS

(4-455)MY DEAR SIR,-My little friend John Ballantyne
(4-455)bookseller being on a tour through the Continent to see
(4-455)what he can do in the way of collecting books or whatever
(4-455)is rare and curious I take the advantage of his going by
(4-455)Brussells to send you the Laurence Kirk box of which I
beg your best acceptance. The arms came all safe by
favour of Mr. Huntley Gordon. I have had them
burnished and they look most splendid. The sword
found in Hougmont must I think have belonged to one
of the old Lairds of Buccleuch for there is a fellow
represented on the hilt catching a deer by the legs.

I have not been able to find a good opportunity of
sending the ale but trust to get one. If you can favour
John Ballantyne with a word of advice concerning the
persons with whom he should deal you will find him civil
and grateful and he can tell you much Edinburgh news.
I have been very dangerously ill this spring but am now
got stout again. My kindest and best respects attend
Mrs. Gordon and all your family and I ever am Dear Sir
Your obliged humble Servant        WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 25th May 1817
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

MY DEAR MORRITT,-I have been pretty well thanks
to your kind interest and inquiry I might say very well
but for an attack of the cramp which I had in consequence
of eating butter-milk with my oatmeal porridge. But I
soon got over it and shall take it for a warning to meddle
as little with acids as I possibly can. I suppose this gave
rise to a report that I had had a relapse which fortunately
has not been the case. I spent about a month at Abbotsford
cold backward weather and the young plantations

suffering for lack of rain. We have had a fine seedtime
however and please God to send us warm weather we
may look for a good crop an event to be devoutly prayd
for. Pray let me have your pamphlet on the Poors-rates
so soon as it is out. It is an Augean stable—it is the very
canker in the bosom of the country and no small claim
will he have on the gratitude of Old England who can
suggest a practical remedy. In general I think you
English both in high and low degree stand rather too
much isolated and too much detachd from connections
and relationship. I own this makes some of the finest
points in your national character—your high spirit of
independence your freedom from prejudice and partial
counsel and the free exercize of your judgement on all
occasions without fear or favour. But I think it has
corresponding inconveniences. In Scotland men of all
ranks but especially the middling and the lower classes
are linkd together by ties which give them a strong
interest in each others success in life and it is amazing
the exertion which men will make to support and assist
persons with whom you would suppose them connected
by very remote ties of consanguinity and by no other
link whatever. They have in the lower ranks a wholesome
horror for seeing a relation on the poors roll of the
parish—it is a dishonour to them in all cases and if they
are in close relationship as parent and child or brother
and sister it is such a blot on their moral character
that the communion has been refused to those who
having the means did not prevent such a circumstance.
Hence in most parts of Scotland poors-rates are not very
grievous, but in those abominable manufacturing districts
they are little better than English without English
independence to make amends for this hard heartedness.
It is evident also that Poors-rates, when the recurrence to
their assistance becomes matter of common course, strike
at the very root of industry and providence—for if you
do not give Hob parish-assistance till he has not a crown
left Hob will be a great fool if he works for more than he can help or spends a farthing less than his whole wages by the time Saturday night comes round. This is a sad temptation and I do not well see how it can be done away. I have been attending practically to the effects of the various modes fallen upon to employ the poor and I think I see some of them are of a kind to make irreparable havoc with their habits of industry notwithstanding the excellent intentions of those by whom they were promoted. For instance a large subscription was raised in Edinr. by means of which 100 or 200 men were set to make a walk round the Gallon. To prevent persons from coming to be employd on this job who could get work elsewhere, the wages were fixd so low as 10d. or a shilling with some extra allowance to those who had families. But so far were they from feeling grateful for this species of assistance that they seemd unanimously to agree 1st. that the wages were mere charity and therefore dishonorable to the acceptor 2d. that the rate of wages (considering their pay as such) was an imposition upon them 3d. that it was a bonus or solatium paid to them by the gentry to prevent their rising and righting themselves at the ex pense of the aristocracy. And with these various views of the transaction I declare to you that one good labourer whose heart was in his task would have wrought harder than any three of these grumbling faineants and where young fellows were so employd I consider their education to be as much improved as if they had been working a turn with the convicts. These observations refer it is true to the mob of a corrupted and large city. But it is evident to me that unless you can make it the interest of labourers to exert themselves and make what we call a days work they acquire very bad habits by being employd in this manner and that the best way is to allo
the work to them by the piece taking care not to fix it so low but what an industrious man might make wages of it. 
The man then works with his whole heart and strength and reaps the benefit of his labour or if that benefit prove to be small he has at least maintaind the habit of honest and bona fide labour.

I need not say how much I sympathise with you on the subject of Lady Douglas's death to me a most unexpected event. She was at Dalkeith in the second week of March and came to Edinburgh to see Kean. I handed her to her carriage and thus we parted at the door of a place of public amusement not to meet again on this side of eternity-so does this transitory world glide away from under us with all its pleasures and enjoyments. I dare not write to Lady Louisa and yet I must after I see the Buccleuch family which will be this day. I am well aware what a cruel blow she has sustaind : indeed it seems to me that of all the persons I have known Lady Louisa has been most frequently under affliction from the loss of friends-rarely out of mourning and formd too for suffering so acutely under these recurring blows. For Lady Hood Mackenzies views of happiness they must depend much on the character of the man of her choice who is externally a pleasant and well-bred man and the little I have seen of him I like very well. But after being a keen Pittite he has become a zealous Whig and I am prejudiced enough to think this bespeaks either no steadiness of principle or a peevish & discontentd temper. Moreover both are proprietors of large entaild estates and both are much burdend-there is little prospect of children since Lady Hood had none by Sir
Samuel and should their union be childless it will be a fretting circumstance to both that they have to keep up their rank and at the same time to limit their expenditure for the sake of Heirs of entail. Their present plans are very prudent for I understand from Lady H. M. that they intend to settle in Scotland and live quietly and regularly. If they do this and if he is kind and attentive they will be a happy couple. I trust he has a good heart and warm affections and if that be the case her choice is a wise one for unquestionably her second marriage supposing the choice prudently made is a natural as well as a prudent step. It is said here he has gambled if he retains any itch of that kind I would as soon see a friend married to the Knave of Clubs-But our ladies' tongues in Edinburgh are not so well scraped as those of our sheep-heads and a single instance of thoughtlessness may be easily metamorphosed into a habitual vice. You will see from all this that I dont know well what to say on this subject. It is as near my heart as yours for she is a noble creature frank honest high-spirited and with all the warmth of a kind and generous disposition. I wish her intended-I presume yesterday made him her actual bridegroom I -had less smile and plausible civility in his manner. I dont know what there is in that sort of politeness which always puts me on my guard-it often intimates a bad temper. But I will croak no longer for really I have nothing to say against the man & he is rather handsome polite and pleasant in conversation. As for Jedediah-

The creature's at his dirty work again.

But all this I will write to you about another time. I
sincerely hope to get over the march to Rokeby this season which I may do the more easily as the workmen will make residence at Abbotsford [disagreeable]-Nota bene most of this letter was written on Wednesday last-Charlotte and all the bairns salute you-Walter gets another dog to assist Trout-conditionally that he learns his Tacitus thoroughly against the 12th of August.

Believe me most truly yours

EDINBURGH 27 May 1817 WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

460 LETTERS OF 1817

TO MR. LAIDLAW, KAESIDE

[June 1817]

MY DEAR SIR,-Kind thanks for your letter and your friendly advice. I will certainly reprieve the poor horses while there is grass for them and they can be useful. Respecting the grass in the plantation, I have some fears of the scythe, and should prefer getting a host of women with their hooks, which would be a good thing also for the poor folks. But Tom 1 must set about it instantly and watch them closely. He suffered all the grass cut in the plantation to spoil last year, partly through being too late in cutting it, partly by wet weather. He is too much frightened for the expense of doing things rapidly, as if it were not as cheap to employ twelve men for a week as six men for a fortnight. I think of going to Drumanrick for two or three days, so it will be a fortnight at soonest ere I get to my little dominions.

There is no news here-all as dull as ditch water. I
have some idea of going to Loch Lomond and thence to 
Drumlanrig by the Lead hills. I never was at the top of 
the lake, and have now an excellent opportunity, a boat 
with six men being placed at my command. Interrupted-
Yours ever,                             W. S.

Friday.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON, LONDON

MY DEAR LORD,-I am honoured with your letter 2 and 
will not fail to take care that the Shepherd profits by 
your kind intentions and those of Lady Montagu. This 
is a scheme which I did not devise for I fear it will end in 

SIR WALTER SCOTT  461  1817

disappointment but for which I have done and will do 
all I possibly can. There is an old saying of the seamens 
every man is not born to be a boatswain and I think 
I have heard of men born under a six penny planet and 
doomd never to be worth a groat. I fear something 
of this vile sixpenny influence has gleamd in at the 
cottage window when poor Hogg first came squeaking 
into this world. All that he made by his original book 
he ventured on a flock of Sheep to drive into the Highlands 
to a farm he had taken there but of which he could 
not get possession so that all the stock was ruind and sold 
to disadvantage. Then he tried another farm which 
proved too dear so that he fairly broke on it-Then he 
published divers publications which had little sale-
brought him accordingly few pence though some praise-
Then came this Queens Wake by which he might & 
ought to have made from ^100 to {.200 for there were I 
think three editions. When lo his bookseller turnd
bankrupt and paid him never a penny. The Duke has
now with his wonted generosity given him a cosie bield
and the object of the present attack upon the public is
to get if possible as much cash together as will stock it.
But no one has loose guineas now to give to poor poets
and I greatly doubt the scheme succeeding unless it is
more strongly patronized than almost can be expected.
In Bookselling matters an author must either be the
conjuror who commands the devil or the witch who
serves him and few are those whose situation is sufficiently
independent to enable them to assume the higher
character. And this is injurious to the indigent author
in every respect for not only is he obliged to turn his pen
every various kind of composition & so to injure
himself with the public by writing hastily and on subjects
unfitted for his genius but moreover these honest gentlemen
the booksellers from a natural association consider
the books as of least value which they find they can get
at least expence of copy-money and therefore are

proportionally careless in pushing the sale of the work,
Whereas a good round sum out of their purse like a
moderate rise of rent on a farm raises the work thus
acquired in their own eyes and serves as a spur to make
them clear away every channel by which they can discharge
their quires upon the public. So much for
bookselling the most ticklish and unsafe and hazardous
of all professions scarcely with the exception of
horse-jockeyship.

You cannot doubt the sincere interest I take in Lady
Montagus health. I was very glad to learn from the
Duke that the late melancholy event had produced no
permanent effect on her constitution as I know how
much her heart must have sufferd. I saw our regretted friend for the last time at the theatre and made many schemes to be at Bothwell this next July—but thus the world glides from us and those we most love and honour are withdrawn from the stage before us. I know not why it was that among the few for whom I had so much respectful regard I never had associated the idea of early deprivation with Lady Douglas. Her excellent sense, deep information and the wit which she wielded with so much good humour were allied apparently to a healthy constitution which might have permitted us to enjoy and be instructed by her society for many years—Dis aliter visum—and recollection dwelling on all the delight which she afforded to society and the good which she did in private life is what now remains to us of her wit, wisdom and benevolence.

The Duke keeps his usual health with always just so much of the gout however as would make me wish that he had more—a kind wish for which I do not observe that he is sufficiently grateful. I hope to spend a few days at Drumlanrigg castle when that ancient mansion shall have so far limited it’s courtesy as to stand coverd in the presence of the wind and rain which I believe is not yet the case. I am no friend to ceremony and like a house as well when it does not carry its roof en chapeau bras. I heartily wish your Lordship joy of the new mansion at Ditton & hope my good stars will permit me to pay my respects there one day a prospect to which I look forward with great pleasure. The discovery of the niches certainly bodes good luck to the House of Montagu and as there are three of them I presume it is to come threefold. From the care with which they were conceald
I presume they had been closed in the days of Cromwell or a little before and that the Artist employd (like the General who told his soldiers to fight bravely against the Pope since they were Venetians before they were Christians) had more professional than religious zeal and did not even according to the practice of the time think it necessary to sweep away Popery with the besom of destruction.1

I am here on a stolen visit of two days and find my mansion gradually enlarging and improving. Thanks to Mr. Atkinson (who found out a practical use for our romantic theory) it promises to make a comfortable station for offering your Lordship & Lady Montagu a pilgrims meal when you next visit Melrose Abbey and that without any risque of your Valet (who I recollect is a substantial person) sticking between the wall of the parlour and the backs of the chairs placed round the eating table. This literally befell Sir Harry Mackdougals fat butler who lookd like a ship of the line in the loch at Bowhill; altogether unlike his master who could glide wherever a weazell could make his way. Mr. Atkinson has indeed been more attentive than I can express when I consider how valuable his time must be and I am fully sensible of the obligation.1 We are attempting no castellated conundrums to rival those Lord Napier used to have executed in Sugar when he was commissioner and no cottage neither but an irregular somewhat like an old English hall in which your Squire of 500 a year, used to drink his ale in days of yore.

If your Lordship could spare me a few acorns or holly-berries this next season I will make bold to be a
beggar for them as they far excell what can be purchased for money or got for love in Scotland. I am making considerable plantations (that is considering) being greatly encouraged by the progress made by those I formerly laid out. I have banks of four & five years planting where though I cannot (to be candid) boast of walking under the shade of my oaks yet I think with some arrangement I could contrive to lie under them which is the more classical & pastoral posture. Read the veracious Gullivers account of the Windsor forest of Liliput and you will have some idea of the solemn gloom of my Druid shades.

May I request your Lordship would favour me with a line to say how Lady Montagu gets over her confinement. All good things my dear Lord attend her & you. I beg her acceptance of my kind respects in which Mrs. Scott joins and I am ever Your Lordships truly faithful humble Servant WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 8 June [1817]

This is the eighth June & not an ash-tree in leaf yet-the country cruelly backward & whole fields destroyd by the grub. I dread this next season.

[ Buccleuch]

1817 SIR WALTER SCOTT 465

TO MR. LAIDLAW

EDINBURGH, June 16, 1817

DEAR SIR, I enclose you " rare guerdon, better than remuneration,"-namely, a check for 25, for the Chronicle
The incidents selected should have some reference to amusement as well as information, and may be occasionally abridged in the narration; but, after all, paste and scissors form your principal materials. You must look out for two or three good original articles; and, if you would read and take pains to abridge one or two curious books of travels, I would send out the volumes. Could I once get the head of the concern fairly round before the wind again, I am sure I could make it 100 a-year to you. In the present instance it will be at least 50. Yours truly.

