

{May 1823 continued)

TO LORD MONTAGU

(8-1)MY DEAR LORD,-Since your Lordships last favour I it  
 (8-1)has pleased God to afflict your family with that loss which  
 (8-1)you had then so much reason to apprehend. When life  
 (8-1)is passd the noontide and so it stands with your Lordship  
 (8-1)and me we have before us the melancholy prospect of  
 (8-1)mourning frequently over those whom we loved and  
 (8-1)regarded untill in our turn we shall give the survivors  
 (8-1)cause to sorrow for us. I shall be anxious to learn how  
 (8-1)Lady Charlotte Stopford gets through her confinement  
 (8-1)to which this is so melancholy an induction and how the  
 (8-1)Duchess bears this additional blow. I had not the honour

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(8-2)to be [as] well known to Lady Courtown as to the rest  
 (8-2)of the Family but my sympathy sincerely attends all upon  
 (8-2)this melancholy occasion.

(8-2)I beg in accomplishment of a long delayd but not  
 (8-2)forgotten promise to send to your Lordship for your  
 (8-2)neighbour the Provost of Eaton a small parcel with  
 (8-2)shells from the shores of Zetland. I dare say they are of a  
 (8-2)very common description for the Sheriff who had the  
 (8-2)goodness to recollect my commission in his late voyage  
 (8-2)knows as little of conchology as your Lordships humble  
 (8-2)Servant. There they are however and such as they are  
 (8-2)must relieve my conscience of my long protracted promise.  
 (8-2)If the Provost wishes to have a barrell full of them I dare  
 (8-2)say it may be easily procured.

(8-2)Smith has commenced his operations at Melrose under  
(8-2)auspices of Smallwood-their plan is excellent and I agree  
(8-2)with your Lordship that it is better to confine it for the  
(8-2)present to what is necessary for preservation of the  
(8-2)venerable edifice leaving to the young Heir such improvements  
(8-2)as he may hereafter judge compatible with the  
(8-2)safety of the whole. The period at which he will become

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(8-3)a judge of this and other matters is not now very distant  
(8-3)so does time run on with us.

(8-3)The shell of my house is finished and I hope to be in  
(8-3)possession of some part of it next July. It is larger than  
(8-3)I intended which is the more odd because I lived ten  
(8-3)years in a shell not much bigger than the largest of those  
(8-3)which I now send under an office frank. There is surely  
(8-3)something very pleasant in that same occupation of  
(8-3)piling stone upon stone and all but the settlement of  
(8-3)accounts makes the company of masons the most diverting  
(8-3)in the world. I observe what your Lordship says about  
(8-3)the arms and rejoice that since the whole water of the  
(8-3)Thames cannot wash the Scotch blood or the Scott-blood  
(8-3)either out of your Lordships veins 1 that you still continue  
(8-3)to bear the insignia of your tribe. I had an erroneous  
(8-3)idea that you were under the necessity to be out and out a  
(8-3)Montagu an excellent thing certainly but not the cour[s]e  
(8-3)that is compatible with retaining your Scottish noble  
(8-3)blood and name. I often promised your brother to go to  
(8-3)Boughton which he used as you now do to describe as  
(8-3)well worthy of a visit from an old rusted antiquary. Some  
(8-3)sad recollections must now attend that visit if ever it  
(8-3)should take place but go I will the first time I go up or  
(8-3)come down from town by the western road.

(8-3)My son Walter tumbled in upon us the other day much  
(8-3)improved (if I am not too partial a judge) by his residence  
(8-3)on the continent, his ideas considerably enlarged and his  
(8-3)conversation improved-on the whole I think less likely  
(8-3)again to be immersed in and limited by the pedantry (let  
(8-3)no gentleman hear this who wears moustaches) of a  
(8-3)hussar mess.

(8-3)I have negotiated an exchange for him upon full pay  
(8-3)with a Lieutenant in the 15th to which he is at present  
(8-3)attachd and Sir George Murray has kindly offerd to  
(8-3)recommend him for the first vacancy at the Royal Military

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(8-4)Academy at Sandhurst which will be a matter of great  
(8-4)importance for him as it leads to staff-appointments & so  
(8-4)forth if he improves the opportunity of education which it  
(8-4)affords.

(8-4)I saw Major Riddell & talked with him about the  
(8-4)proposed planting at Dingleton on Bowden moor. We  
(8-4)both agreed as to the line of it which is a good deal  
(8-4)restricted to the ground unfit for pasture.<sup>1</sup> In twelve years  
(8-4)I will give the Duke 407 an acre for the thinnings at  
(8-4)least I get that for my own about that age including  
(8-4)larch bark. Indeed I expect these cleughs will bear  
(8-4)wood equal to any on his Graces estates for upon the  
(8-4)same ground planted by us mutually three years ago the  
(8-4)thorn hedges are nearly fencible a thing unheard of in  
(8-4)Teviotdale. The plantation will I suppose be staked out  
(8-4)in July unless your Lordship would like to be present for  
(8-4)I trust we are to see you and the boys in August.

(8-4)The sketches of arms you propose to favour me with will  
(8-4)answer exactly for my purpose and shall blaze at the head

(8-4)of my hall window in proper form. With kindest  
(8-4)respects to lady Montagu & the young ladies I am always  
(8-4)my dear Lord Yours most sincerely

(8-4)EDINBURGH 16 May [1823]                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-4)Nota Bene. Tell Lady Montagu I am trying to become  
(8-4)a florist but do not succeed as well as Sir Adam Fergusson  
(8-4)who has a memory for recollecting hard names and a  
(8-4)talent for introducing & using them whether he  
(8-4)understands them or no.

(8-4)The Shells by the way are from Orkney not Zetland  
(8-4)but the Sheriff is going to Zetland soon and if it will  
(8-4)gratify the Provost will endeavour to procure some more  
(8-4)specimens.<sup>2</sup>

[Buccleuch]

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TO MISS DUMERGUE

(8-5)MY DEAR Miss DUMERGUE,-Our long lad Walter who  
(8-5)arrived some time since made us very happy by the  
(8-5)information that he had left Mrs. Nickie and you in  
(8-5)perfect health and added that you had some thoughts of  
(8-5)coming Northward in the next summer. You will  
(8-5)require no assurances of mine to make you put perfect  
(8-5)faith in the pleasure which the accomplishment of such  
(8-5)a purpose would give us-Abbotsford is now a roomy  
(8-5)mansion and what is better lies all under one roof. We  
(8-5)shall take possession of a part of our new accomodation  
(8-5)when we go out in July but even on our original scale you  
(8-5)would find yourself tolerably accomodated. I dare not  
(8-5)promise myself the happiness of once more seeing my dear

(8-5) Nickey 1 under our roof because I should really fear the  
(8-5) fatigue of so long a journey unless she stood the sea better  
(8-5) than I dare hope in which case the Steamboats never  
(8-5) make more than 50 or 60 hours of the distance between  
(8-5) Leith & Edinr. which is rather faster than the mail and  
(8-5) I am told Ladies travel very comfortably having female  
(8-5) attendance and every thing as well as it can be on board.  
(8-5) But even this I fear would be rather too much for my  
(8-5) dear old friend though if you chose to bring down with  
(8-5) you any stouter travelling companion I would almost  
(8-5) recommend it in preference to the long land journey.  
(8-5) Pray realize our hopes some one way or other.