W. S.

[Lockhart and Huntington Library]

TO JAMES BAILEY 2

Dear Sir,—It is only the multiplicity of business that has prevented my writing which I ought & meant to have done long since. Some twinges of the cramp in my stomach may be added and after all I will remain guilty of negligence. I enclose a cheque upon Coutts for twenty guineas of which I beg your acceptance as a slight acknowledgment of the trouble you are willing to take on my behalf. The Mans. I allude to is called William and the Wer-Wolf. It is not in the Pepysian collection as far as I know— I mean not among the collection of ballads; but the librarian will of course be able to point it out. Will you be so good as to point out the nature of the application to be made to obtain permission to take a copy. I have no acquaintance in the University excepting Professor Smythe and yourself. Ballantyne is gone to Hamburgh but I have no doubt he
will upon his return account for the papers and I dare say
his brother will do so in his absence which has probably
occasioned the puzzle. He intended I know to give up
the Sale-Room but I suppose received some encouragement
to proceed. At any rate you will have your money
as you are well entitled to.

I wish I could say I saw any prospect of assisting your
views here but at present there is not any opening in the
Advocates Library and I fear in the first that may occur
my assistance will be expected by an old friend who I was
once in hopes had other & better views. I mentioned
the possibility of this in my first letter to you but did not
then think it probable: now it seems more likely that he
will be a candidate than that the opening will occur soon.

The Church is one of those lines in which in your
establish[ment] there is the most certain encouragement
for learning and talent. The number of illustrious names
in the Church the owners of which have risen from
circumstances of indigence and difficulty is one of her proudest
honours. The patronage is in some degree vested in the
Universities which is so favourable for a young scholar
of your high attainments. I therefore cannot but regret
that you do not turn your thoughts that way as a literary
man is peculiarly favourable to it. A man of business
even a lawyer does not take any advantage from literary
acquirements; they are on the contrary sometimes
supposed to divert him from his professional pursuits and
so far the reputation of possessing them is a positive

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disadvantage. But in a clergyman literary talent is always
graceful becoming and suited to his character and in
general by attracting attention and patronage they secure
advancement. To live the life of a mere author for bread is perhaps the most dreadful fate that can be encountered. Booksellers like other men drive the best of bargains they can: with those who have no independent means of support they make them very narrow indeed & sometimes contrive to evade fulfilling them. Besides they become masters of your time & your labour as well as dictators of the subjects on which they are to be employed and working under their direction a man who has got a reputation is in all probability forced upon some undertaking unfavourable to his talents by which he loses it. And those who may be disposed to befriend him have scarce the means of doing so since he does not possess the character and sort of education which enable a man to get forwards. A clergyman may be befriended-he may get a living-a lawyer he may get an office-a soldier he may be promoted in the service. But the mere man of letters possesses no quality whatsoever upon which he can pretend to a certain line of advancement Cela ne tire a rien as the French say. I beg you will not think that I insist too much on this topick & I assure you whatever resolution you may ultimately take your interest in me to the extent of my limited power will remain perfectly the same. Especially as I willingly allow that there may be a degree of repugnance to the clerical profession which conscientiously cannot be surmounted and if this exists you will discharge your duty in giving way to it. But it is right you should have the alternative fully before you and I entreat you to consider what I have stated as entirely the result of my anxiety on your account.

I cannot add to this long letter at present as I am just going to the country but I will be back before you can write to me. Although I mentioned William & the Wer Wolf yet I would not have you give yourself any trouble
should it prove difficult of access. My only motive was the
wish to prevail on you to use the enclosure in a way most
agreeable to your own feelings. I remain Yours very truly

EDINR. 21 June [1817] WALTER SCOTT

Mr James Bailey Trinity College, Cambridge.

[Fitzwilliam Museum]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

[July 1817]

MY DEAR LORD,-Many thanks for the perusal of the
letter which I have seen or heard of before but I cannot
tell which. My mother who knew old Sir Hew 1 well and
was related to him adds something of the marvellous to
the circumstance of the minister happening to preach at
North Berwick. I think she was living with Mrs.
Dalrymple (now Lady Dowager Hamilton Dalrymple)
when the thing happend. I will copy the letter & bring
back the original on Wednesday when Mrs. Scott & I
with one of our young folks propose ourselves the honour
of dining at Dalkeith at four o clock-

I cannot suppress the joyful intelligence that I killd
with some assistance ten dozen of perches in Caldshields
Loch but saw no monster. The said perches would have
added a good dish to our slender house keeping had they
not come like your Graces ancestor to the field of Melrose
" with ane leathern coat " on their backs. As it is they
would require the skill of Monsr. Florence 2 who could I
suppose have made an excellent dish even out of the buff
coat and black-bonnet of the old Baron himself. Ever
your Graces truly obliged
I will not fail in my promised visit to Drumlanrig.
I have a plan to go to the head of Loch Lomond if I make it out I will come to Drumlanrig by Douglas Mill.

TO HECTOR MACDONALD BUCHANAN

To Hector MacDonald Buchanan, Esq
Favoured by R. N. Lord Ashley Ross Priory
& honble Mr. Howard

DEAR HECTOR,-Please upon sight of this my first bill of Exchange of strangers to show a little countenance to two very pleasant young men Lord Ashley (eldest son to Earl of Shaftesbury) and honble Mr. Howard (eldest son of Lord Morpeth and grandson to the Earl of Carlisle) and draw on me in favour of any of your friends who may wish to see Melrose. I would not plague Mrs. Buchanan & you with these two youngsters but they are really agreeable young men and for many reasons I would be glad to show them any kindness in my power. Believe me with great regard and with best compliments to Mrs. B. Missie & family ever most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 8th July [? 1817] 1

[Lady Leith-Buchanan]
TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

MY DEAR LORD,- I have an unexpected opportunity of augmenting my retinue to Drumlanrig with no less a person than the renowned Adam Fergusson. As I know very few men that possess equally generally the powers of giving and receiving amusement and as your Grace seemed as if you would like to see a little more of [him] I will be disposed to embrace this opportunity of making him better known to you unless anything should render another time more convenient. It is not prudent to pray any one whom we desire should be agreeable but I think I am pretty sure of my card in the present instance otherwise I would not lay it down (for I deny the American visitor). Besides the father of the said Adam (the celebrated philosopher and historian) was always a wellcome guest at Dalkeith.

On Monday I propose to be on the Braes of Glenfalloch at the head of Loch Lomond and on Wednesday steer my course towards Drumlanrig with my wife Sophia and the aforesaid Adam. I am sure your Grace will acquit me of any wish to thrust my own friends upon you but I really wish you to see this singular person although I should lose my reputation (as I flatter myself I possess some) of being conteur and diseur in ordinary to the House of Buccleuch as well as their born minstrel and devoted friend.

I have just seen Macconochie who insinuates hopes. But Mac was always sanguine and I hardly dare trust myself to think on the probability of my arriving when your Grace has had the news of being really Lord of Linne
and free to cut and carve at will upon your goodly
domains. 1 After all I will stick to my principle-in
planting as in war you must contrive to throw out a few
sharp-shooters to cover and mark your line of enclosure-
But it is time to enclose my own line if I mean it to go by
this post and yet I have almost forgot to say that our
gracious presence will present itself at the portal of
Drumlanrigg on Friday evening or Saturday morning

1817 SIR WALTER SCOTT

health allowing & as we can get forwards. I had written
a day earlier but recollecting that to go to the head of
Glenfalloch & return must be a 24 hours at least I reform
my plan according to the interlineation.

I have a humble request for your Grace if you can
gain the lawsuit which as Satchells1 says ought to be the
better for all poor friends-

It is gowd it is not gear
It is not lands nor far nor near.

But it is a draught on your patience as well as your purse
and is nothing less than your picture to hang in my long
room at Abbotsford now building

To shine the bright palladium of the place.

Pray think of this. You should sit for your own family
and a copy will gratify me beyond description. Ever your
Graces truly obliged WALTER SCOTT
EDINR 9th July [1817]

My address if your Grace favours me with a line will be
care of Hector MacDonald Buchannan Esq. Ross by
Dunbarton.

[Buccleuch]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH, DRUMLANRIG CASTLE

(4-471)[July, 1817]

From Ross where the clouds on Ben-Lomond are sleeping
From Greenock where Clyde to the Ocean is sweeping
From Largs where the Scotch gave the Northmen a drilling
From Ardrossan whose harbour cost many a shilling
From Old Cumnock where beds are as hard as a plank Sir
From a chop & green pease & a chicken at Sanquhar
This eve please the fates at Drumlanrigg we anchor.

MY DEAR LORD,-I wrote from Ross that we left the
banks of Loch Lomond two days sooner than we expected
but probably my letter may not have reachd your Grace
as it requires skill in calculation to make the posts bear
on each other to the greatest advantage. I therein also
mentiond that we meant to take a round in Ayrshire & be
at Drumlanrigg this evening instead of last night as we
had intended. They had a little boy unwell at Ross with
a feverish complaint & although there was no possibility
of our having any interference with the patient or his
attendant we thought it best to take flight & to take an
airing of a few days in order that our bill of health might
keep clear & indisputable. We will wait on your Grace
& the Ladies by the time you are calling for coffee. Ever
your Graces truly obliged

SANQUHAR INN two o'clock W SCOTT
TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

(4-472)MY DEAR HARTSTONGE,—I am just favoured with your
(4-472)few lines and lose no time in sending you my poor advice
(4-472)since you are so good as [to] ask it and I hope I need use
(4-472)no apology for writing with the most perfect sincerity.
(4-472)N’allez pas dans cette galere—do not think of committing
(4-472)yourself by writing for the stage. There are a thousand
(4-472)good reasons against it and there can only be one in favour
(4-472)of the attempt and that is the pecuniary recompense in
(4-472)case of success which to you is no object, or if it were one
(4-472)is likely to be of little consequence where Drury Lane is
(4-472)concerned.1 You do not know half the plague you undertake
(4-472)to London you must go, cut, carve and correct at
(4-472)the pleasure first of the managers and then of the players,
(4-472)have your whole play to write half over again. Your
(4-472)own talent does not appear to me (though in this I may

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(4-473)to lie decidedly in the dramatic line
(4-473)and a failure in an attempt of this nature is attended with
(4-473)something more unpleasant than in any other case.
(4-473)There is a touch of the ridiculous which clings to the
(4-473)author of an unsuccessful piece while success by no means
(4-473)makes up to the candidate for public applause the risque
(4-473)which he runs in case of failure. Then supposing your
(4-473)work to be in every respect as deserving of success as you
(4-473)could desire still you commit yourself to the taste or
(4-473)rather to the caprice of a mob of people assembled by no
(4-473)means from the best informed classes of society and even
(4-473)the very excellencies of your piece may be hissed if they
(4-473)do not jump with their humour. In short there is so
(4-473)little to be gained and so much trouble to be taken, so
many people to be humourd and wheedled any one of whom by mere exertion of caprice can impede your success and after all as times go the applause of a London audience is so little to be desired that it has allways appeared to me that writing for the stage is a most desperate business. If however you are inclined to amuse yourself in that way and feel case-hardened against the risque (which has so often attended the first authors) of whoops and catcalls and all the hubbooboo of damnation take the advice of some person constantly and habitually, if possible professionally connected with the theatre. I have seen plays written by play actors succeed upon the stage merely as it seemed to me by practical or rather technical experience in the mode of combining scenes and exciting surprize, the dialogue and interest of which was much inferior to the elegy of Cock-Robin and the dramatis persons not half so interesting as that in the House that Jack built. Whereas on the contrary even Miss Baillie's beautiful poetry and impassiond sentiment falls short of effect in the mouths of the actors. God only knows why. Now my dear Sir you have my full and free opinion which I give you the more freely as you cannot suppose that it implies any disrespect to your talents being formed upon principles entirely general. I like your little Satirist 1 very much and am greatly obliged to him for putting me on his white list instead of his black one. I must cut short here for I am at present at the foot of Loch Lomond and a boat is waiting to carry me up to Glenfalloch which is near the top. My companions are, clamorous and the showers passing off to the leeward so I have only time to assure you that in all my best to serve you, I always am. Yours very truly, WALTER SCOTT

LETTERS OF 1817
ROSS ON LOCH LOMOND 13 July [1817]

I will be at Abbotsford in about a fortnight.
[Brotherton]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

MY DEAR FRIEND Many thanks for your kind letter which followd me hither from Edinburgh. I had one or two recurring attacks of my spasmodic attacks in the stomach though I am a good boy and do upon the whole as Dr Baillie was so kind as to recommend. Since the rest of our courts I have been at liberty to take a little tour and to make a run up to the head of Loch Lomond which I feel myself much the better for as my life in Edinburgh is necessarily very sedentary. I have been for some time with my Chief in this magnificent old Castle where one would require a clew or a plan to guide you from tower to tower and gallery to gallery. The late Duke of Queensberry cut down the magnificent woods which once surrounded Drumanrigg but there are already five hundred acres replanted and the Duke proposes to extend them to upwards of a thousand. At his various seats this hard winter he has employd daily upwards of nine hundred and forty labourers at the expense of 70 per day. This is something better than hoarding useless thousands or squandering them in profuse luxury or losing them at games of hazard.

I have always delayd to write about Columbus till I could write fully and quietly which is not easy in Edinburgh especially when by the death of a brother in office I had a double proportion of my usual duty to discharge. At
present I will only say that both William Erskine and
I were delighted with the tale. I must remark at the
same time that it labours as a story under two defects the
one that it is necessarily well known in all its parts and
the other that it must (also from necessity) be told in a
general manner and without these details which you can
render so striking and interesting. These defects will
weigh more with the ordinary mass of readers than with
lovers of poetry who admire the beauties of sentiment
and expression in which its excellence principally consists
without demanding as essential the interest of a narrative.
I think you may have curbd your genius a little too
tightly up from the desire to make a markd distinction as
widely as possible between your dramatic and narrative

LETTERS OF 1817

poetry. Or perhaps it may be that with the beauties
of the dramas so strongly impressd on my mind as
essential to your stile I am led into critical conclusions
which I would [not] have entertaind had I read the story
of Columbus before the plays. But with this qualifying
circumstance which I express because I hold it stuff of
the conscience to be sincere I repeat that the story is
told in a manner noble simple and interesting. I observe
you are laudably accurate in your rhymes but not quite
determined enough in avoiding the flattering facility
which the structure of verse holds out for writing without
effort. The family of haths dos and other expletives
should be peculiarly avoided in a kind of rythm the fault
of which is its too great ease and a few lines might be
advantageously altered with some attention to this
criticism. What I mean is calculated to throw more
bone as it were into the diction and you have so much
dower always in the sentiment that you ought not to suffer
it to lose in expression. As what I mean will be best
I understood by an example or two I will return a few of my minute observations with the valued manuscript itself through Mr. Freelings office in the course of two or three days. You see that like all the world I start up a critic at the sight of a manuscript. Indeed it has always the effect of making even those who never thought themselves judges before throw their minds into a critical attitude that they may not seem altogether unworthy of the honour conferred on them by the author. But I differ from most critics in supposing the authors own opinion of far greater consequence than that of any friend whatsoever and in holding it for a fixed principle that a far inferior judgement than yours ought never to resign itself unless in case of conviction to that of any adviser whatsoever. There are many things which may perhaps be subject of criticism considered separately that nevertheless agree so well with the general tone of composition as to render it imprudent to alter them and it is therefore very possible that if you should think it worth while to attempt the alterations which I mentioned you might render your verses more stiff and less simple rather than more forcible. So that I deprecate being supposed to insist upon my own opinion while I shall not scruple to state it frankly. But more of this in my next.