(8-5) We are all very well here but Sophias puppet now and  
(8-5) then gives us a fright-it is a slight creature and has had  
(8-5) this vile influenza rather badly. All of us were visited  
(8-5) by the Influenza even I who put it to flight by drinking  
(8-5) half a bottle of claret extraordinary. Our weather  
(8-5) too has been very severe. The winter was absolutely  
(8-5) Siberian some of my plantations were covered ten and  
(8-5) twelve feet deep so that the hares mounted up and ate  
(8-5) the tops of my young trees.

(8-6) My brother Tom poor fellow is gone as you must have  
(8-6) heard he had many excellent qualities of head & heart  
(8-6) though unhappy circumstances prevented his making  
(8-6) the natural advantages of these talents. I expect his son  
(8-6) here after the classes dismiss at Midsummer. He comes  
(8-6) on well at College and I trust will be a comfort to his  
(8-6) mother and sisters.

(8-6) Charlotte sends a thousand loves to Nickey and you  
(8-6) in which Sophia,<sup>1</sup> Anne & Walter sincerely join. I  
(8-6) expect Charles down also at midsummer so if you will

(8-6)come to us you will find all the family together which  
(8-6)does not often take place since the young hawks must fly  
(8-6)off when their wings are fledged. But I should be  
(8-6)particularly happy that you such an old and valued  
(8-6)friend saw them all together in the old nest. Believe me  
(8-6)my dear Miss Dumergue most truly & affectionately  
(8-6)yours while  
WALTER SCOTT

(8-6)EDINR. 20 May [1823]  
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO THOMAS SHORTREED

(8-6)MY DEAR TOM,-I have a hobbyhorsical commission  
(8-6)for you which I think you will undertake not unwillingly  
(8-6)as you are an adept in the old fashioned science of heraldry.  
(8-6)Along the roof-tree of my hall are sixteen shields which I  
(8-6)intend to part 2 with the sixteen quarters if I can make  
(8-6)them out in proper form. On my fathers side it is plain  
(8-6)sailing but unless you can help me I will be puzzled  
(8-6)concerning my mothers. And yet as there are only two  
(8-6)out of the eight on that side wanting it is possible they  
(8-6)may be got at. I will show you where my puzzle lies-  
(8-6)Anne Rutherford my mother was daughter of Dr. John  
(8-6)Rutherford of Edinburgh by Jean Swinton his first wife.  
(8-6)Dr. Rutherford or Rutherford carried the arms of

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(8-7)Hunthill with a difference-Swintons arms are well  
(8-7)known-those on two scutcheons-3 My Great grandfather  
(8-7)was the revd. Mr. John Rutherford sometime  
(8-7)Minister at Yarrow who married 4. Christian Shaw a  
(8-7)daughter of Shaw of Bargarran in Renfrewshire. 5. Said  
(8-7)revd. John Rutherford was the son of a native of Jedburgh  
(8-7)who in an inventory of writts & securities of a tenement

(8-7)within [the] burgh of Jedburgh to which my grandfather  
(8-7)made up titles is always designd John Rutherford calld of  
(8-7)Grundhousnook. But who was Grundhousnooks wife I  
(8-7)cannot see and I should like to learn. I have always heard  
(8-7)that she was a Kerr of Blood[y] laws & we (Lady Davy &  
(8-7)myself) call cousins from some such connection. But from  
(8-7)an Act of Curatory in favour of my grandfather [it appears]  
(8-7)that his nearest relations on the mothers side were Gideon  
(8-7)Rutherford of Kidheugh and Walter Riddell of Newhouse  
(8-7)which seems to infer that they were connections of  
(8-7)Christian Shaw though how that should be I cannot very  
(8-7)well see. Gideon Rutherford of Kidheugh had two sons  
(8-7)both of whom I remember well-the one was calld like  
(8-7)him Gideon the other was Robert Rutherford some time  
(8-7)minister of Castleton a singular character. Gideon left  
(8-7)my mother & my uncle Dr Rutherford considerable  
(8-7)legacies. But I always understood their connection as  
(8-7)the name seems to infer was through the Minister of  
(8-7)Yarrow not through his wife. Again he calls as his  
(8-7)nearest relatives by the fathers side Thomas Rutherford  
(8-7)Merchant in Jedburgh & Adam Rutherford of Ladfield  
(8-7)brothers probably of the Minister and sons of his father  
(8-7)John called of Grundhousenook. It occurs to me that  
(8-7)by looking at Thomas Rutherford's entry as a burgess one  
(8-7)might find out if he was a son of this same Grundisnook  
(8-7)which I take not to be an estate but rather some tenement  
(8-7)about Jedburgh and who was his mother. Or you may  
(8-7)know something of the history of Ladfield-or may be  
(8-7)able to pick out more than I can out of a few old papers  
(8-7)belonging to my cousin which I inclose. I know you will

(8-8)not grudge the trouble and beg you will write me your  
(8-8)debtor for any dues of search or the like. I have an idea  
(8-8)that the Minister was first school Mr.1 of Jedburgh then

(8-8)Minister of Ancrum or Crailing & translated from thence  
(8-8)to Yarrow where he died. On his gravestone I am told he  
(8-8)is represented as sprung ex antiqua stirpe but what the  
(8-8)descent was is not mentiond. I cannot get farther back  
(8-8)than Grundhousenook who seems to have been a man of  
(8-8)small consideration. My great grandfather seems to have  
(8-8)been rich for his time & calling. I know there was a  
(8-8)kind of cousinred between my mother & the Rutherfords  
(8-8)of Bowland by which she was connected with the  
(8-8)Mongtgomery [sic] family but how the Lord of Oxford  
(8-8)knows. But there was always an acknowledgement of it in  
(8-8)my younger days.<sup>2</sup>

(8-8)That you may distinctly understand where I am puzzled

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(8-9)I inclose a sketch of my quarters so far as I know them  
(8-9)leaving those uncertain about which I am making  
(8-9)inquiry. If I cannot fill up the four remaining quarters  
(8-9)properly I will fill them up from the quarterings of my  
(8-9)grandmother Jean Swinton which are very noble but I  
(8-9)would rather have the real ones of however mean account.

(8-9)Pray take care of the old papers which belong to my  
(8-9)cousin Robt Rutherford & excuse all this trouble from  
(8-9)Yours truly

W SCOTT

(8-9)EDINR. 24 May [1823]

(8-9)There is not the least hurry in the above as I shall not  
(8-9)paint till next year.<sup>1</sup>

[Mackay]

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TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-10)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I received your kind letter and  
(8-10)trust you have since had mine oppressing you with all  
(8-10)sorts of Commissions to which I need not refer excepting  
(8-10)in so far as it was incomplete from my not recollecting  
(8-10)one or two books to add to my list. I have to add the  
(8-10)continuation of my Ordnance maps having already

(8-10)Devon	Essex
(8-10)Cornwall	Kent
(8-10)Wilts	Surrey
(8-10)Dorset	Pembroke
(8-10)Sussex	

(8-10)I should like much to have whichever have appeared since  
(8-10)and I will remit you a Cheque for the amount. They are  
(8-10)had at a discount at the Ordnance office in the Tower.