Sophia is much honoured and obliged by your remembrance which she deserves as far as gratitude for your kindness can render her worthy of it. She will not I think be much taller but she has great health and spirits and a very good temper. My son Walter is an inch taller than I am and I think a very handsome lad. I have some thoughts of taking him with me to France and Italy next year if I can make out a long projected tour.
in those countries. Methinks I will not die quite happy without having seen something of that Rome of which I have read so much.

This year promises a fine harvest and the poor folks are particularly favourd in a copious supply of the finest potatoes which if our good weather continues will be soon in the market. They need all this for their distress has been extreme and they may be said to deserve it for generally speaking they have borne severe privations with great patience. On Saturday night I will be at my poor kingdom of Abbotsford where I hope to find my subjects rejoicing at the expected return of plenty. The pasture grass is far more plentiful than I ever observed before so that there is a profusion of verdure upon the hills and the meadows which belongs to a better climate than poor auld Scotlands. I send you all this disjointed chat amidst a great clamour of preparation among the young and old of the castle for a sally to some remote place among the hills where we are to dine on the turf. What I would give that you were with us, only they are singing so many Jacobite songs that it is thought the full length pictures of King William and Queen Mary which hang in the ante-room will walk out of their frames like that in the Castle of Otranto and march off in their royal robes to some mansion where their canvas ears may avoid being shockd with such sounds. I beg my kindest compliments to Mrs. A. Baillie the kind Doctor and his lady whose manuscript of Columbus is so beautifully distinct in all which my wife and Sophia cordially join. I am sorry Lady Byron does not extend her tour to Scotland as somehow or other I might perhaps have been useful to her which would
(4-478) have given me particular pleasure. I trust and hope
(4-478) she would not have refused me the opportunity of being
(4-478) so had such occurred.

(4-478) I think Miss Edgeworth's last work 2 delightful though
(4-478) Jews will always be to me Jews. One does not naturally
(4-478) or easily combine with their habits and pursuits any
(4-478) great liberality of principle although certainly it may
(4-478) and I believe does exist in many individual instances.
(4-478) They are money-makers and money brokers by profession
(4-478) and it is a trade which narrows the mind. I own I
(4-478) breathed more freely when I found Miss Montenero was
(4-478) not an actual Jewess. The second tale, Ormond, is
(4-478) excellent and King Corny 3 one of those inimitable
(4-478) sketches which Miss Edgeworth alone can draw. The
(4-478) dramatic tales I did not quite so much admire—they
(4-478) wanted from the very plan that vivacity of description
(4-478) which Miss Edgeworth throws into her narrations. But
(4-478) the Irish Scold is most excellent; I would have liked to
(4-478) have written the Scotch military musician for her in the
(4-478) last drama he wants a spice of our peculiar nationality.
(4-478) But whips crack wheels rattle dogs bay and all is in

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(4-479) motion so I must close up this kiver while I can get
(4-479) Borthwickbrae to frank it. Ever my dear friend most
(4-479) truly yours WALTER SCOTT

(4-479) DRUMLANRIGG CASTLE 24 July [1817]

[Royal College of Surgeons, London, and Abbotsford Copies]

TO HAY DONALDSON

(4-479) MY DEAR SIR,—I hope you will bring the Baronet to
pay at Lambmas so as to reimburse yourself advances on account of us. I left the Duke admirably well at Drumlanrick after spending a few merry days with him not the less blythe that we hope for good from this remit of the Chancellors. The Duke deserves it for he pays 950 workmen exclusive of his establishment every day he rises. I hope you will give us a summer visit from you while the trouting lasts. Is there any chance of selling the Fife land now that money must be getting plenty? Yours ever WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 27 July [1817]

We arrived here last night after a rainy march through the mountains. . . .

[Griffith]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

ABBOTSFORD, 29th July [1817]

MY DEAR SIR,-This will be presented to you by Mr. Phillips, a young gentleman who has a desire to look towards literature as a profession, and of whose talents I think well. I thought it right to lay before him the difficulties which attend such a scheme at this time, and as he has respectable friends, I hope they may be able to provide for him in a line of life less precarious. At the same time I cannot refuse him the advantage of being known to you: in case you should think well of his plans it may prove an advantage to both, or at any rate he will have the benefit of your good advice and experience.-
I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

[Rosebery]                           WALTER SCOTT

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR SIR, - I have been since the rising of the Session chiefly taking a little tour in Dunbarton & Ayrshire & residing at Drumlanrigg. Air & constant exercise have greatly removed the stomach complaints which I was afflicted with & labour must now again take its turn. What you are concerned in will immediately go on at double quick time to meet your London visit. I write chiefly to inclose extract of a letter from Mr. Mathurine which I wish you would answer yourself. He has a good name in literature & I think you may safely oblige him to a reasonable extent. If not pray let me know as I will endeavour to help him through by some other means; as one or two of the trade were anxious about his novel. I wish Mr. Napier would be so kind as to send me the Memoires de la Chevalerie by Mons. de St. Palaye.1 I shall want it to help out my promised article which must now be thought upon.

I wish you would make me a visit here this fine season and bring young Mr. Constable with you. Everything is [in] greatest beauty around Tweedside with the prospect of a plentiful harvest. Believe me Dear Sir ever your most faithful Servant

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 29th. July 1817
EXTRACT FROM MR. MATHURINE'S LETTER

I fear I am fated to be a torment to all my correspondents till this day I was led constantly to expect the receipt of what was due to me by Drury lane theatre, which they acknowledge to amount to 100 or 130 this day I have just received a letter written in Cavalier to inform me they cannot pay me, an answer I presume they would scarcely give to a candle sniffer who asked for his weekly salary.

Under these circumstances of severe and unexpected disappointment from both quarters, I am induced to hope that perhaps Mr. Constable on the receipt of the first volume of my work (which shall be forwarded in a few days, and has been delayed only by my writing for the quarterly Review) would advance me something for it-it is my only resource but if my request appears unreasonable to you do not mention it to him.-I think the originality of the plan may give some chance of popularity to my work, it is properly neither novel or romance, and much more resembling life than any thing I have yet attempted-

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH, DRUMLANRIGG CASTLE

MY DEAR LORD,-We made our retreat from Drumlanrick with great success and passed the defiles of the Greymares tail 1 annoyed by some severe showers which we felt the more severely as we had to walk great part of the way through the pass. The road is very fair till we enter Selkirkshire after which there is no road at all.

I hope the two Mr. Pringles will take this into their
consideration as no great outlay would complete an admirable road between Selkirk & Moffat. About ten miles is the space which remains to be made & if the line be taken along Lord Napiers side of the Loch there will be very little cutting or bridging excepting over small reservoirs. Our friend Adam Fergusson left us on Monday delighted with the hospitality of Drumlanrick & promising himself much pleasure from renewing his visit in the winter.

My principal reason for adding to your Graces too numerous correspondents at present is to communicate the enclosed passage of a letter from Donaldson & to take your Graces directions how I shall answer it. There is no occasion for his attendance at Jedburgh nor would he wish it but I really think there would be great pity to lose the benefit of the complete experience which he has acquired in these affairs. At the same time it can only be at Your Graces expense that these researches can be continued & I am afraid those of last year will also fall to be placed to your Debit. The amount is inconsiderable especially considering the high importance of watching & securing the county which can only be preserved by keeping a vigilant eye on the motions of the enemy who is not dead but sleepeth. Your Grace has so much to attend to that you will I am sure pardon my acting as a flapper on the present occasion. The duty presently to be executed is merely that of examining all claims which are to be presented at the Head Court. It must be executed by some one or we shall fall into our former state of infirmity & for the present at least I should presume it will be best left with the person who has already executed it with such uncommon acuteness. But this will be of course as your Grace shall please to determine.
Believe me with greatest respect & regard Ever Your Graces truly obliged

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 30 July [1817]

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I send another slip of Donaldsons letter respecting the grand Cause. It would be hard after your Graces ancestors drove such hetacomb of English cows that one single Bullock should be too hard for their descendant.

[Buccleuch]

TO ROBERT JOHNSTON

ABBOTSFORD 30 July 1817

DEAR SIR, - I have been on a short tour through the West & spent a week at Drumlanrick. The crops are fine everywhere but there is much reason to pray for warm weather. If we have not sunshine our crops will be as late as last year & precarious of course an event devoutly to be deprecated.

I fancy the tolbooth still keeps its feet but as it must soon descend I hope you will remember me. I have an important use for the niche above the door & though many a man has got a niche in the Tolbooth by building I believe I am the first that ever got a niche out of it on such an occasion. For which I have to thank your kindness & to remain &c

W. SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]
TO DAVID WILKIE
(4-483)ABBOTSFORD, NEAR MELROSE, 2d Aug. 1817.

(4-483)MY DEAR SIR,-I learn with great pleasure from your letter just received, that you have revisited your native country. I cannot, now-a-days, pretend to point out any good Highland originals, to be rendered immortal on your canvas, for the old Forty-Five men, of whom I knew many in the days of yore, are now gathered to their fathers. But I am sure you will be gratified by the scenery which time cannot make any impression upon. Pray do not omit to visit the head of Loch Awe, which I look upon as equal to any thing in the Highlands. There is some curious scenery near Aberfoil, in Perthshire, particularly a waterfall at Ledeard, at the top of Loch Hard, I within an hour's walk of the inn, which, from its size and accompaniments, I should think particularly qualified to fill up a Highland landscape. I never saw any thing which I admired so much: the height is not remarkable, but the accompaniments are exquisitely beautiful. In a different style, and at no great distance, is an island called Inchmahome, which has some ruins of a monastery surrounded by huge chesnut trees, very striking, though looking of no importance from the shore. To mention minute information of this kind would exhaust your patience; but there is no corner of the romantic region, in which this letter will find you, which may not present something worth your looking at. I hope, on your return, that you will pay me a visit. I have my hand in the mortar-tub, but I have a chamber in the wall for you, besides a most hearty welcome. I have also one or two old jockies with one foot in the grave, and know...
of a herd's hut or two tottering to the fall, which you will
find picturesque. Of scenery we can boast but little; the
best we have to say of ours is, that it is simple, pleasing,
and pastoral. I am labouring to produce landscapes to
please some future generation, by planting as busily as
I can, and I would be most happy to have your advice
and opinion. If you delight in old stories and fields of
battles, there are plenty to be had; and I must add, that
we are within three miles of Melrose Abbey, and I will be
happy to be showman over these beautiful remnants of
architecture. A coach passes three times a week within

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a mile of my door; it is called the Blucher, and tickets
are issued at the Black Bull, Leith Walk; its destination is
Melrose and Jedburgh, but my guests stop at the turnpike
gate at the end of Melrose bridge, where I will meet you,
if you will let me know when I am to have the pleasure
of expecting you. I am almost never from home.

Let me add my wishes for good weather and a pleasant
expedition. I would offer you letters of introduction,
but you bear them in your own high and deserved reputation,
or I think of a mode of transmitting them.
Believe me, dear Sir, Most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT
[Life of Sir David Wilkie]

TO FRANCIS JEFFREY 1

MY DEAR JEFFREY,-I flatter myself it will not require
many protestations to assure you with what pleasure I
would undertake any task that can give you pleasure.
But in the present case I am hampered by two circum-
stances—one, that I promised Gifford a review of this very Kirkton for the Quarterly; the other that I shall certainly be unable to keep my word with him. I am obliged to take exercise three or four hours [in the] forenoon, and two after dinner, to keep off the infernal spasms, which since last winter have attacked me with such violence as if all the imps that tend to plague poor Caliban were washing, wringing, and ironing my unshapely but useful bag, which Sir John Sinclair treats with such distinction—my stomach, in short.

Now, as I have much to do of my own, I fear I can hardly be of use to you in the present case, which I am very sorry for as I like the subject, and would be pleased to give my opinion respecting the Jacobitism of the Editor, which, like my own case, has a good spice of affectation in it, mingled with some not unnatural feelings of respect for a cause which, though indefensible in common-sense and ordinary policy, has a great deal of high spirited Quixotry about it.

Can you not borrow from your briefs and criticisms a couple of days to look about you here? I dare not ask Mrs. Jeffrey till next year, when my hand will be out of the mortar tub, and at present my only spare bed was till of late but accessible by the feudal accommodation of a drawbridge made of two deals, and still requires the clue of Ariadne. Still, however, there it is, and there is an obliging stage coach called the Blucher, which sets down my guests within a mile of my mansion (at Melrose bridge-end), three times a week, and restores them to their families in like manner after five hours' travelling.

I am like one of Miss Edgeworth's heroines, master of
all things in miniature. A little hill, and a little glen, and
a little horse-pond of a loch, and a little river I was going
to call the Tweed, but I remember the minister was
mobbed by his parishioners for terming it in his statistical
report an inconsiderable stream. So, pray, do come and
see me, and if I can serve you or pleasure you in the
course of the winter you shall command me.1 As I
bethink me, I can contrive a bachelor-bed for Thomson
or Jo. Murray, if either of them will come with you, and
if you ride I have plenty of hay and corn, and a bed for
your servant. Ever yours affectionately,

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, 5th August, 1817.

Our posts are not very regular, so I was late in receiving
yours.