(8-10)I think I mentiond the King of Frances escape in  
(8-10)French-also I see advertized "True Ghost Stories"1 a  
(8-10)catch penny I dare say. I wonder if it be possible to pick  
(8-10)up among the rubbish of circulating libraries "Edwin &  
(8-10)Anna A Northumbrian tale" 2 Vols. As I remember  
(8-10)for it is many years since I saw it [it] contains some singular  
(8-10)particulars about incidents & families on the east border  
(8-10)about sixty or seventy years ago. Terry is not unlikely  
(8-10)to grub up this as he has done other recondite works. I  
(8-10)will hope to hear from you when you & he have talked  
(8-10)over my very important commissions.

(8-10)I have a very polite letter from Monsr. Petizon 2 who  
(8-10)meant his matters quite right but does not I suppose  
(8-10)understand the value of certain volumes. Of course the  
(8-10)thing is to be taken as it was meant kindly & civilly.

(8-10)I will not tast[e] the stuff which I believe is capital untill

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(8-11)you come back to do me reason in a bumper. I have  
(8-11)foolishly forgot the name of his correspondents but  
(8-11)Messrs. Hurst & Robinson will know them and have the  
(8-11)goodness to forward the inclosed.

(8-11)I have got Walter home as large as life-poor fellow  
(8-11)he has got the influenza with some fever but I hope will  
(8-11)be soon well. I trust to see him & Charles united to my  
(8-11)family and with Lockhart and Walter the less who will  
(8-11)be down at the same time my board will make a very  
(8-11)patriarchal appearance. I hope to see you there before  
(8-11)all my flock are dispersed again. I have some reason to be  
(8-11)proud as a father of their appearance and disposition.  
(8-11)Pray write soon & let me hear all the news. I have none  
(8-11)to send you from this saving that Vol. I (1) is pushing on at  
(8-11)a handsome rate & our fat friend pressing and puffing in no  
(8-11)small stile.

(8-11)My kind respects to Mrs. Constable & believe me always  
(8-11)most truly yours  
WALTER SCOTT

(8-11)EDINR. 24 May (2) [1823]

(8-11)On Saturday 31st. please God Walter be well I will take  
(8-11)a peep at Abbotsford to prepare barracks for my troops.

[Stevenson]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[early June 1823] (3)

(8-11)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH, -Your letter has just

(8-11)acquainted us that we are to be deprived of the pleasure  
(8-11)of making your personal acquaintance so much desired  
(8-11)till friday when we shall claim you and the young ladies

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(8-12)-I am this instant arrived from Abbotsford where I have  
(8-12)been busier than ever was King Corney 1 and in the same  
(8-12)fantastic sort of labour in which his Majesty was pleased  
(8-12)to delight.

(8-12)I have just time to add kind respects to Mr. and Mrs.  
(8-12)Stuart and to assure you that I am most sincerely and  
(8-12)respectfully yours                                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-12)Wednesday EDINR.

(8-12)On Saturday a sort of Shoemakers holiday with me I  
(8-12)propose if the weather be favourable going to Roslin  
(8-12)which strangely enough my girls have never seen. I expect  
(8-12)much pleasure from showing you the banks of the Eske-  
(8-12)long my favourite strolling grounds.

[Modern Language Review]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON, WINDSOR, BERKS.

[Extract]

(8-12)MY DEAR LORD,- ... I was much interested by your  
(8-12)Lordships account of Beaulieu.<sup>2</sup> I have seen it from the  
(8-12)water and admired it very much but I remember being  
(8-12)told an evil genius haunted it in the Shape of a Low Fever  
(8-12)to which the inhabitants were said to be subject. The  
(8-12)woods were the most noble I ever saw. I believe they  
(8-12)were very judiciously cut : at least I always heard so.

(8-12)The disappearance of the ancient monastic remains may

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(8-13)be accounted for on the same principle as elsewhere-a  
(8-13)desire of the Granters of the Crown to secularize the  
(8-13)appearance of the property and remove at least the  
(8-13)external evidence that it had once been dedicated to  
(8-13)religious uses-pretty much on the principle on which  
(8-13)the light-fingerd gentry melt plate so soon as it comes  
(8-13)into their possession and give the original matter a form  
(8-13)which renders it more difficult to reassume it. This is a  
(8-13)most unsavoury simile. The various mutations in religion and  
(8-13)consequently in property of this kind recommended such  
(8-13)policy. Your Lordship cannot but remember the Earl  
(8-13)of Pembroke in Edward VI time expelling the Nuns from  
(8-13)Wilton-then in Queen Mary's re-inducting them in their  
(8-13)Nunnery himself meeting the Abbess barefooted and in  
(8-13)sackcloth in penance for his sacrilege & finally again  
(8-13)turning the said Abbess and her vestals adrift in the days  
(8-13)of Good Queen Bess with the wholesome admonition  
(8-13)"Go Spin you jades Go Spin."1 Something like the  
(8-13)system of demolition which probably went on during  
(8-13)those uncertain times was practiced by what was calld in  
(8-13)France La Bande Noire who bought chateaux & Abbies  
(8-13)for materials & pulling them down sold the materials for  
(8-13)what they would bring which was sometimes sufficient  
(8-13)to help well towards paymt. of the land when the Assignats  
(8-13)were at an immense depreciation.

(8-13)I should like dearly to have your Lordships advice  
(8-13)about what I am now doing here knowing you to be one  
(8-13)of those

(8-13)"Who in trim gardens take their pleasure."2

(8-13)I am shutting my house in with a court yard the interior  
(8-13)of which is to be laid out around the drive in flower plots  
(8-13)& shrubbery besides a treillised walk around the court

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(8-14)yard walls which I have ornamented with Roman deities  
(8-14)dug up at Old Penrith the ancient Petreia. This I intend  
(8-14)to connect with my gardens and obtain if possible  
(8-14)something (parvum componere magnis) like the comfort of  
(8-14)Ditton so preferable to the tame and poor waste of grass  
(8-14)and gravel by which modern houses are surrounded. I  
(8-14)trust to see you all here in Autumn when we shall be  
(8-14)able to offer you nights quarters between Bowhill &  
(8-14)Melrose.

(8-14)I am delighted to hear of Lady Charlottes safe recovery.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-14)Late fatal instances make one tremble more than usual  
(8-14)for an occurrence which, whether the imagination is now  
(8-14)more strongly impressd than formerly or whatever be  
(8-14)the reason has within the last ten years been peculiarly  
(8-14)dangerous. It is a new start for domestic happiness and  
(8-14)occurs most fortunately to turn. Pray remember my  
(8-14)kindest respects and best wishes-If Johnie Groats  
(8-14)buckles should in the least [be] interesting the excellent  
(8-14)Provost may have a barrel of them. I think I see him  
(8-14)Peacocking it in proper stile at his solemn festival.<sup>2</sup>  
(8-14)... I think I am almost finishd with my fooleries here.  
(8-14)I just came out to get a peep at them betwixt Saturday  
(8-14)and Wednesday and to push on those snails the Carpenters  
(8-14)and masons.

(8-14)Walter has been ill of an ague since he returnd an old  
(8-14)fashiond complaint which however has been common on  
(8-14)the continent this season. Although an antiquary & that  
(8-14)I have not seen a regular-built ague for thirty years I

(8-14)could have well excused its absence. Besides John  
(8-14)Fergusson being about to launch for South America  
(8-14)(hoist sail I should say-lord how he would laugh at the

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(8-15)misapplication) and I hope to ballast his ship with dollars  
(8-15)not forgetting a few in his purse. We have for the present  
(8-15)lost the Knt. Keeper of the Regalia who has morrised 1  
(8-15)off to Harrowgate with the lady & sent down from thence  
(8-15)already as the report of the water goes two pet dogs & a  
(8-15)pointer per Mail having only six already. Walter speaks  
(8-15)favourably of Dresden but like other places it is over run  
(8-15)with English.

(8-15)I dare say your Lordship thinks it by this time reasonable  
(8-15)that I should subscribe myself your very faithful &  
(8-15)sincere

W SCOTT

(8-15)ABBOTSFORD Monday [PM. 6 (2) June 1823]

(8-15)Melrose looks much improved from the distance have  
(8-15)not seen it nearer than from our own walks. I return  
(8-15)to Edinr. tomorrow multum gemens.

[Buccleuch]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

(8-15)DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,-I have just received your  
(8-15)kind note, just when I had persuaded myself it was  
(8-15)most likely I should see you in person or hear of your  
(8-15)arrival. Mr. Alison writes to me you are engaged to  
(8-15)drive with him to-morrow, which puts Roslin out of the  
(8-15)question for that day, as it might keep you late. On  
(8-15)Sunday I hope you will join our family party at five, and

(8-15)on Monday I have asked one or two of the northern  
(8-15)lights on purpose to meet you. I should be engrossing  
(8-15)at any time, but we shall be more disposed to be so just  
(8-15)now, because on the 12th I am under the necessity of  
(8-15)going to a different kingdom (only the kingdom of Fife)

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(8-16)for a day or two. To-morrow, if it is quite agreeable, I  
(8-16)will wait on you about twelve, and hope you will permit  
(8-16)me to show you some of our improvements.-I am always  
(8-16)most respectfully yours

(8-16)WALTER SCOTT  
(8-16)EDINBURGH, Friday [6th June 1823]

(8-16)P.S.-Our old family coach is licensed to carry six; so  
(8-16)take no care on that score. I enclose Mr. Alison's note;  
(8-16)truly sorry I could not accept the invitation it contains.

(8-16)P.S.-My wife insists I shall add that the Laird of  
(8-16)Staffa promised to look in on us this evening at eight  
(8-16)or nine, for the purpose of letting us hear one of his  
(8-16)clansmen sing some Highland boat songs and the like,  
(8-16)and that if you will come,1 as the Irish should to the  
(8-16)Scotch, without any ceremony, you will hear what is  
(8-16)perhaps more curious than mellifluous. The man returns  
(8-16)to the Isles to-morrow. There are no strangers with us;  
(8-16)no party; none but all our own family and two old  
(8-16)friends.

(8-16)Moreover, all our woman-kind have been calling it  
(8-16)Gibb's hotel, so if you are not really tired and late, you  
(8-16)have not even pride, the ladies' last defence, to oppose to  
(8-16)this request. But, above all, do not fatigue yourself and  
(8-16)the young ladies.

(8-16)No dressing to be thought of.

[E. V. Lucas's The Gentlest Art]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-16)DEAR JAMES,-I am going out of town 2 at three o'clock

(8-16)and do not return till Monday-On Tuesday I will call

1823                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      17

(8-17)at the office and talk over these letters which neither

(8-17)surprize nor dismay me.

(8-17)The Mouse who only trusts to one poor hole

(8-17)Can never be a Mouse of any soul.<sup>1</sup>

(8-17)I will carry the proof with me and return it by post from

(8-17)Yours ever    W SCOTT

(8-17)CASTLE STREET 2 o'clock [Thursday 12 June 1823] 2

[Stevenson]

TO DANIEL TERRY

(8-17)CASTLE STREET, June 18, 1823

(8-17)" My marbles! my marbles! O what must now be done

(8-17)My drawing-room is finish'd off, but marbles there are none.

(8-17)My marbles! my marbles! I fancied them so fine,

(8-17)The marbles of Lord Elgin were but a joke to mine.<sup>3</sup>

(8-17)In fact we are all on tip-toe now for the marbles and the

(8-17)chimney-grates, which being had and obtained, we will

(8-17)be less clamorous about other matters. I have very



(8-17)little news to send you : Miss Edgeworth is at present the  
(8-17)great lioness of Edinburgh, and a very nice lioness ; she  
(8-17)is full of fun and spirit; a little slight figure, very active  
(8-17)in her motions, very good-humoured, and full of enthusiasm.  
(8-17)Your descriptions of the chiffonieres made my  
(8-17)mouth water : but Abbotsford has cost rather too much  
(8-17)for one year, with the absolutely necessary expenses, and

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(8-18)I like to leave something to succeeding years, when we  
(8-18)may be better able to afford to get our matters made  
(8-18)tasty. Besides, the painting of the house should be  
(8-18)executed before much curious furniture be put in ; next  
(8-18)spring, perhaps, we may go prowling together through  
(8-18)the brokers' purlieus. I enclose you a plan of my own  
(8-18)for a gallery round my own room, which is to combine that  
(8-18)advantage with a private staircase at the same time,  
(8-18)leaving me possession of my oratory ; this will be for  
(8-18)next year-but I should like to take Mr. Atkinson's  
(8-18)sentiments about it. Somebody told me, I trust  
(8-18)inaccurately, that he had not been well. I have not heard  
(8-18)of him for some time, and I owe him (besides much  
(8-18)kindness, which can only be paid with gratitude) the  
(8-18)suitable compensation for his very friendly labours in  
(8-18)my behalf. I wish you would poke him a little, with all  
(8-18)delicacy, on this subject. We are richer than when  
(8-18)Abbotsford first began, and have engrossed a great deal  
(8-18)of his most valuable time. I think you will understand  
(8-18)the plan perfectly. A private staircase comes down from  
(8-18)my dressing-room, and opens upon a book gallery ; the  
(8-18)landing-place forms the top of the oratory, leaving that  
(8-18)cabinet seven feet high ; then there is a staircase in the  
(8-18)closet which corresponds with the oratory, which you  
(8-18)attain by walking round the gallery. This staircase might  
(8-18)be made to hang on the door and pull out when it is

(8-18)opened, which is the way abroad with an escalier derobe.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-18)I might either put shelves under the gallery, or place some  
(8-18)of my cabinets there, or partly both.-Kind compliments  
(8-18)to Mrs. Terry, in which all join. Yours most truly,

(8-18)W. SCOTT

(8-18)P.S.-The quantity of horns that I have for the hall  
(8-18)would furnish the whole world of cuckoldom ; arrived  
(8-18)this instant a new cargo of them. Lord knows from whence.