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

MY DEAR SHARPE,—I have a letter from Jeffrey to the
purport you mention but as I have already mentiond to
Gifford my wish to review Kirkton in the Quarterly
I cannot without breach of faith transact with the
other publication.1 Jeffrey seems to be struck with the
publication itself & gives willing praise for the notes
though a little too Jacobitical for him as he expresses it.
I hope he will get the article well done but I should have
liked to have done it myself & left the high-church people
to have blunderd out their own article. There would
have been some pleasure in shelling the Whigs out of
their own grand battery and leaving them only to maintain a dropping & unheard return of heavy artillery out of the Christian Instructor 2 or some such obscure field-work. I cannot say my health is by any means bad-and yet it is not to be trusted to-these damnd spasms seem to be now constitutional & defy every thing but diet and exercise-the Merchant Abudahs hag was a hen wife to them when they give me a real night of it & the provoking thing is that I am perfectly well next day after such a prolongd agony.

I was at Drumlanrick for a week & went half through the great box of papers-it is a box as you said, not a hamper as I insisted. There is much that would interest though I think little of what is strictly & historically valuable-autographs without end-I made some progress in separating the private letters & memorandums from public proclamations grants instructions etc etc & both from the mass of mere private accompts by factors & so forth but I did not get through one half of the box for the weather cleard up & then walking & driving came in fashion. The quizzical picture of the lady & child is in great preservation with a few other scare-crows. I am interested in what you tell me of the D. of Monmouth-She saved my G. Grandfather from being hangd whether before or after his becoming the sire of my immediate progenitor I wot not-though the point of obligation may be considerably varied by the circumstances as I might revise the verse of Swift

He should have had my hearty vote To cut his throat before he married.
As for the Knight of Allanton I suspect him to be in a scrape if his antagonist be as shrewd as his old adversary Andw. Stuart who keel-hauled the knight in his character of an anonymous author all along professing a profound respect for him in his own. A masque should observe one rule-never to speak of himself as a third person. It was indeed impossible to doubt that the article was his writing & the solemn manner in which he refered to his own opinions & sentiments & authority is ridiculous enough. Yet I believe the expression of Goodman was given of old to persons of great consequence who happend to hold their land of subject superiors as the epithet of

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Baron (particularly in the Highland districts) was often given to the most petty proprietors who held of the crown though not actually lords of a Barony. I remember hearing of a Baron Mackfunn of the Dreip, a Baron Reid & two or three other petty feudatories not to mention the Baron of Kincleven whose property consisted in a ferry over the Tay near Stobhall and a few acres bestowed on his ancestor for fathering (with reverence) a fart of Queen Mary's who happend to make the little mistake in stepping into the boat whereupon the boatman steppd forward & cravd pardon of the company a strain of politeness greatly pleasing to the Queen who instantly demanded Whose knave art thou ? & learning he was a tenant or bondsman of the Earl of Mar askd his freedom of her cousin Jock & moreover the barony aforesaid which the Earl conferd on him accordingly. Anne rejoices in the success of her remedy and we would all rejoice if you pay us a visit here. I can give you a quiet bed though the masons are busy around us and my addition rises with more noise though less splendour than the temple of Solomon. A coach calld the Blucher runs
three times a week & sets you down at three o'clock at the
Melrose-bridge-end about a mile & a half from us where
the carriage would meet you & I have room for your
servant if it will make you comfortable to have him.
Said coach returns three times a week & sets you down at
Edinburgh. I am an early riser but the young Misses
will make you breakfast when you list or it shall be
manufactured in your own room. Pray think of this & oblige
your truly faithful

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 7 August. [1817]

Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe Esq
Princes Street Edinr.

TO UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT I

DEAR SIR,-I have at length received and read with
pleasure your very able defence of Swift against the violent
and unnatural attack of the Edinburgh Review which
written in the worst spirit of party spared neither the
acknowledged virtues or distinguished talents of that
great writer because he was a great name on the opposite
side of politics- His secession from the Whig party
was a crime neither to be forgotten or forgiven-yet
they would be very angry were we to call Fox a turncoat
or renegade because he changed the Tory principles in
which he was educated and professing which with no
ordinary keenness he held a share in his uncles administration.
I own that in a country like ours where two great
parties are as necessary to the steadiness of the constitution as the slings to the mast of a ship I cannot look upon a change of political connections as so heinous and inexpiable a crime-Swift no doubt felt himself illused and neglected by those Whig patrons who had been attracted by his display of his abilities whom he had certainly served and by whom he had been promised preferment. But to deny him on that account the credit of being actuated by any other motives than those of a personal nature is an unwarrantable want of candour. As to the imputations concerning Walpole you have distinctly shown them to be the grave dicta of the critic-Swift had unquestionable faults of temper mixed with his great talents and from an early period displayed some oddity which finally terminated in mental disorder. But I think you have done good service to English literature in the able manner in which you have shown how industriously a reviewer has extracted everything that could be termed blameworthy in his character and by the assistance of much exaggeration has a lacquer with which to blacken the whole.

Nothing could be more completely absurd than to reproach Swift with neglecting the Catholic interest in Ireland. To have constituted himself a champion of an interest against which all parties were at the time united would have been at once exposing himself to the charge of Jacobitism and popery-the idea of relieving the Catholics as such no more entered or could enter the head of a philanthropist of that time than it would have occurred to Marcus Antoninus to abolish slavery. The best thing the Catholics of that time had to expect was forbearance and to share unnoticed and unnamed the
advantages which Swift was desirous to secure for Irishmen in general.

I could be very prolix on this subject but I should return many of the feelings and arguments which you have expressed so well. I am much obliged to you for pointing out the article to my attention and have to wish you joy of turning your attention to literary composition. It forms the best as well as most respectable amusement both in youth and age and with talents and sound principle such as you display in that article cannot but render its possessor respected as well as happy. I am always Dear Sir very much your most obedient servant WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 10 August [? 1817]

[Miss G. Scott]

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TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

ABBOTSFORD, 10th August [1817]

MY DEAR SIR,—Many thanks to you for your kind offer and your son's to take commissions for the continent. If Mr. Constable can pick up for me a complete set of the old German Romantic poetry, published originally by Muller at Berlin, and continued in three or four parts, containing the Helden-buch and other of their early romances of chivalry, I will be much obliged to him. Poor Weber had a copy, the only one I ever saw, and he would not part with it. I hope Mr. Constable will have good weather and a pleasant journey.
In reference to what is now in hand, will you send me the loan of a copy of Burn's Justice of Peace, no matter what edition. Our intercourse with Selkirk being more rare, please send it by the Blucher coach, between Edinburgh and Jedburgh, by Melrose, and address to be left at Melrose bridge end, where my boy finds it in the morning.

I have a letter from Mathurin who is greatly delighted with your liberality. He is certainly a man of very considerable talent, though deficient perhaps in the knowledge how he should apply it to the greatest advantage. J. B. will soon give you the first vol. of the new work which is almost all in hand.-Yours truly,

WALTER SCOTT

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT

MY DEAR MORRITT,-I am arrived from a little tour in the West of Scotland and had hoped in compliance with your kind wish to have indulged myself with a skip over the border as far as Rokeby about the end of this month. But my fate denies me this pleasure for in consequence of one or two blunders during my absence in executing my new premises I perceive the necessity of remaining at the helm while they are going on. Our masons though excellent workmen are too little accustomed to the gimcracks of their art to be trusted with the execution of a bravura plan without constant inspection. Besides the said labours lay me under the necessity of working a little myself and I find I can no longer with...
impunity undertake to make one weeks hard labour
supply the omissions of a fortnights idleness. The upshot
of all is my being under the necessity to remain an
inhabitant of Abbotsford operative and residentiary for
this season unless I should get my matters so far advanced
in October as to make a run to Rokeby of which I have
very little hopes. Like you I have abridged my creature-
comforts as Old Mortality would call them renouncing
beer and ale on all ordinary occasions also pastry fruit
&c. and all that tends to acidity. I have not had a return
of the cramp since the nth of last month when I was
assailed by it with the greatest violence insomuch that
my stomach rejected even the laudanum which was
thought necessary to appease it and they were obliged

finally to have recourse to Monsr. de Porceaugnac's treatment-
a lavement. These are awkward warnings but-
sat est vixisse—to have lived respected and regarded by
some of the best men in our age is enough for an individual
like me—the rest must be as God wills and when he wills.
What I have chiefly suffered by is a sedentary habit for
one half of the year which has weakened my stomach &
deranged the powers of digestion in an uncommon degree.
At the same time I am as strong as a horse in many
respects for within a few hours after the paroxysm is over
I find no difficulty in taking exercise as usual. So I
believe with care all will do very well.

The poor laws into which you have ventured for the
love of the country form a sad quagmire. They are like
John Bunyan's Slough of Despond into which as he
observes millions of cart loads of good resolutions have
been thrown without perceptibly mending the way.
From what you say and from what I have heard from
others there is a very natural desire to trust to one or two empirical remedies such as general systems of education and so forth. But a man with a broken constitution might as well put faith in Spilsbury or Godbold. It is not the knowledge but the use which is made of it that is productive of real benefit. To say that the Scottish peasant is less likely than the Englishman to become an incumbrance on his parish is saying in other words that the country is less populous—that there are fewer villages and towns—that the agricultural classes from the landed proprietor down to the cottager are individually more knit and cemented together—above all that the Scotch peasant has harder habits of life and because he can endure from his infancy a worse fare and lodging than your parish Aim—houses offer is rarely a burthen on the public. There is a terrible evil in England to which we are strangers—the number to wit of tippling houses where the labourer as a matter of course spends the overplus of his earnings. In Scotland there are few and the Justices are commendably inexorable in rejecting all application for licenses where there appears no public necessity for granting them. A man therefore cannot easily spend much money in liquor since he must walk three or four miles to the place of action and back again which infers a sort of malice prepense of which few are capable—and the habitual opportunity of indulgence not being at hand the habit of intemperance and of waste connected with it is not acquired. If finances would admit a general limitation of the alehouses over England to one fourth of the number I am convinced you would find the money spent in that manner would remain with the peasant as a source of self-support and independence.
All this applies chiefly to the country—in towns and in the manufacturing districts the evil could hardly be diminishd by such regulations. There would perhaps be no means so effectual as that (which will never be listend to) of taxing the manufacturers according to the number of hands which they employ on an average and applying the produce in maintaining the manufacturing poor. If it should be alleged that this would injure the manufacturers I would boldly reply "And why not injure or rather limit speculations the excessive stretch of which has been productive of so much damage to the principals to the country and to the population whom it has in so many respects degraded and demoralized."

For a great many years manufactures taken in a general point of view have not partaken of the character of a regular profession in which all who engaged with honest industry and a sufficient capital might reasonably expect returns proportional to their advances and labour; but have on the contrary rather resembled a lottery in which the great majority of the adventure[r]s are sure to be losers although some may draw considerable advantage. Men continued for a great many years to exert themselves and to pay extravagant wages, not in hopes that there could be a reasonable prospect of an orderly and regular demand for the goods they wrought up but in order that they might be the first to take advantage of some casual opening which might consume their cargoe let others shift as they could. Hence extravagant wages on some occasions for those adventurers who thus playd at hit or miss stood on no scruples while the chance of success remaind open—hence also the stoppage of work and the discharge of the workmen when the speculators faild
of their object. All this while the country was the sufferer— for whoever gained the result being upon the whole a loss fell on the nation together with the task of maintaining a poor rendered effeminate and vicious by over wages and over-living and necessarily cast loose upon society. I cannot but think that the necessity of making some fund before hand for the provision of those whom they debauch and render only fit for the alms-house in prosecution of their own adventures though it operated as a check on the increase of manufactures would be a measure just in itself and beneficial to the community. But it would never be listened to—the weavers beam and the sons of Zeruiah would be too many for the proposers.

This is the eleventh of Augt. Walter happier than he will ever be again perhaps is preparing for the moor. He has a better dog than Trout and rather less active. Mrs. Scott and all our family send kind love. I beg my respects to Lord Lindsay if with you. I had the honor to know his mother very well. Ever my dear Morritt most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD II August [1817]

TO ROBERT JOHNSTON

11 August 1817

DEAR SIR,—The stones arrived quite safe many thanks

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towards your kind attention. I am now about to trouble you
with another commission in this hobby horsical affair.
As I must leave an open space in the north gabel of my
house to insert the niche which is over the gate of
the tobooth, I am very desirous of knowing its height
& breadth that I may regulate the space to be left
accordingly. Would you have the goodness to cause some
accurate tradesman make out this measurement
distinguishing at the same time the extent of the stones of
which the ornamented work is composed where they
extend beyond the carving as I would wish to place it
just as it exists without cutting any of the stones & in
short to transpose it as in the scrawl below which will
hardly render my meaning more intelligible. I trust
however to your ingenuity to guess my meaning by my
mumping according to the old saying & beg you to
believe me your obliged humble servant

WALTER SCOTT
[Sotheby Sale Catalogue facsimile and Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY BYRON

I HAVE just received the honour of your Ladyship's
letter and hasten to say with what pleasure we shall
receive you at Abbotsford and accompany you to Melrose
or to any other scene in this neighbourhood which may
possess any interest. Mrs. Scott desires me to add more
apologies than I am able to express for the very humble
tyle of accommodation which we are able to offer, as
great part of this cottage is at present in the act of being
rebuilt. But I have always found my house like the fairy
tent capable of being stretched to any dimension to
receive those we wish to see, and have only the hope that
the goodness which promises us a visit so agreeable will
overlook the inconvenience of a garret bedroom in
consideration of the warmest welcome we can give.
There is no chance of our being engaged on any day, but
if your Ladyship will honour me with a line to say when
you leave Edinburgh, I will take care to be absent on no
rambling excursion.

Permit me to add that few things give us more pleasure
than the honour of receiving Lady Byron.

The people at Bankhouse know the way to this place
but pray do not permit them to try the ford which is
sometimes dangerous—the bridge is about three miles
round but much more safe. ... I am afraid your Ladyship
must have found Edinburgh very empty, for the
inhabitants migrate like wild geese about this time of year.

[Miss Mayne's Life of Lady Byron]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—I am heartily concerned for the fate
which seems to lie on Johns proceedings. I should fear
he may suffer much temporary inconvenience at least
from Ainslies affair 1 although I think the man should pay
in time : & I need not add I am vexed at your share in
the probable loss or inconvenience. I return the note
accepted as drawn. You will recollect there is some
interest personal to you paid by the company—there is
no hurry for the money but of course you will not lose
sight of it as by accepting for the present balance I might
in the way of business seem to discharge it.
I will be glad to have your note of acceptances also of the payments for the Journal as they occur.