1823

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-19)I opened the box, thinking it might be the damask,  
(8-19)and found it full of sylvan spoils. Has an old-fashioned  
(8-19)consulting desk ever met your eye in your rambles I  
(8-19)mean one of those which have four faces, each forming an  
(8-19)inclined plane, like a writing-desk, and made to turn  
(8-19)round as well as to rise, and be depressed by a strong  
(8-19)iron screw in the centre, something like a one-clawed  
(8-19)table ; they are old-fashioned, but choicely convenient,  
(8-19)as you can keep three or four books, folios if you like, open  
(8-19)for reference. If you have not seen one, I can get one  
(8-19)made to a model in the Advocates' Library. Some sort  
(8-19)of contrivances there are, too, for displaying prints, all  
(8-19)which would be convenient in so large a room, but can  
(8-19)be got in time.

[Lockhart]

TO SIR THOMAS DICK LAUDER, BART., RELUGAS, FORRES

(8-19)MY DEAR SIR,-We have not taken any steps about our  
(8-19)venerable friend and your predecessor whose Manuscript  
(8-19)is lying safe in my hands. Constable has been in London  
(8-19)this long time and is still there and Cadell does not seem

(8-19)willingly to embark in any enterprize of consequence just  
(8-19)now.<sup>1</sup> We have set on foot a sort [of] Scottish Roxburgh  
(8-19)Club here for publishing curiosities of Scottish literature  
(8-19)but Fountainhall would be a work rather too heavy for our  
(8-19)limited funds although few can be conceived which would  
(8-19)come more legitimately under the purpose of our association <sup>2</sup>  
(8-19)which is made in order to rescue from the chance of

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(8-20)destruction the documents most essential to the history  
(8-20)and literature of Scotland.

(8-20)We are to have a meeting on the 4th July when I will  
(8-20)table the subject and if we possibly can assist in bringing  
(8-20)out the worthy Judge in good stile we will be most ready  
(8-20)to cooperate with your pious endeavours to that effect. I  
(8-20)should wish to hear from you before that time what you  
(8-20)would wish to be done in the matter respecting the size  
(8-20)number of the impression and so forth. Whatever lays  
(8-20)in my limited power will be gladly contributed by Dear  
(8-20)Sir Your very faithful Servant                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-20)CASTLE STREET, 18 June [1823]

[Dick-Lauder]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-20)MY DEAR CONSTABLE, -- Your valuable present of rare  
(8-20)tracts reachd me safe and form a most curious & impotent  
(8-20)addition on the Jacobite & religious collection not  
(8-20)forgetting those of Diablerie. What are your motions to  
(8-20)be      Do you remain in the south a month or two or come  
(8-20)down immediatly      If after the 12th I hope you will make

(8-21)a stage of Abbotsford now that Mrs. Constable has learnd  
 (8-21)the way there. I wish you could have dined in Castle  
 (8-21)Street fourth July with Committee of Bannatynians. We  
 (8-21)shall have haggis & whisky & claret in the silver stoup  
 (8-21)More Majorum. What a pity old Graysteel 1 is under the  
 (8-21)sod. We shall miss our fat friend too who I believe goes  
 (8-21)to Harrowgate next week to scour out a little.

(8-21)I am sorry to find our friend Q. D. is somewhat frost-bit  
 (8-21)which I did not expect. If on consideration it is thought  
 (8-21)necessary to leave greater intermission betwixt thes[e]  
 (8-21)affairs which I think may be the result we must keep the  
 (8-21)mill going with something else.<sup>2</sup> I have to tell you on

(8-22)Lady Scotts part that there will be clamours about the  
 (8-22)bed you undertook to look out for. I mentiond a few books  
 (8-22)which I wanted from London modern publications of  
 (8-22)little worth but which we must have to keep up stock.

(8-22)I will be happy to hear from you at your leisure. If  
 (8-22)you come down in July we shall be at Abbotsford & in  
 (8-22)possession of our new house. I send this under cover to  
 (8-22)Terry And am always Most truly yours

(8-22)CASTLE STREET 18 June [PM. 1823] WALTER SCOTT

[Stevenson]

TO WILLIAM STEWART ROSE

(8-22)My DEAR ROSE,-My old Masters the Civilians say  
 (8-22)Mens hominis est ambulatoria usque ad mortem 1 and a

(8-22)consciousness that this may be the case even when our friends  
(8-22)may be disappointed with respect to our intentions  
(8-22)induces me to express a hope that your mind has not been

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-23)ambulating respecting your purpose of visiting us and being  
(8-23)one of our quiet country party. I explained all our  
(8-23)motions in the last which continue stable-that is-we  
(8-23)shall be all at Abbotsford on 12th July but should you  
(8-23)come earlier your bed etc will be ready for you and you  
(8-23)will find Lady Scott and Anne anxious and happy to do  
(8-23)the honours to you after the 28th when they go to the  
(8-23)country. So if you keep your tryste on 1st July you have  
(8-23)your chamber in the wall ready and your hostesses to  
(8-23)attend you. I have to return you my best thanks for the  
(8-23)first division of the Orlando. As yet I can only speak to  
(8-23)its merits in a general way the hurry of the Session has  
(8-23)not permitted me to compare it with the original. But  
(8-23)it reads like an original itself and in my poor mind is the  
(8-23)most successful attempt ever made to render a romantic  
(8-23)poet where epic strain is blended with so much peculiar  
(8-23)wit and humour indigenous in a foreign land. Lockhart  
(8-23)a better judge than I am because more lately a student  
(8-23)of the lingua toscana is unrestrained in his approbation.  
(8-23)Miss Edgworth has been here. In shape and appearance  
(8-23)the very Whippity Stourie of our Scotch nursery tale.<sup>1</sup> I like  
(8-23)her very much and have seen a great deal other. She has  
(8-23)gone north with two sisters one clever and the other

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(8-24)pretty and a brother qui n'a pas l'air distingue but who is  
(8-24)qualified as an excellent mathematician and engineer.  
(8-24)Other news there are none except what is no news that  
(8-24)we all long for your presence. Ever yours truly

(8-24)EDINR 24th June 1823

WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT, ROKEBY PARK, GRETA  
BRIDGE, YORKSHIRE

(8-24)MY DEAR MORRITT,-I have both your kind letters which  
(8-24)I delayd answering untill I should see according to our  
(8-24)Scotch phrase how bowls are to run this season and  
(8-24)whether I could possibly promise myself the pleasure of a  
(8-24)Raid of Rokeby. I find however on computation that  
(8-24)this very pleasant matter must be put off till next year.  
(8-24)I have a monstrous deal to do at Abbotsford and besides  
(8-24)expect one or two birds of passage in the course of July  
(8-24)and August who intend to rest their wearied wing at  
(8-24)Abbotsford. I wish to heaven Lady Alvanley and [the]  
(8-24)Miss Ardens 1 would be of that party. I have not seen  
(8-24)them since 1815 when their presence contributed so much  
(8-24)to make paris delightful.<sup>2</sup> I trust in God your charming  
(8-24)young friend will experience all the advantage you can  
(8-24)desire from the milder climate of the South-Ours is the  
(8-24)only bad thing about our country. I myself am flint to  
(8-24)cold and rawness but I see the young people even of  
(8-24)Scotland sinking daily under pulmonary or stomach  
(8-24)disorders exasperated by the rigour of our northern  
(8-24)seasons. I think we have made our houses too comfortable  
(8-24)in comparaisn to the state of the external air-and  
(8-24)yet the Russian rushes from his vapour bath into the  
(8-24)extremities of a polar climate. Wherever the fault lies  
(8-24)the consequences are too obvious. My friend Hector  
(8-24)MacDonald has just lost a fourth son who like his brothers  
(8-24)died at the age when he should have enterd the world

(8-25)and he has now only one left out of five most hopeful  
(8-25)young men-a sad business-Upon the whole this has  
(8-25)been a most unhealthy season and the aged and weak have  
(8-25)been swept off at an awful rate. All our household have  
(8-25)been ill except myself. Walter has had a rough touch of  
(8-25)fever and ague but seems now quite reestablishd. He  
(8-25)stays with me but a short time having got again into the  
(8-25)army by exchanging for full pay. So he is now Lieutenant  
(8-25)in the 15th Hussars. He goes to the Royal College at  
(8-25)Sandhurst for a twelvemonth after which I hope to get  
(8-25)him upon Sir Frederick Adams staff in the Ionian Islands  
(8-25)or into some similar situation. What I look forward to is  
(8-25)the staff if possible which is the most scientific and best line  
(8-25)of his profession.

(8-25)Touching your dedication I would fain evade it if  
(8-25)possible. The good lady cannot but expect that such a  
(8-25)circumstance would be attended with some advantage of  
(8-25)one kind or other and in modern times none whatever is  
(8-25)derived from it and in my opinion dedications should  
(8-25)always be waved unless where they are intended to express  
(8-25)personal friendship or personal obligation. Besides there  
(8-25)is a certain Mr. Wiffen (a Quaker by the grace of God) who  
(8-25)hath accomplishd a version of the Jerusalem Deliverd 1 in  
(8-25)which it is to be hoped he has made Armida talk the  
(8-25)language of my old friend Dame Janet Waldie 2 and  
(8-25)Rinaldo that of Simon Pure. Seriously they say it is very  
(8-25)cleverly done and it may be worth your protegee's while  
(8-25)to think whether she ought to start against him. Assuredly  
(8-25)she should at least run no risque. After all I put myself in  
(8-25)your hand if you think my declining the substitution of my  
(8-25)own name in place of our rearward 3 friend Beckford would  
(8-25)give pain. I have no feelings about the matter that I would  
(8-25)not sacrifice rather [than] inflict pain on another. But I  
(8-25)would much rather wave the compliment if it could be

(8-26)done without rudeness because a more ineffectual &  
(8-26)useless a patron than I am could not be selected out of the  
(8-26)circle of literature. I have not even the ordinary and  
(8-26)cheapest of all means to advance a work namely by  
(8-26)prone-ing 1 in its favour in literary society for as you well  
(8-26)know for twenty years at least I have like Gil Blas preferd  
(8-26)the conversation of men of the work-day world to the  
(8-26)allspice society that is made up of authors critics and  
(8-26)admirers and most of my friends are only acquainted  
(8-26)with Jerusalem as they learn about it in the bible. I like  
(8-26)them the better therefore for as there is scarce one person  
(8-26)who has a real natural taste either for poetry [or] letters  
(8-26)out of about fifty who affect [it (paper torn by seal)] the odds  
(8-26)are fifty to one against your meeting with that rara avis  
(8-26)who is what they would seem.

(8-26)The Spanish humbug seems well nigh over and the  
(8-26)Whigs who have spent their throats in hallooing about  
(8-26)that straw bon-fire must be down in the palate beyond  
(8-26)recovery even by brandy and bay-salt. But they will soon  
(8-26)get some other Will o' the Wisp. One would think they  
(8-26)had sworn with the old fairy song

(8-26)For all of the humbug, the bite, and the buzz  
(8-26)Of this Make-believe world must stand forfeit to us.

(8-26)Their drawing their purses however is carrying the joke  
(8-26)rather farther than I ever ventured to hope.

(8-26)Miss Edgeworth is here very lively and entertaining and  
(8-26)acting well up to the character one forms from her  
(8-26)compositions. In person I can never free myself from the  
(8-26)recollections of Whippity Stourie the fairy so much  
(8-26)renownd in Scottish nurseries. Her proposed visit to



(8-26)Abbotsford after she has whisked through the high lands  
(8-26)is one of the circumstances which oblige me to stick fast  
(8-26)at Abbotsford for the next two months.<sup>2</sup>

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-27)All here join in kindest and best love to the young  
(8-27)ladies and to Miss Morritt whose residence in Edinburgh  
(8-27)this last winter gave us so much pleasure.-Always dear  
(8-27)Morritt Sincerely yours WALTER SCOTT

(8-27)EDINBURGH 25 June [PM. 1823]

(8-27)I will be at Abbotsford in a fortnight. I hear poor  
(8-27)Lydia White is dying game to the last 1 -there is dignity in  
(8-27)courage of every kind. Rose has made I think an admirable  
(8-27)version of the Orlando. Whether it will interest the  
(8-27)public I know not but I am sure that besides presenting  
(8-27)an excellent treat to any who chuses to take share of it  
(8-27)Rose has the advantage of employing himself usefully and  
(8-27)elegantly and diverting his mind during the languor of  
(8-27)solitude & bodily pain and languor. I expect him in  
(8-27)Scotland soon.

[Law]

TO RICHARD 2 SURTEES

(8-27)With Courier of So: Frederick Street

(8-27)MY DEAR SIR,-I send you the Restituta, and I think  
(8-27)you will be sorry for poor Sheale. At the same time I  
(8-27)really hope he did not write Chevy Chase. There is

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(8-28) something so humbling in his wife being a silk woman,  
(8-28) and all the detail of the robbery on Dunsmere, for which  
(8-28) he got so little credit.

(8-28) Would you like to see Allan's pictures     If so, and you  
(8-28) will [call] on me to day at the Parliament House at 12  
(8-28) I will procure you admittance, and also for the ladies.

(8-28) I wish the Ladies and you, if not better engaged, would  
(8-28) drink coffee with us at six to-night, and take a walk or a  
(8-28) drive. You need not mind ordering your horses, as mine  
(8-28) have little to do, and the carriage will hold us all very  
(8-28) conveniently.

(8-28) Also, I hope you will give us your company to dinner,  
(8-28) either Wednesday or thursday as most convenient, or later  
(8-28) in the week, if you like it better.

(8-28) Here is a formidable list of demands on your time and  
(8-28) patience ; but a Northumbrian in Edinburgh is but a  
(8-28) prisoner at large and must be obedient to the will of the  
(8-28) natives, and I have some very old claims on you. I cannot  
(8-28) tell how I am vexd that I should be obliged to leave town  
(8-28) to-morrow, and on the other hand, must return when you  
(8-28) are like to be at Melrose-it is a vile see-saw. Yours ever,  
(8-28) WALTER SCOTT

(8-28) CASTLE STREET, Friday morning 1 [summer, 1823]

(8-28) I hope you were gratified yesterday.  
[Mrs. S. Spence Clephan and Abbotsford Copies]

[With the corrected proofs of early chapters of "St. Ronan's Well."]  
[c. July 1823]

(8-29)DEAR JAMES,-I will be delighted to see you to-morrow  
(8-29)with-scrip and scrippage at breakfast-time. The resemblance  
(8-29)between Lovel and Tyrrel is only that of situation.  
(8-29)I have thoughts of making the tale tragic, having "a  
(8-29)humour to be cruel." It may go off, however. If not, it  
(8-29)will be a pitiful tragedy, filled with the most lamentable  
(8-29)mirth. I find I must have a peep at the revise of sheet c ;  
(8-29)or, stay, insert the following addition and corrections :-

(8-29)Del. the alteration, line 2, p. 65, and stet as before, I  
(8-29)wadna, etc.