You say nothing to my proposal that Mr. Hogarth & you should visit me. Item Lady Byron writes me she had made some communication through you of her purpose to come to Abbotsford. I should be glad to know her motions for as we stand at present it takes a little time to redd up when we expect a guest.

I send you some more of R. R. In a day or two you shall have a larger allowance but I have had attacks of the cramp and am obliged to work piano-If Constable seriously thinks of the 10000 I shall not object-if it is so much lost to the printer it is so much gained to the author. He is a dashing dog worth the whole bunch for spirit & adventure. But we find PAPER-that must be understood-he getting it as cheap from Duncan as he can work it out of the Gracious King of reams & foolscap. You will not settle about any of these things without correspondence with me.

Will you send me by the carrier on Wednesday morning two or three copies of the Antiquities (the Introduction) & one of the Register which I have never seen.

I hope R. will answer. I will study to make it do it is so much better dealing with Constable than with the other ungracious fellow.4

Pray glance over my letters before you write in answer & say something were it but a word to the contents.
Consider I am a hermit here & anxious about the trifles I ask about. Yours truly W. S.

16 August [1817]

I send this by Mr. Pole who has been with me harping & carping each evening very delightfully. Inclosed is a letter to Johnstone.

[Glen]

TO ROBERT JOHNSTON

16 August 1817 ABBOTSFORD

MY DEAR SIR,-I trouble you with these few lines to thank you for the very accurate drawings &c of the tolbooth door & for your kind promise to attend to my interest & that of Abbotsford in the matter of the Thistle & fleur de Us. Most of our Scutcheons are now mounted & look very well as the house is something after the model of an old hall (not a Castle) where such things are well in character. I intend the old Lion to predominate over a well which the Children have christened the Fountain of the Lions.1 His present den however continues to be the hall at Castle Street.

WALTER SCOTT
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO HAY DONALDSON, W.S., FREDERICK STREET, EDINBURGH

[PM. MELROSE]
MY DEAR SIR, - I wrote to the Duke of Buccleuch my earnest advice and opinion that you should continue your investigations as usual upon the business of the Roxburghshire politics. You will observe by the enclosed which please to lay up among your papers that His Grace is entirely of my opinion & also is desirous of settling your last years account. You will of course lose no time in setting about your investigation & when the information obtaind assumes a distinct form you had better communicate it to the Duke. In the mean while any advice which I can give is always at your service and I beseech you to take no step where any matter of personal delicacy may interfere without consulting me as I know the carte du pais and I need not add have every motive for endeavouring to advance both your character and interest. A thread delicately handled has been the means of pulling up a cable and I would fain think this partial but confidential employment may lead to something better hereafter. I expect Lady Byron here in a day or two

P.S. Perhaps as your account has lain over it may be as well to send it in with that for the present High Court business.

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE
the 10,000 (1) to which of course I gave ready acquiescence & directed him to communicate with you as to particulars. I mentiond formerly the paper a convenience which I do not chuse to want. John also had a share in the adventure on condition of his paying ready money instead of bills. There may be doubt if he can follow this up but at any rate you will take care to keep it open for him—it may be the means of helping him materially or bringing home in part your own 360. As to any other proposals I suppose they will be the same as formerly; if any thing new is stated you will let me know. There should be every exertion made to get forward the printing. You will recollect there is no Melrose post on Tuesday.

Yours truly

W. S.

ABBOTSFORD 17 August [PM. 1817]

[Signet Library]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

ABBOTSFORD, 18th August [1817]

MY DEAR SIR,—I am favoured with your letter and am very glad to find the Register 1 is forthcoming; I have made some economical arrangements respecting the Chronicle, &c., which I hope may render the work more profitable. Relating to the other matter, I am very glad you think the thing so promising, and of course acquiesce in what you recommend. I am labouring regularly, though I cannot work hard, and have no doubt of meeting October at least, so that you may have the whole early in that month. I write to Jas. B., with whom you will take the trouble to communicate as to particulars. I
should wish much to see you here before you go to London; we shall have comfortable apartments roofed in during the course of next month, and if you will bring Miss Constable with you, Mrs. Scott and the girls will be very happy to see her, and Tweedside will be a novelty.

If there is any change to take place in the Farmer's Mag.2 I hope you will think on my friend Will. Laidlaw who has more real genius than most folks whom I know.-I remain, your faithful Servant, WALTER SCOTT

[Rosebery]

TO MESSRS. CONSTABLE & CO.

DEAR SIR,-I received your favour. There can be no objection to the work getting forward. I inclose a letter & packet from Mathurine of Dublin-He wishes much to have a London Bill in exchange for yours as there are no Scotch houses in Dublin. If you will give the bill to James Ballantyne he will probably get such a bill at par & remit it minus the discount to Mr. M. The work 1 which I have glanced over has very considerable merit but I think requires softening in some passages where religious sectaries are treated with severe satire. I would at least smoothe over some expressions & I shall mention this when I write to Mr. M. I remain Yours very truly W SCOTT

Mr. Cadell

Monday [docketed 25 August 1817]
TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,-I send you the end of Vol. I. These bad days have brought me well up. In your letter you perfectly explain Coutts matter but it is not the less a most unlucky business & I wish in transactions with London Houses where you must pointedly go on the square that you would remit through the Banks or Sir W. F. which would render discussion & dispute impossible. I think you acted prudently in not hinting anything to Coutts that might be disagreeable to them to hear.

Your poor fathers death will make some ease to the business for I suppose the Book-keeping on the present scale can be managed without great expence. Indeed I suppose from the state of his health the conclusion will not make much difference to what it has been for some time before. We must oeconomise as we can when work is failing & rates low. Please to speak to this when you write.

I will be glad to hear when Mr. Hogarth 1 & you are likely to come. I should have had gay lodgings for you but these rainy days have baulked the plaisterers. At any rate you will have beds tales quales & wellcome.

W. S.
28 August [1817].
TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(4-504) DEAR JAMES,-I return the sheets & will be very happy (4-504)to see Mr. Hogarth & you at dinner on thursday & also (4-504)Alexander. It is possible that erratic planet Adam (4-504)Fergusson & his sister may be here in which [case] you (4-504)may be a little crowded but we can make many shifts as (4-504)I have the hay-loft still in reserve which you know of (4-504)old.

(4-504)I have your note of sums due. I wish before you come (4-504)out you would renew Constables bill of the 12 to meet (4-504)mine of 6th & I will renew mine to take up his. We must (4-504)try to [make] 2 some arrangement about the § 1040 to (4-504)meet R. R. who I trust will be forth early in October if (4-504)you can get the printing through. I wish you would bring (4-504)with you the calculations of expence paper printing &c. (4-504)I am anxious about John-he had better let his loss be (4-504)loss and come home-his share of profit on R. R. will (4-504)more than balance it. I always feared the Philistines (4-504)would bite him at last. I send a little copy but have (4-504)more ready.

(4-504)I would not have plagued Mr. Hogarth about his (4-504)thousand. But my brother Tom has tipd me bills for (4-504)§ 500 at ten days sight.

(4-504)Never fear Rob making his appearance-if he has not (4-504)done so already-but you are aware the Highlands are (4-504)rather a worn out subject. Ne quid nimis-My health is

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(4-505)greatly mended. I rise a mornings & sleep a nights-Will (4-505)you call or send to Castle Street & bring me any letters &c (4-505)that are there- You will of course ask the Great
TO ROBERT JOHNSTON

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

WALTER SCOTT

“'" The door, lock, key, &c., were all sent.']1
you do know him you should again plunge deep into his bill-transactions. Assuredly you will destroy your own credit if you continue this conduct & that will not be very just to those already connected with you. I will assist John myself & have done so in all feasible matters but not with credit & I assure you it will do him no good. The only chance I see of your getting out of the scrape is to keep hold of his share of R.R. for I suspect that between Ainslie 1 and these misadventures John will have a bad account of his affairs when he comes home. He is an unlucky wight. I expect you on Thursday.

W. SCOTT

[Signet Library]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

ABBOTSFORD, 5th Sept. [1817]

MY DEAR SIR,—I will get to CHIVALRY 2 next week. I will not have time to make the article long but will try to make it lively. I am just finishing an apartment which will be habitable in eight days, and make Miss Constable and you more comfortable than I can at this moment, so I hope to see you the week after the next any day that is most agreeable, avoiding the 22d which is circuit-term. James Ballantyne bears my mind in some matters which will not be, I think, unpleasant to you. I wish you to turn them in your mind.

I am much obliged to Mr. Forrester for his very kind attention. Will you be so good as let me know the
amount of the balance, all discounts &c. taken off, when you have time to enquire after it.-Yours truly,

WALTER SCOTT

[Rosebery]

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

MY DEAR JAMES,-I have an important communication from John announcing that Longmans people are willing to clear our hands of the whole remaining stock on getting the next Tales. But I presume our friend at the Cross 1 will be willing to do the same a point which you must lose no time in ascertaining. Mr. Constable will not I am sure wish or expect me to be a loser by my preference of him. Murray has through an indirect channel offerd advantages equivalent or more than equivalent in a pecuniary point of view: but I cannot stomach some things which occurred formerly. I have little doubt Longman & Co/ will go hand in hand with Constable the latter managing. But as the bills of one House however reputable would embarrass us it would be necessary we should have bills in London for one moiety of the concern.

Respecting the Stock Longman have proposed to take it by valuation but to this I will not consent: indeed they do not make a condition but only a suggestion to that effect to which assuredly I shall not listen. The terms will be the same as formerly only including the whole stock which after all these gentlemen must have taken soon or syne. Being in their own hands they may make it valuable and they are not ignorant that 10,000 copies of the Tales must produce at least 8000 divisible between the author and publishers- 4000 is not to be sneezed at
though encumberd with some heavy stock which they can use so as to secure themselves against loss if they cannot turn it to advantage. I inclose Johns letter. I have written in answer that we are in communication with Constable. It will be necessary also to enquire if John himself can take any share in the proposed negotiation. I fear it greatly for of course the ready will be the terms on which he must deal. I do not wish to disoblige Longmans people but certainly to give a preference to Constable on any terms by which I shall not be a loser. A very desireable purchase has occurd in this neighbourhood, a sort of fairy land marching with Abbotsford. I have little doubt our speculations will enable me to clear it with advantage to my family-these are sunshine prospects after rough weather. The first matter will [of] course be to pay off the Bond at Mart ?!

I have had a slight return of my complaint which keeps me from my desk but I set to work tomorrow with renewd vigour. Believe me Very truly yours WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 10 Sept. 1817

It will I think be best to keep the treaty quite open till we hear from John.

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

MY DEAR SHARPE,-" Doubt truth to be a liar " but do not doubt my continued and anxious wish to do whatsoever is like to be agreeable to you : my article 2
was begun but owing to the want of divers volumes
ponderous of conveyance or rare in occurrence I really
had not the means of completing it for you know we have
to do with a perverse generation who would take every
advantage of a slip of memory & therefore we must
walk according to the square. But it will & shall
assuredly grace the next Quarterly. The feuds of the
booksellers are most diverting & I have no doubt the
rival Magazines like opposition coaches will run the race
till their efforts to outstrip each other shall overthrow
one or both. Wilson will be a spirited character or I
mistake him and take the corner with four starvd authors
in hand in great stile. As for the Bart cannot conceive

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what on earth made him enter into the lists as an unknown
knight thus depriving himself of all the courtesy usually
paid to one who wears his beaver up. Having formerly
undergone a rude shock in the same career I should have
judged that he would have tired playing the Stranger
Knight- Goodman has certainly a mean sound yet
it has been applied to families who now hold their head
pretty high. I have seen a letter from James V to Ye
Guidman of Torwoodlee in which he calls him his right
traist friend or some such epithet & speaks I believe of
dining with him. Now these same Pringles of Torwoodlee
were Crusaders & men of consequence as appears from
their reliques-the heart of a valiant champion of the
family sent home from the Holy Land in a porphyry case
plated with silver. Even the carta supellex may be
matched by examining the wills of old families-but after
Allanton's honours are in a scrape. I thought
I had known all the battles of Scottish history but can
remember nothing of this same battle of Morningside.
The heraldic Riccelli I has made a most ferocious attack :-
what the devil can be the meaning of his extreme ardour?
in demolishing the champion of Morningside he will
realize the old maxim cedant arma togae.

I renounce with much regret the hope of seeing you
here this season. Next year we shall be better prepared
for your reception & I can give you a den where you
shall be as sulky as the day is long when you do not incline
here to be merry with us. I am finishing a whimsical house
when the Heart of Midlothian pays contribution.

Item I am attempting to eke out a little cascade in a
certain glen belonging to my High-German dominions
of Bowden Moor. So your prudence has escaped much
hammering & knocking (for we want the silence as well
as the wisdom of Solomon's temple) with a quantum
sufficit of lime to daub your clothes & stones to break

your shins upon, not to mention that in constructing the
waterfall as the Potter's old song hath it

All the livelong day
We dabble among the clay
And we do smoke tobacco
As I do suppose.

Which admirable fragment I give you from tradition
as sung at the Potteries near Prestonpans when I was in
sea-bathing quarters there some forty years ago. From
all these inconveniences your prudence has saved you
though my selfish wish to see you here would have exposed
you to them - Davie Williamson is a special hawl-I am
interrupted & forced to conclude in haste Most truly yours
WALTER SCOTT
(4-510)ABBOTSFORD Friday [Sep. 13, 1817]

(4-510)All the folks here are gratified by your remembrance.
(4-510)If you like blackcocks we can send you plenty-off my
(4-510)own moor-Ha ! I will caper in mine own free hold-
(4-510)Dogs & cats all well & send remembrances.

(4-510)Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe Esq
(4-510)Princes Street Edinburgh.
[Horner]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(4-510)DEAR JAMES,- I have a letter from John today. He
(4-510)has gone fully farther with Longmans people than I
(4-510)intended. I gave him a general direction when he
(4-510)left Britain to sound them on the subject of the stock
(4-510)but understood from John on his return nothing could
(4-510)be done owing to Rees's absence. The seniors of the
(4-510)House have however oped their oracular jaws and profferd

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(4-511)mighty things-in a word are anxious to accede to my
(4-511)terms. They cannot therefore be left out entirely and
(4-511)the Tales (say 10000 copies) must be divided as in the
(4-511)case of Rob Roy Constable taking the uncontrold management.
(4-511)I should have been well pleased to have let
(4-511)Constable have the whole but besides that it would be
(4-511)using Longmans ill to shut them out of a bargain which
(4-511)has been mentiond to them by an authorized agent it is
(4-511)very desireable where acceptances are taken for so large
(4-511)a sum that they should be divided between two houses.
(4-511)To save further discussion the following are the terms
(4-511)on which you may close with Constable.
1. The Tales 4 volumes 10000 copies to be ready by Whitsunday at farthest.

2. I retain the option of finding paper.

3. Acceptance for authors profit at six months as in the former cases.

4. In consideration of being preferd to this work Messrs. C. & Co/ take the whole remaining stock of J. B. & Co/ on the same terms of discount acceptance etc as formerly. But as this is a heavy lift we will aid them with such renewals of credit as may be agreed on at their expense however not ours.

5. Constable & Co/ are to offer Longman etc half the above bargain and there may be a reserve made of some small corner for the doughty John to cover his swindling losses at home and abroad (to be deducted proportionally from the two moieties of Constable & Longman & managed as in the case of R. R.)

If Mr. Constable agrees to these terms you may close with him directly under this understanding that as many acceptances etc must be granted in November as will take out of the way the 4000 bond. Should these terms be less acceptable than I trust & expect they will prove the arrangement will go to London for Longman

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have signified their disposition to acquiesce in the authors plan. Indeed the only thing that seems heavy is the quantity of stock but if the old is heavy the new is light enough & being once all out of the warehouse they
will escape this drug on future occasions. As to the union
of interests with Longman it is what Constable himself
seemed to like on former arrangements although it is very
natural he should like the whole better than a moiety.

Half a loaf however is better than no bread.

As I said before I should like much to place G. M.1 under
his care instead of Longmans if it can be done without
offending them. In the mean time you will please lose
no time in ordering paper for an edition of 2000 and
putting the same to press as it will fill up gaps in R. R.1
which may be delayd for a few days longer.

Respecting Johns mission you may recollect I mentiond
to you at Abbotsford that I had desired John when he
left Britain to take an opportunity to sound Longman &
Co/ & that you told me (which indeed his first letter
confirmed) that nothing could be done there in Rees's
absence. But undoubtedly as a prudent man I was
desirous to hear the breath of more than one house on a
transaction which involves first & last a most important
sum of money. Nothing is concluded with Longman so
if Constable accedes to my terms before John arrives the
affair may be closd. Direct pecuniary advantages equal
to half the price of the stock have been offerd in another
quarter so that I am quite fixd not to lower my terms.

I have settled nothing yet about my arrondissement
but shall soon-it is a beautiful spot-Your Journal will
do admirably-it is a great defect in you that you distrust
[your] excellent abilities. Yours truly

ABBOTSFORD 14 Septr. [PM. 1817]             W. S.

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TO THE DUKE OF BUCLEUCH, DRUMLANRIGG

(4-513) MY DEAR LORD DUKE, - I enclose the state of the claims on the Roxburghshire roll drawn up by Donaldson.
(4-513) The objection to Williamson which seems fatal it is not for us to mention nor do I think there would be prudence or propriety in being active to state that against John Pringle. He is said to be adverse but he is a very young man and can hardly be supposed to know his own mind.
(4-513) Moreover he is what is now commonly termed a Dandie and is therefore comeatable in many ways especially by occasional attention from Bowhill. So as his vote could only be winged for a time & that when there is no prospect of its being of consequence I think it would be prudent to spare him the aggravating feeling that it was set aside. With your Graces permission I will speak to him cannily & point out the objection that we may not lose the grace of waving it. If however in your Graces better judgment it should appear of consequence to keep him off we will take care he shall not get on. As to Donaldsons attending the head court it would certainly be of little consequence on the present occasion. But he is a freeholder on the roll & perhaps it may be as proper that he now should remain so ; his attendance therefore becomes a business of course & can attract no particular observation & the expence attending it may be a means of balancing the interest of his qualification which remains on his hand.
(4-513) As to this point also your Grace will be pleased to honour me with your directions which shall be implicitly attended to.

(4-513) I send under a separate cover two letters of a painful nature from my cousin Willie Scott younger of Raeburn & I do it with the greatest reluctance. I have told him a dozen times that I do not see how your Grace standing
as I know you have reason to do with ministers should solicit them for any one & that moreover I saw no propriety in troubling you on his score in particular.

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I found him howsoever so much disposed to think that I exaggerated these difficulties that I cannot without unkindness to a very near relation & really meritorious young man avoid transmitting his own statement of his case. His father-if he can be called a father-has at least 1400, a year clear of which he spends at least in visible expence about 300, yet will he allow his son & heir a man (I must scratch out young) of unexceptionable character & conduct with an increasing family of seven or eight fine children actually to fly to servitude to support the necessary means of subsistence. I should mention it to Willie's honour that he has positively declined such pecuniary aid as I among many of his friends was most willing to have afforded & even pressd on him. Indeed I do not well see what can be proposed or done for him unless something of a consulship in a foreign country could be obtaind. At any rate may I pray your Grace to pardon my complying with his wish in placing his situation before you although he as well as I must be sensible that much more of this most disagreeable business devolves on your Grace than you can possibly execute to the satisfaction of the applicants.

A more pleasant communication relates to myself.

Your Grace is so apt to forget the kind & good things you do that perhaps you do not remember that you had the goodness to become my security for no less than 4000 which at time of need I was compelld to levy [?] in order to keep my copy-rights in my own hands. It is with pride & pleasure that I can assure your Grace that
I will put the bond in your hand at Martinmas that you may scratch out your name. I know it will give your Grace great satisfaction to know that through your kind confidence I have been enabled to realize property to the amount of at least thrice the sum contained in the Bond & which promises greatly to increase. But I will say no more on this subject except that I am aware that the knowledge that your kindness & confidence has been used with discretion & attended with most singular benefit to the party obliged is the only acceptable excuse I can offer for troubling you with my grateful thanks. And let me add I hold my little fortune doubly valuable that it has its foundation in a confidence so honorable to me & so gratifying to my feelings.

I dined with Lord Lothian two days since & saw his monument the finest piece of masonry I have seen in this part of Scotland Bowhill & even Abbotsford itself not excepted. The said monument is made of real granite my house as well as your Grace's mansion at Bowhill are as Sir Humphry Davy assures me of simple Grawacky (a hard word which I write in my best hand). Now this Grawacky has only one advantage over the real Granite that it is practicable to the hammer in such a superior degree that your industrious workman will square twenty pieces of Grawacky for one piece of real granite. Yet the true thing is the true thing & I have fallen in my own eyes one degree and a half since I have learnt that I have been using mere Grawacky for the ipsissimus granite. As however it is an inferiority which I share in your Graces good company which would console me for heavier evils I will be comforted by the recollection that Grawacky will keep out wind and rain as well as granite.
itself. But without jest the Peniel monument will be one of the most simply grand which has ever been built.

Walter has been very successful on the moors as well as about the doors. We have got amazing numbers of black cocks on the sheep farm. I never go out without seeing numbers. I burnt the water last night with Lord Somerville but we had poor sport. Report says your Grace is to be soon at Bowhill which will give us great pleasure. Believe me ever most truly Your Graces truly grateful & obliged Servant

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 20 Sept. [1817]

TO THE AUTHOR OF "BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST" 1

ABBOTSFORD, NEAR MELROSE,

21 September, [1817]

Sir, - I assure you I do not merit the accusation of neglecting what I promised. Your poem of "Belshazzar's Feast" which has very considerable merit I caused to be inserted in the "Edinburgh Annual Register."

SIR WALTER SCOTT

1817

It is a mere trifle they can afford to give for fugitive poetry probably two or three guineas at most. But
I understood the principal object to be an experiment on the public taste and a gratification of your wish to lay your verses in some shape or other before the World. You seem to think that if I possessed the will I have the means of patronizing you effectually. But this is a very inaccurate though not an unnatural view of the case. I live in great retirement upon a moderate fortune and with health which is gradually giving way to severe chronic afflictions. I have therefore little the means of assisting you myself and still less that of influencing others to any effectual purpose.

I requested Mr. Ballantyne (printer, St. John-street Edinburgh) to send you a copy of the Miscellany (Edinb. Register) when printed. He is a good judge of poetry and approved of yours very much. I repeat my request to him by this post. I could not myself attend to this matter having been in the Highlands for some time and since my return a constant inhabitant of my summer quarters at this place.

I grieve I assure you for your acuteness of feeling. But if you knew what literary reputation is your aspirations after it would be far less fervent; and as to your turning a monk in this disappointment I believe the case would be singular since though the love of terrestrial beauty has sent many a man to the cloister you would certainly be the first victim to that of the Muses. I hope you will excuse me for smiling at such a fancy which if you had been reviewed some five hundred times struck up and struck down praised and parodied and flattered and back-bitten for fifteen years would appear to you as ludicrous as it does to me. At any rate [be] pleased to hold me exculpated on the charge of neglecting poetry which I really think has strong indications of genius.

I remain Sir your obedient Servant WALTER SCOTT
TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(4-518)MY DEAR JAMES,- I received 1 Yours with Messrs. Constable's inclosed which is perfectly satisfactory excepting as to the reference to me concerning Longmans share. On this point as it is not said in what manner or on what terms Messrs. Longman are to receive their share it is clear I can return no answer since I cannot say I understand what is to be proposed. Indeed I should at any rate postpone this part of the arrangement as I learn by a letter from Terry that John will be here about Wednesday and that Rees will be there almost as soon as he. I think Johns share should be 1/4th. He wishes a third but as in the arrangement proposed by Longman a 4th was named for him & as he will immediatly transfer it to the other publishers at a discount I think a 4th will be very handsome.

(4-518)I inclose copy-I agree with you that the English scenes are not so striking as the Scotch but we must beware of pressing one spring too hard- Enfin nous verrons-

(4-518)Your negligence or mine is like to occasion a singular catastrophe as you will see from the inclosed from the author of Belshazzars vision inserted in [the Register]. You see the man is in danger of turning monk. Please send him carriage paid a copy of the Register & two or three guineas as you think reasonable with an apology for the smallness of the sum and a quantum sufficit of praise. The man has genius but I take him to be mad.
Inclosed is a letter to Constable & one to Hay Donaldson: please to forward both by careful Devils. Yours etc

Sunday [21 September 1817] W. S.

I have a letter from Terry & expect John & Bullock
on Wednesday. I say nothing to Constable about the
bargain leaving that to yourself.

[Signet Library]

1817 SIR WALTER SCOTT 519

TO MR. CONSTABLE, CROSS, EDINR.

MY DEAR SIR, I hope you have not forgot your
purpose of coming here. To-morrow I go to the Circuit,
and about Thursday we expect some young people to
attend the county ball. From Saturday onward we are
totally disengaged, and will take care to continue so, when
we know when to expect Miss Constable and you. We
have every prospect of fine weather and a glorious harvest,
after so many fears and tremors on that important subject.
My cramps have been tormenting, but are now mitigated;
I trust they are going off by degrees, as they have not
near the violence of the attacks in spring. I am, dear
Sir, very truly yours, W. SCOTT

John Ballantyne, who like a cat, can tumble out of
a ten-pair of stairs window and light on his feet, is on his
return here. I expect Bullock and him about Tuesday.
John is in full feather and high spirits.

[ABBOTSFORD] Sunday 21 Sept. 1817
[Kilpatrick and Constable]
TO WILLIAM BLACKWOOD

(4-519)I WOULD have written to you long since had anything occurred worth plaguing you about. But from an idle man-and such I have been, from the necessity of taking much hard exercise to keep the cramps at [arm's-length]—there is but little to be looked for, always excepting the gratitude due for the Stirling Heads,1 which are most beautiful. I think of getting some of them done for the ornament above the compartments of my library here, which they will accord with very happily.

(4-519)On the subject of the Magazine, I am too much a veteran of literature to be surprised at the unexpected shoals on which the fairest undertakings sometimes are wrecked, or at the unforeseen causes of difference which occur between publishers and authors. Mr. Pringle wrote me a few lines on the subject, to which I answered, expressing the interest I feel for Scottish literature and its supporters in general, and my intention to be completely neutral, reserving the privilege of contributing any trifling assistance to either or to both publications.

(4-520)Indeed, understanding that the principal conduct of yours is committed to the charge of a gentleman whose talents are of the highest order, and whose good opinions and goodwill have been expressed to me in more ways than one, it is naturally to be supposed I should be desirous of aiding a work he is interested in, so far as I have it in my power. As to any pecuniary recompense, I cannot in conscience stipulate or accept of any; for as it can be only broken hints, detached fragments, and so forth, that I can offer, and that but occasionally, I would be very unreasonable to exact any emolument for
such trifles, nor have I any thoughts of doing so.

It is, however, in your power to interest me more deeply in the success of your attempt, in the event of your securing, as you propose, the assistance of my friend, Mr. William Laidlaw, on the footing of a regular contributor. He is one of my oldest and best friends in this country—a man of a singularly original and powerful mind, acquainted with science, well skilled in literature, and an excellent agriculturist. Having lately given up an over-rented farm, he is at present inhabiting a farmhouse of mine called Kaeside, about half a mile from me, and I am heartily desirous, both for his sake and my own, to secure myself the benefit of his neighbourhood, as he is amicus omnium bonorum, my confidential adviser on rural economy, and my companion in field sports. If, therefore, you should think it advisable to trust to Mr. Laidlaw for supplying a certain portion of your Magazine with agricultural or literary articles, I have not the least doubt they will be executed to your satisfaction, and will consider myself as completely responsible for what he may supply. He shall have my best advice and frequent assistance; and as a very special friend of mine answered Dr. Lawson of Selkirk, when in the course of the Carritch they came to the question, "What is Effectual Galling?" I have little doubt we will make it out between us."

But, my good sir, if I am to give this sort of pledge, the emolument derived to Mr. Laidlaw's family must be such as will answer my selfish purpose of keeping him in my neighbourhood, and that will cost you such a rate of copy money as shall enable him to make at least 120 per annum. Mr. Laidlaw is a good antiquary, and both he and I would have pleasure in contributing to that branch.
He has by him an excellent essay on converting high and over-ploughed lands into grass, written for the benefit of your humble servant in a manner likely to be generally interesting. I have a curious letter of the well-known Chevalier Ramsay to Mr. Bayers on the state, political and economical, of France about sixty years since, and I daresay I can find some other quodlibets for your starting number if you think my plan likely to answer.

I am glad there is a chance of our seeing Mr. Moore, and sincerely happy that Mr. living liked Abbotsford as much as its inhabitants liked him.