(8-29)P. 66, line 2, add-And Nanny, ye may tell them he has  
(8-29)an illustrated poem-illustrated-mind the word, Nanny,  
(8-29)that is to be stuck as fou o' the likes o' that as ever turkey  
(8-29)was larded wi' slabs o' bacon.1 -Yours truly W. S.

[1871 Exhibition Catalogue]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(8-29)Answer this evening if possible. I have to see a friend  
(8-29)tomorrow by nine who may be useful.

(8-29)CASTLE STREET Tuesday [8 July] 1823

(8-29)MY DEAR CHARLES,-The melancholy death of Sir  
(8-29)Henry Raeburn 2 leaves the Office of King's painter open-

(8-30)It was held before Sir Henry by Bishop Abercromby ergo  
(8-30)it is not necessary that the official should be an artist &

(8-30)it is fit for a gentleman to hold. You are both a gentleman  
(8-30)& artist and why should you not be King's painter I do  
(8-30)not know the amount but imagine it. I have a notion  
(8-30)it is worth about •'150 or •'200 & supposing the General  
(8-30)shall withdraw his allowance it will in that case still be  
(8-30)" 0 rare guerdon-better than Remuneration."

(8-30)Shall I set to work in this with the speed of light I will  
(8-30)write to Sir William Knighton by tomorrow's post. Yours  
(8-30)ever WALTER SCOTT  
[Hornel]

TO BENJAMIN ROBERT HAYDON

(8-30)DEAR SIR,-On my return from the country yesterday  
(8-30)I received with extreme regret and sympathy the letter  
(8-30)which apprises me of your present unhappy situation.<sup>1</sup>

1823

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-31)They have much to answer for, who proceed as your  
(8-31)creditors have done, not only in the depreciation of your  
(8-31)property and the interruption at once of your domestic  
(8-31)happiness and professional career, but in the deprivation  
(8-31)of your personal liberty by means of which you could in  
(8-31)so many ways have been of service to yourself, and even  
(8-31)to them. There is one, however, in your situation which  
(8-31)others cannot experience, and which ought to give you  
(8-31)patience and comfort under your severe affliction. What  
(8-31)real means of eminence and of future success you possess  
(8-31)lie far beyond the power of the sheriff's writ. An official  
(8-31)person is ruined if deprived of the power of attending his  
(8-31)duty, a shopkeeper if deprived of his shops, a merchant  
(8-31)if his stores and credit are taken from him, but no species  
(8-31)of legal distress can attack the internal sources of genius,  
(8-31)though it may for a time palsy his hand.

(8-31)If this misfortune had happened in Scotland, where our  
(8-31)laws in such cases are of a most mild and equitable  
(8-31)character, I could without trouble put you upon a plan  
(8-31)of extrication. But the English laws are different, and I  
(8-31)am unacquainted with them. Still however, I think there  
(8-31)must be an outlet under the insolvent act, of which you  
(8-31)should not hesitate to avail yourself of it, for in the eye  
(8-31)of Justice and equity the creditors, who pushed on a sale  
(8-31)of your valuable pictures, must be considered to be  
(8-31)overpaid. But as this may be a work of more time than I am  
(8-31)aware of, perhaps some temporary arrangement might be  
(8-31)able to obtain at least your liberty, for whenever at  
(8-31)freedom I should have no fear that the exertion of your  
(8-31)own talents would soon retrieve the comforts you have  
(8-31)lost for the present. An appeal to the public would  
(8-31)doubtless raise a considerable sum, but I should be sorry  
(8-31)any part of it went into the pockets of those hard-hearted  
(8-31)men of mammon. I should rather endure a little buffeting,  
(8-31)and keep this as a resource under my lee to run for as  
(8-31)soon as I was my own man again. But of this those  
(8-31)advisers who know the law of England, and have the

(8-32)affairs fully under their consideration, will be the best  
(8-32)judges. Among the numerous admirers of your genius,  
(8-32)you must have many able and willing to assist you at this  
(8-32)moment, and I need scarce point out to you the prudence  
(8-32)of being entirely frank in your communications with them.

(8-32)I have not to make many apologies for the trifling  
(8-32)amount of an enclosure which may be useful, as a trifling  
(8-32)matter will sometimes stop a leak in a vessel : truth is I  
(8-32)have been a little extravagant lately, and mean this only  
(8-32)as a small on accompt, for which you shall be my debtor

(8-32)in a sketch or drawing when better spirits and more  
(8-32)fortunate circumstances enable you to use a black-lead  
(8-32)pencil or a bit of chalk. Excuse this trifling communication.  
(8-32)I hope to have a letter by-and-by.

(8-32)This has been a severe season for the arts : about a  
(8-32)fortnight since I had a very merry party through Fifeshire,  
(8-32)with our Chief Baron (Sergeant Shepherd) and the Lord  
(8-32)Chief Commissioner, and above all, Sir H. Raeburn, our  
(8-32)famous portrait painter. No one could seem more  
(8-32)healthy than he was, or more active, and of an athletic  
(8-32)spare habit, that seemed made for a very long life. But  
(8-32)this morning I have the melancholy news of his death  
(8-32)after three days illness, by which painting is deprived of a  
(8-32)votary of genius, our city of an ornament, and society of  
(8-32)a most excellent and most innocent member. Sir Henry  
(8-32)about twelve or thirteen years ago had become totally  
(8-32)embarrassed in his affairs from incautious securities in  
(8-32)which he was engaged for a near relative, who was in the  
(8-32)West India trade.<sup>1</sup> He met with more considerate and

(8-33)kinder treatment than you have unfortunately experienced,  
(8-33)but, notwithstanding the result was his being  
(8-33)deprived of the fortune he had honourably acquired by  
(8-33)his profession. He bore his deprivation with the greatest  
(8-33)firmness ; resumed his pencil with increased zeal, and  
(8-33)improved his natural talents by close study, so that he not  
(8-33)only completely re-established his affairs, but has been  
(8-33)long in the condition to leave an honest independence to  
(8-33)his family. May you, my dear Mr. Haydon, as you  
(8-33)resemble him in his misfortunes, also resemble him in the  
(8-33)success with which my poor friend surmounted them.  
(8-33)After all, I hope your youth and health will enable you  
(8-33)much longer to enjoy returning prosperity than it has been

(8-33)his lot to do. I will be very glad to hear from you when  
(8-33)your plans are arranged, and particularly so if it should  
(8-33)be in my power by any exertion to advance them.<sup>1</sup> I am  
(8-33)with sincere sorrow, and best regards, Dear Sir, yours  
(8-33)very truly WALTER SCOTT  
(8-33)EDINBURGH, 8th July [1823]

[Tom Taylor's Life of Hayden]