[WALTER SCOTT]

[ABBOTSFORD, 21st September 1817]

[Mrs. Oliphants William Blackwood]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

MY DEAR MRS BAILLIE—You must [be] quite devoid of the irritability of which as a poetess you are so well entitled to claim your share if you are not very angry with me. The only excuse you can figure for me is that the cramp having been driven by the Doctors skill out of its stronghold in the stomach has like its kindred complaint the gout taken possession of the extremities and occupied my fingers so absolutely as to prevent the possibility of my writing where I have owed a debt so long and so ungraciously. But the verity is I have little else to plead than the delay of those good intentions with which some Divine says the infernal regions are paved. A series
of little trinketty sort of business and occupation and
idleness has succeeded to each other so closely that I have
been scarce able for these seven weeks past to call my
time my own for half an hour together. But enough of
apologies—they are vile things and I know you will
impute my negligence to anything rather than forgetting
or undervaluing your friendship.

You know by this time that we have had a visit from
Lady Byron I delightful on its own account and because it
was accompanied with good news and a letter from you.
I regret we could not keep her longer than a day with
us which we spent on the banks of the Yarrow and I
hope and believe she was pleased with us because I am
sure she will be so with every thing that is intended to
please her. Meanwhile her visit gave me a most lawyer-
like fit of the bile. I have lived too long to be surprized
at any exertion of human caprice but still it vexes me.
Now one would suppose Lady Byron young beautiful
with rank and fortune and birth and taste and high
accomplishment and admirable good sense qualified to
have made happy one whose talents were so high as
Lord Byrons and whose marked propensity it is to like
those who are qualified to admire and understand his
talents, and yet it has proved otherwise. I can safely
say my heart ached for her all the time we were together.
There was so much patience and decent resignation to a
situation which must have pressd on her thoughts that
she was to me one of the most interesting creatures I
have seen for this score of years. She has however a
great deal of firmness and a certain decision of character
which perhaps is more graceful in adversity than it
might have at all times been in prosperity.1 So at least
it seemd to me: and I am sure I should not have felt such strong kindness towards her had she been at the height of her fortune and in the full enjoyment of all the brilliant prospects to which she seemd destined. All this is of course for your own eye but I know you will be desirous of knowing how I liked your friend of whom before I had seen but little.

I have read Columbus over again and I think I like it a great deal more than on the first perusal though I was then struck with its beauty. This is in the course of the capricious turns of human taste. In the first perusal we are apt to look much for novelty of interest and this cannot be found nor did you propose to seek it in a story so very well know[n]. We also seek a sort of individual interest arising from the collision of character and the detail of incident. These also your plan excludes and certainly so far you quit some of the most powerful claims you possess on the attention of the interest. But on a second perusal these objections are not so powerful. We are then more attentive to the manner in which the story is told than to its interest as a narrative and the poet has of course much more fair play. The story is admirably told and the few pencil observations which I have made I offer rather as subjects of consideration than with any confidence that they are just. You will however give them what weight you please. I have made them frankly for I know you would wish me to do so. I do not make them dogmatically because after all Ilka man buckles his belt his ain gait and in communicating our sentiments to our friends as in stating our opinions in society we may expect a hearing from their candour but should never presume to demand acquiescence.
You will wish to hear of my complaint. I think that thank God it is leaving me—not suddenly however for I have had some repetitions but they have been fainter and fainter and I have not been disturbed by one for these three weeks. I trust by care and attention my stomach will return to its usual tone and I am as careful as I can. I have taken hard exercise with good effect and am often six hours on foot without stopping or sitting down to which my plantations and enclosures contribute not a little. I have given up the gun this season however finding myself unable to walk up to the dogs. But Walter has taken it in hand and promises to be a first-rate shot. He brought us in about seven or eight brace of birds the evening Lady Byron came to us which papa was of course a little proud of. The black cocks are getting very plenty on our moor ground at Abbotsford but I associate them so much with your beautiful poem 1 that I have not the pleasure I used to have in knocking them down. I wish I knew how to send you a brace. I get on with my labours here—my house is about to be roofed in and a comical concern it is. I will cherish the idea we shall one day meet under the roof which is now rising. I have a little armoury to be filled with real armour none of your Paris-plaster make-believes I have plenty of it and some pieces of historical or traditional interest; besides a number of little odds and ends of urns and fragments and bronze utensils which defy all antiquarian conjecture.

Mrs Scott, Sophia and all my household join in kindest love. The bower is getting on—yet another year or at most two and it will lose its old character entirely and
become a fine thicket of evergreens. Remember me most kindly to Mrs A. Baillie the Dr and Mrs Baillie and all friends. I hope the Tragic muse is not slumbering though the lyrical nymph has superseded her for a space. Pray let me hear what you are doing and once more believe me Ever yours W. S.

ABBOTSFORD 26 Septr. [1817]

TO DANIEL TERRY

MY DEAR TERRY, I was a few days ago delighted by receiving Mr. Bullock as your letter promised: he could but give me a few hours nor indeed did I much press him to stay for he has the Highlands & the Isle of Skye before him & I am truly sorry he is to encounter the Hebrides at such a season, & think he is ill advised not to have come early in Summer. He does not suspect what he is to encounter with rough & dangerous seas, long nights unskilful boatmen & very bad boats. But I trust the Apollo Belvidere will keep a look out after him or whatever other deity protects taste spirit & good-nature: he is to return to me I hope before I go to Edinburgh, meanwhile I have had a full conversation with him on the subject of my wants & wishes which has occasioned Mr. Atkinson receiving from me a long & very troublesome letter. I really feel criminal in trespassing so much on his time. I wait his directions & instructions for all the interior of the building as library
drawing room & so forth requiring any taste, the bed-
rooms as they will only require to be neat & plain I will
not trouble him with. Whatever can conveniently be
done in London I should of course wish to be executed
there because it is sure to be right—What is to be done
here we will execute as men of mould may. The house
looks uncommonly handsome & you will be surprised
as Bullock was at the peculiar harmony of the colour.
The stone is not properly whin or granite but Grawacky
so says Sir Humphry Davy. Be which it will it is very
handsome a sort of twilight greyish colour very different
from the deep blue stone which looks so cold & sombre.
They are now busy with the roof & chimneys and we shall
have all winter for preparing the woodwork. Bullock
has seized upon the room hitherto call'd the Boudoir for
an armoury & threatens mighty things. I have so
much real ancient armour as will fill it compleatly. It
is thought it will be best to let the old house stand exactly
in its present state only gaining a temporary door from
the present drawing room into the new house. For as
it is in the state of the Highlanders' gun which required
only a new stock lock & barrel to put it in perfect order
we now think it may be as well one day to rebuild
entirely & gain a good drawing room & a library above
it. I shall not I suppose be obliged to pull the oar
at the Clerk's table all my life & when I retire I will
settle here for good. So we will adjourn all idea of

1817 | SIR WALTER SCOTT | 527

touching Mr. Redfords 1 mansion till we meet at Abbotsford
and concert it on a grand scale. I trust this will be next
year. Should it stand in its present condition I have
contrived a clever mode of uniting the upper story with
the new building by throwing a circular turret into the
angle where the old & new house join. This will look
handsome being corded off at top & bottom & will afford
the means of turning the passage into the old house
without making the dressing rooms betwixt which
it passes oblique lines as thus. [Drawing in copy.]
A window in the turret would also light the passage.
If this plan be not adopted the passage must oblique
considerably which would spoil the dressing closets &
have I think an awkward effect. This is the only thing I
omitted to mention to Mr. Atkinson. Indeed it cannot
be done till the roof of the old house is raised, & if it is
to be pull'd down it must not be done at all. I have
requested Mr. Atkinson to distinguish what he thinks
should be done in London, what here, that I may set
the folks to work: we have some good seasoned oak for
wainscotting. I suspended writing about all these matters
till I should see Mr. Bullock for it is so difficult for a
person unacquainted with the technical expressions of
Architecture & altogether ignorant of drawing to express
himself distinctly that I feared giving Mr. A. double
trouble by my blunders & want of distinctness. If you
will look at my long letter to him of yesterdays date &
compare it with this you will perhaps be able to guess
my meaning by my mumping. I do not know whether
I should thank you or scold you for the heads: they
form positively too valuable a present for they are scarce
& in the finest order & must have cost you both expence
& trouble. I know you mind neither to gratify a friend
& to tell you the truth I never grudge you the trouble
which you take on my account though I know it to be
considerable. But you must not put yourself to actual

expence because starting in life with a family to look
up to you even minor expences mount up to something
at the years end & which . . .
TO DANIEL TERRY

26th September, 1817

... her out on this occasion. At any rate it is too bad to see the memory of a man of genius plundered of all poor MacDonald ever got by his writings which was the credit of having written them. I am delighted with your family news & hope little Walter will soon recover the delicate state of health attending the teething. Mr. Bullock tells me Mrs. Terry's health is quite restored which must make your mind much more easy. I do not know when I shall see your Menage but am much pleased you are established to your mind: "home is home" the proverb be it never so homely but there is no occasion for its being more homely than needs must & I think you like me prefer a snug & convenient cabin to read & write in to many other enjoyments. The distance from the theatre is a draw back however: half the time in London is wasted by running between the scene of our duties & that of our enjoyments: to bring them as near each other as possible is good economy: but good legs make distances short: only beware of walking by night: I love not the London humours of footpads: but the roads I suppose are guarded. My own family grows up & gives me great satisfaction: Walter will be your companion the next time you shoot over our braes: he is very successful especially among the black cocks of which I have a good lot in my back settlements around the Lake: they will increase wonderfully as my woods begin to afford them shelter. I wish much to send some game to Atkinson: the moor fowl & black
cocks are now flocking together & hard to come at but I trust we could get a couple of brace or a leash : a black cock would perhaps be a rarity in London. My affairs (literary you are aware) have been so prosperous that I am in treaty for a considerable addition to my estate stretching towards Eildon hills which will make Abbotsford a valuable property, bearing a [blank in. copy] proportion to the house : the last I think should be called Chateau Thierry for I am sure you have the greater share in the erection of it. Mrs. Scott & the girls are very well & join me in kindest remembrances to Mrs. Terry : you may be sure I shall be most anxious to hear that " my fathers arms old Hardens crest" have escaped as safe from the furnace as Shadrach Meshach & Abednego of yore : the windows in which they are to be inserted will I presume fall to be placed in the armoury. By the bye it must not be forgotten that the window in the west side of the conservatory being to be used occasionally as a door must be so form’d as not to suffer in the discharge of this double debt.. Here ends my letter selfishness predominating in the conclusion as in the beginning. There is none however in the feeling with which I am dear Terry Always yours truly

Mr. Freeling or Mr. Croker will forward any packets for me. Hamlet ci-devant Marmion promises most capitallly : he is a bold fine dog more healthy than I ever saw any of the Newmarket breed & runs most capitallly : he has kill’d several hares already : he is moreover a very funny & amiable fellow & is at this moment gnawing my shoe latchets, so you see he is in full possession of the fire side. Mr. Bullock saw him run a course at Newark.
TO JOHN BALLANTYNE, HANOVER STREET

DEAR JOHN,- You slipd away like a knotless thread
the other morning and I had one or two things to mention.
One respects a long bill I owe to Baillie Trotter (the last
outstanding debt of the kind). I wish you to call & bill
him off in two or three bills (without my name you know)
for about 300., the amot. of the accot. Take three or
four months he has been very patient. You know how to
manage it.

I should wish one or two things settled before Constable
comes here or at least put in train. The one is the terms
on which he proposes to settle with Longman.-we must
have London Bills and what else he can want I am at
a loss to guess. The other is your share which may be
fixed at 1/4th of the affair. It should also be
mentioned that this matter must be kept quite secret till
Rob Roy is out. Any neglect of prudence on this score
will hurt both works that all parties may be assured of.-
Yours truly, W. SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, 27 Septr. [1817]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

MY DEAR RICHARDSON,- Many thanks for your kind
attention to the bill without which I should have been
in a dilemma & perhaps minus ^100. I have no authority
or advice from my brother to act in this matter &

my interference merely proceeds on Dr. Tobins information that if this bill went back to Canada protested it would be of disservice to my brother & I must suppose of inconvenience to Dr. Tobin himself. I am quite willing to prevent both by paying the money but I am entitled to be assured in some way or other that my object shall be accomplished and I do not see how that can be done unless Dr. Tobin or Mr. Clemisston should give what you may think fair security of some sort or other that the first of Exchange shall not be made effectual in America or if it has been made effectual that the money advanced for retiring the second shall be replaced. This is imposing a very trifling difficulty on Dr. Tobin who must have many friends to whom he is known though we have not that honour & I the rather adhere to this proposal because I think it should be mentioned at the beginning that this was the second of exchange and that the first had been protested. If this proposal is declined I think I cannot with safety or prudence interfere in the matter. I would not chicane with them upon absolute security but take any sort of warrant which seemed to secure against absolute and ultimate loss. The form & so forth I must trust entirely to you but I should suppose a letter of guarantee might be sufficient . . . Certain affairs which you know of have turned out so amazingly profitable as to have enabled me to make considerable additions to this little property & to undertake a still further extension of my wings which will probably soon flap the Eildon Hills. This has given me many delightful walks and much important and active employment which is no small object at a period of life when country business suits one better than country sports. Yet think
not but what I still course and burn the water 1: the gun
I have resigned to Walter who is a very successful sportsman & comes home loaded with grouse, black cock & partridges. If I thought it would come safe by the Carlisle Coach I would try Mrs. R's kind acceptance of some game. A black cock from the Rhymers' Glen would shine-in the second course in Fludyer St. You mention nothing of what would give us sincere pleasure, the prospect of seeing you here. But I fear we are not to expect it this season & can only hope the next will be more propitious. Mrs. Scott joins in kind remembrances to Mrs. R & love to all your little folks Ever dear Richardson most truly yours

ABBOTSFORD 22 Sept. 1817 WALTER SCOTT

When you see Tom Campbell tell him with my best love that I have to thank him for making me known to Mr. Washington Irving who is one of the best & pleasantest acquaintances I have made this many a day. He stayed two or three days with me and I hope to see him again-Ever dear R most truly yours

W. SCOTT
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[PM. 30th Sept. 1817]

DEAR JAMES,-I return the Sheets.

I cannot allow Mr Rees to suppose any faith has been
broken with him or his partners. The memoranda which John drew up were for the consideration of the author as well as for theirs & I presume they will allow that he as well as they had some title to consider & to reject them. This I did by return of post for I totally disapproved of their proposal of referring the price to arbitration & I cannot conceive how I should be bound by a proposal of John neither authorized nor approved of by me but on the contrary pointedly disapproved & declined & not even accepted by them. If they are displeased with what has been done for them or rather if they do not accept it as an actual boon & favour they shall not have any part of the work. They managed G. M. worse than any of the other novels & I am at least 800 out of pocket by their doing so. They have ceased to do the only good deed they ever did & they must not think to trepan me into an engagement which I have no mind for. Blackwood did not find his interest in this & no more will they. They must take a smoother course & as the song says

They must do a little more
And produce a little ore
And send a little print
To the house house house.

Constable & they now they are together should settle the terms on which he proposes to give them their share. I think the whole should be regulated as Rob Roy & shall not easily be convinced of the contrary.

We will come to description by & bye-But that which pleased once will not therefore please again but the
contrary.

I am sorry for your bad health. If you do wisely you will renounce your full feeding at once and in earnest otherwise you will lose your health. Yours truly

W. S.

I am finishing an article for Constable's Encyclopaedia which stops the way. By first opportunity pray send me Sheet A vol 2d. I would also like to have a running copy Volume I. You can send both by Mr. Constable.

TO MRS. SCOTT, GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH

My DEAR MOTHER,-I was at Saint Catherines on thursday to meet Lord Mellville and only recd your favour last night. I have written to Mr. Donaldson who has some money of mine to supply you with whatever sum you want and I will consider it as the greatest possible favour that you will call for whatever is necessary to make you quite easy and comfortable. I am sure my dear Mother that you to whom I owe everything ought not to deny yourself a single wish that money can gratify when I have enough and to spare. Mr. Donaldson will call on you to receive your commands.

The return of good times and of capital has at length affected the mart of literature. About a fortnight since I disposed of several editions of my various works and other literary property which I had retaind in my
possession with some inconvenience rather than sell them to disadvantage. The event has justified my policy for I have cleared the astonishing sum of ten thousand pounds by this single transaction. I have bought a good farm adjacent to Abbotsford and beautifully situated so I am now a considerable Laird and Walter may be rich one if he is prudent and regulated. I trust this will be the case as he has a very sweet and affectionate temper which leads him to attend to my advice. The great painter Wilkie is with me just now and is doing a sketch for a painting which he intends to engrave. The portraits of most of our family are introduced Sophia as a milkmaid with her leglen in her hand Captain Ferguson as a game-keeper &c. &c. This will remind you of the Vicar of Wakefield but I assure you the price when finished will be worth several hundred pounds.

I have no letters from Tom but conclude he is well as I heard of him from a Dr. Tobin. Mrs. Scott and all the weans are well and desire to be kindly and dutifully remembered to Grandmamma. The 12 will bring us all together. Meanwhile I am Dear Mother Your dutiful and affectionate son

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Saturday October 1817

Mrs. Scott George Street Edinburgh

[Abbotsford-Original]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH, DRUMLANRIGG CASTLE
MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I am just honored with your
Graces of the 27th. The posts which are as cross as
pye-crust have occasioned some delay. Depend on our
attending at Bowhill on the 20 and staying over the
Show. I have written to Adam Fergusson who will
come with a whoop and a hollo. So will the Ballantynes
flageolet 2 and all for the festival and they shall be
housed at Abbotsford. I have an inimitably good
songster in the person of Terence Magrath 3 who teaches
my girls. He beats almost all whom I have ever heard

attempt Moores songs and I can easily cajole him
out to Abbotsford for a day or two. In jest or earnest
I never heard a better singer in a room though his voice
is not quite full enough for a concert and for an
after-supper song he almost equals Irish Johnstone.

I am sorry for Willie Scott—but what can be done. I
see nothing for it but his living very quietly in some cheap
corner till Daddie dies who I rather hope is not absolutely
immortal. He has bought a new hunting nag however
which looks like taking out a new lease.

I think it far the best way that Donaldson should keep
his vote. I will answer for it that his vigilance will repay
any expense his attendance may cost.

Trade of every kind is recovering and not a loom idle
in Glasgow. The most faithful respects of this family
attend the Ladies and all at Drumlanrigg. I ever am
your Graces truly obliged and grateful

WALTER SCOTT
Given from My Castle of Grawacky
This Second day of the month calld
October One thousand Eight hundred
and seventeen years

There is a date nearly as long as the letter.
I hope we shall attack the foxes at Bowhill. I will
hazard Maida.

[Buccleuch]

TO ROBERT JOHNSTON

ABBOTSFORD 2 Oct 1817

MY DEAR SIR, - I take the opportunity of Mr. Constables
leaving me to acknowledge your kind letter. One
of my artists will be in town in two or three days to
consult on the practicability of getting out the niche 1 as

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soon as it can be safely managed as the want of it now
rather delays the finishing of the grand north front.

I am much interested in the token left by the poor
Jacobite in these dreary walls, when perhaps he might
have been removed from them & the world on the same
day. I think it quite right to preserve it sacred from
the claws of collectors which are rather of a tenacious
nature. I wish you heartily joy of the spirited success
of the public works in which you have taken so active
share & am &c

WALTER SCOTT

TO MACVEY NAPIER 1
DEAR SIR, - I send you about one half of the article on Chivalry that you may set it up and see how it runs out. I find it almost impossible to get on here for want of books without which I cannot make the pointed references for authorities which the article really requires. I brought a chest of volumes here on purpose but so is that the book I want is eternally amissing. In the circumstances I think you had better skip and go on leaving a blank for completing the article equally to about a half of the copy now sent. Thus the press will not be stopped and I will finish my task early in November with credit to the work and much more ease to myself. I have not even read over the sheets sent but will correct them accurately in proof. I will add considerably to the illustrations which will give a richer effect to the article which looks at present rather meagre. I take the opportunity of sending this by our Arch-Bibliopolist Constable and am with regard Dear Sir Your obedt. Servant WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, 2d October 1817.

TO ROBERT JOHNSTON

ABBOTSFORD 11 Octr 1817

DEAR SIR, - I trouble you with these few lines just to say that the stones have arrived safe & are of the greatest consequence to me. The downfall of the crescent was unlucky but the emblem only regards the Ottoman Empire whereas the Scottish Thistle has arrived uninjured.
(4-538)which is a happy omen. It crowns one gable end
(4-538)of my building the other being surmounted by a beautiful
(4-538)carved crop from the Auld Kirk of Lindean hence
(4-538)transferred to Galashiels & finally to Abbotsford, so you
(4-538)see I stand betwixt the Kirk & the country. Your
(4-538)account of the front of the crop is very interesting. I hope
(4-538)to see it when I come to town.

(4-538)WALTER SCOTT
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPS

(4-538)MY DEAR SHARPE,-I hope Ballantyne has not faild to
(4-538)inform you that we held a solemn consultation over Law 1
(4-538)with the assistance of the mighty Constable who though
(4-538)a Whig and a Self-Seeker is the prince of booksellers for
(4-538)pushing & liberality as well as for knowledge of his
(4-538)mystery. The result was an unanimous recommendation

539 1817 SIR WALTER SCOTT

(4-539)that the work should be in quarto & the size of the
(4-539)impression the same as Kirkton. I think Law has even
(4-539)fully more attractions than the ci-devant minister of
(4-539)Mertoun though doubtless he is less interesting in a
(4-539)historical point of view. Constable gave me an admirable
(4-539)description of your visit to Daintie Davie 1: pray never
(4-539)part with that precious relique, the Bishoprick so
(4-539)irregularly secured by a Devotee of your acquaintance is
(4-539)not more valuable. If the presbyterian rod of Aaron which
(4-539)made the heart of the widow to sing for joy could now
(4-539)be recoverd, there would I suppose be a famous scramble
(4-539)for it among the godly.

(4-539) Might it not be worth while to speak to the Duke of
Buccleuch about your Queensberry papers. I am sure you might have access to those in his possession and I anticipate no difficulty in getting them sent to Dalkeith where you might consult them at leisure.

Here is cold weather which makes me less regret your perseverance in staying at home. Next summer if we both live to see it and I am not gone abroad I am determined to have you here if I should carry you off like Christies Will & Lord Durie. I have persuaded myself that you will find [yourself] quite at home in my new Flibbertigibbet of a house because it will suit none but an antiquary. One gable end is surmounted by a cross from the old Church at Lindean, another by the Scottish thistle which frownd over one of the windows of the tolbooth-so I stand pro aris et focis between the emblems of the Kirk and the country. Then I have got a cleugh (which I call a glen) & which I am persuaded is the very same where Thomas the Rhymer lay VII times by the Queen of fairy which was a feat equal to those of dainty Davie himself-item butt-end of a Roman camp coverd with broom-the rest untraceable-item three Roman roads-two of them in bad order-item a cascade only to be rivald by that which Lord Hermand I threatend (before the peacock & the ladies) to make from his own person in emulation of a waterfall at Meadowbank-item a pair of Roman forceps by the vulgar calld tongs sorely damaged with rust-Item Rob Roy's sporran or purse which no one can find the means of opening-cum plurimis aliis as will be expressed in the bills of the day.

Adieu my dear Sharpe whenever I come to town you may rely on my setting to my review in good earnest.
Yours ever

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 11 October [1817]

Having with better reason (for surely my epistles are less worth postage) waited for an opportunity to send this sans postage has occasioned some delay.

[Horæl]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR SIR,-I have to return you my best thanks for the curious letters—one by my father’s grandfather the Laird of Newmains one respecting Harden who appears to have been like some of his descendants occasionally short of cash. They are however a thriving generation in their way & taking them on the whole. I have bought Toftfield which will clear the sporran which you have so lately filled. I fancy by the very curious purse you have so obligingly given me you had a mind to give me a hint how to keep my cash for if I once could put it into Rob Roys leathern convenience I defy any one to find the means of getting it out again. Hitherto our united ingenuity has not been able to find the mode of opening it. However if I can put no money into the highlandman’s sporran I can contrive to make them put some into mine which is as much to the purpose.

Our womankind request to be particularly remembered to Miss Constable & are very happy she found Teviotdale
agreeable. I send this by a packet to John B. and am in haste Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 11 October 1817.1

The stone from Li[n]lithgow is very curious. [Kilpatrick]

TO CHARLES ERSKINE

DEAR SIR,—I enclose my missive with Mr. Usher. The description of the lands should include as well those purchased by Mr. Usher from Mr. Milne & Mr. Wilson called the White hill park as his hereditary possession of Toftfield which is the only thing occurs to me that is not explicitly expressd in the Minutes. I am in no particular hurry about the extending the missives but it is an important transaction & had better be closed without unnecessary delay.

I am much obliged by your kindness and attention & remain Your obedient Servant WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Saturday [11th October 1817] [Curle]

TO DANIEL TERRY

ABBOTSFORD, October 24, 1817

DEAR TERRY,—Bullock has not gone to Skye, and I am very glad he has not, for to me who knew the Hebrides well, the attempt seemed very perilous at this season. I have considerably enlarged my domains since I wrote
to you, by the purchase of a beautiful farm adjacent.
The farm house, which is new and excellent, I have let to Adam Fergusson and his sisters. We will be within a pleasant walk of each other, and hope to end our lives, as they began, in each other's society. There is a beautiful brook, with remnants of natural wood, which would make Toftfield rival Abbotsford, but for the majestic Tweed. I am in treaty for a field or two more; one of which contains the only specimen of a Peel-house, or defensive residence of a small proprietor, which remains in this neighbourhood. It is an orchard, in the hamlet of Darnick, to which it gives a most picturesque effect. Blore admires it very much. We are all well here, but crowded with company. I have been junketting this week past at Bowhill. Mr. Magrath has been with us these two or three days, and has seen his ward. Hamlet, behave most princely on Newark Hill and elsewhere. He promises to be a real treasure. Notwithstanding, Mr. Magrath went to Bowhill with me one day, where his vocal talents gave great pleasure, and I hope will procure him the notice and protection of the Buccleuch family. The Duke says my building engrosses, as a common centre, the thoughts of Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Bullock, and wishes he could make them equally anxious in his own behalf. You may believe this flatters me not a little.

P.S. - I agree with you that the tower will look rather rich for the rest of the building; yet you may be assured, that with diagonal chimneys and notched gables, it will have a very fine effect, and is in Scotch architecture by no means incompatible. My house has been like a cried fair, and extreme the inconvenience of having no corner.
sacred to my own use, and free from intrusion. Ever
truly yours,

W. S.
[Lockhart]

TO ROBERT JOHNSTON

ABBOTSFORD 27 Oct 1817

MY DEAR SIR,-I take the opportunity of my friend
Capt. Fergusson leaving this place to express my sincere
gratitude for your generosity in sending me the fountain
-a venerable relique connected with so many ancient &
interesting recollections- I can only say that I will set
the highest value upon it & as I expect to command a
sufficient supply of water I hope I shall be able to make
it play on extraordinary occasions. I intend to have it
fitted up with Antique Masques at the places where the
water should run out & with a corresponding basin
below which shall bear an inscription stating what
purposes the fount served in the days of old. I am
sensible it is the best acknowledgement I can make for
your kindness to place the fragments of ancient splendour
with which you have favoured me in a situation which
may shew the value I put upon them. The Tolbooth
Niche is placed in the north front of my new building &
looks admirably well. I have had it slightly deepened
to receive a small statue & I think the headless lady
which forms one among your curious reliques may be
placed there to great advantage.

WALTER SCOTT
[Abbotsford Copies]
TO JOHN MURRAY 1

(4-544)[1817]

(4-544)DEAR SIR,—You will be alarmed at the intimation that
(4-544)there is a good deal more of the article on the Novels for
(4-544)I have taken it up in a historical point of view. But as
(4-544)all the quotations (almost) are from manuscripts and
(4-544)may be printed in the small type I trust the length will
(4-544)be no objection. Yet ten or twelve pages more of my
(4-544)hand will hardly complete it. Meantime I send what
(4-544)is ready.

(4-544)I also send an article on our friend Hogg. It is too
(4-544)long and rather too dogmatical, but if you have room for
(4-544)it it may do our poor friend some good who really requires
(4-544)to have the public attention called to him now and then.
(4-544)Please to correspond on this subject with Mr. Greive
(4-544)North Bridge to whom the article may be returned if it
(4-544)does not suit, or the consideration transmitted if it shall
(4-544)find favour in Gifford's eyes. Remember me kindly to
(4-544)him. I have given up the gipsies and given my materials
(4-544)to some adventurers here who are trying a new magazine.2
(4-544)I could not get some information that I wanted.

(4-544)We are here covered with snow. Yours truly

(4-544)W. S.

(4-544)ABBOTSFORD Friday. I go to Edinr. tomorrow.

[Sir Alfred J. Law]