#### TO LORD MELVILLE

(8-33)MY DEAR LORD MELVILLE,-Charles Kirkpatrick  
(8-33)Sharpe is a candidate for the situation of Kings limner  
(8-33)vacant by the death of Raeburn. As his conception and  
(8-33)execution as an artist is of a character so distinguishd as  
(8-33)scarce to be second to Hogarth I really hope you will  
(8-33)back him in this matter were it but for the hundred good  
(8-33)laughs we have had at Queen Elizabeth Dancing. In  
(8-33)mechanical skill professional artists may surpass him but  
(8-33)I know none who approaches him in the higher requisites

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(8-34)of fancy and expression & surely that his situation does  
(8-34)not permit him to sell his productions ought rather to be a  
(8-34)recommendation to him as otherwise-The income of  
(8-34)the office small as it is (about 100 I believe) would  
(8-34)double all that poor Charles has to live upon and yet  
(8-34)would provide for all his simple and regulated wants. He is  
(8-34)now frightfully dependant on his mothers life and some  
(8-34)family misunderstandings have cut off all friendly  
(8-34)intercourse between him and his brother the General. So pray  
(8-34)put out your strong right hand and help him on this most  
(8-34)critical emergency. Always my dear Lord I am most  
(8-34)truly yours WALTER SCOTT

(8-34)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 9th July [1823]

(8-34)I trust we will see Lady Melville & your Lordship at

(8-34)Abbotsford this season & early.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT 1

(8-34)DEAR SIR,-I am truly happy to hear of poor Terry's

(8-34)emancipation which he owes under providence to your

(8-34)excellent management of a very perplexd business. The

(8-34)sale [ ] to such a responsible man as Matthews gives

(8-34)assurance to all parties and patience and good management

(8-34)have done for the creditors much more than they

(8-34)could have expected. I observed with much concern the

(8-34)alteration in Terry's handwriting. I trust the change in

(8-34)his affairs will give [comfort] to his feelings and relieve

(8-34)him of the symptoms to which distress have given rise.

(8-34)I have written to him to keep a good heart and look for

(8-34)better days which if health permits he has no cause to

(8-34)despair of. He has got a good engagement at Drury

(8-34)Lane and can do something in the interval of the theater.

(8-34)We could make him a good bumper here if he comes

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-35)when people are in town for we go like a flight of wild

(8-35)geese to our hills and lakes whenever our Courts of

(8-35)Justice rise. I am with many thanks for my own share of

(8-35)the trouble you have had. Very much your obligd

(8-35)servant

WALTER SCOTT

(8-35)EDINR. 9 July 1823

[Huntington]



TO [THE RAEBURN FAMILY]

(8-35)SIR WALTER SCOTT regrets particularly that the necessity  
(8-35)of going to the country tomorrow prevents his attending  
(8-35)the last obsequies of a friend whom he esteemd and  
(8-35)respected so entirely as the late Sir Henry Raeburn.

(8-35)He requests the family will accept his sincere sympathy  
(8-35)for the inestimable loss which they have sustaind and  
(8-35)which is shared not only by all Sir Henrys friends but  
(8-35)by the public of Scotland at large.

(8-35)CASTLE STREET Thursday 10 July [1823]  
[Owen D. Young]

TO SIR THOMAS DICK LAUDER, RELUGAS, FORRES

[Extract]

(8-35)MY DEAR SIR THOMAS,-You are too easily alarmd  
(8-35)about the fate of your ancestors. I did not mean it would  
(8-35)not be publishd-far less that I would not do all in my  
(8-35)power to advance the publication but only that the size  
(8-35)and probable expence of the work 1 with the limited sale

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(8-36)for articles of literature only interesting to the Scottish  
(8-36)Antiquaries renderd the Booksellers less willing to adopt  
(8-36)the proposal than they seemd at first. . . . Mr. Thomson  
(8-36)has promised to look through the Manuscript and collate  
(8-36)it with that of Mr. Maule 1 and is of opinion (as I am)  
(8-36)that it would be very desireable to retrench all the mere  
(8-36)law-questions which are to be found in the printed folios.  
(8-36)Indeed the Editors of these two volumes had a purpose in  
(8-36)view directly opposed to ours for they wishd to omit

(8-36)historical and domestic anecdotes and give the law cases  
(8-36)as unmixd as possible while it would be our object  
(8-36)doubtless to exclude the mere law questions in favour  
(8-36)of the other. No doubt many of the law cases are in  
(8-36)themselves such singular examples of the state of manners  
(8-36)that it would be a pity not to retain them even although  
(8-36)they may be found in the printed copy because they are  
(8-36)there mixd with so much professional matter that general  
(8-36)readers will not easily discover them. . . .

(8-36)I think you had better correspond with Constable  
(8-36)assuring him of my willingness to help in any thing that  
(8-36)can get the book out and I am sure Mr. Thomson will feel  
(8-36)the same interest. I have to leave town tomorrow for  
(8-36)four months but as I am only at Abbotsford I can do  
(8-36)anything that may be referd to me.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-37)As for Milnes notes there are many of them that I think  
(8-37)worth preservation as describing and identifying the  
(8-37)individuals of whom Fountainhall wrote although his  
(8-37)silly party zeal makes him like all such partizans of faction  
(8-37)nnjust and scurrilous. . . .

(8-37)I will as I have always been be most ready to give any  
(8-37)notes or illustrations in my power the only way I suppose  
(8-37)in which I can be useful to the publication. The idea  
(8-37)of retrenching the law cases which originates with  
(8-37)Thomson promises if you entertain it to remove the only  
(8-37)possible objection to the publication namely the great  
(8-37)expençe. My address for the next four months is Abbotsford  
(8-37)by Melrose and I am always Dear Sir Thomas very  
(8-37)much your faithful humble Servant WALTER SCOTT

(8-37)EDINR. 10 July [1823]

[Dick-Lauder]

TO LADY ANNE BARNARD

(8-37)14 July, 1823

(8-37)MY DEAR LADY ANNE,-I wish I could tell you with  
(8-37)how much pleasure I received your letter 1 and how many  
(8-37)remembrances it brought back to me of very early days,-  
(8-37)some a little sad, to be sure, but perhaps not on that  
(8-37)account the less interesting. I cannot pretend to say why,  
(8-37)or on what authority, that mysterious personage the  
(8-37)author of "Waverley" made the appropriation which  
(8-37)induced your ladyship to ascend the confessional so much  
(8-37)to my advantage, but I can say for myself, that, forty  
(8-37)years, and more, I never entertained the least doubt as to  
(8-37)the real authoress of "Robin Gray,"-that real pastoral,  
(8-37)which is worth all the dialogues which Corydon and Phyllis  
(8-37)have had together from the days of Theocritus downwards.

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(8-38)Now I will tell your ladyship how I came to be so  
(8-38)positive respecting a fact known with certainty to so very  
(8-38)few persons. Your ladyship may remember, among old  
(8-38)Edinburgh acquaintances, the family of Dr. John Rutherford,  
(8-38)professor of medicine, one of whom, Mrs. Colonel  
(8-38)Russell of Ashestiel by marriage, was formerly well known  
(8-38)to you. The eldest daughter of the Doctor, by his first  
(8-38)wife, was my worthy mother, who was much connected  
(8-38)by friendship, and, I think, by some remote cousinred  
(8-38)(through the Duffs and Dalrymples), with the excellent  
(8-38)Countess of Balcarres, your ladyship's mother, in virtue  
(8-38)of which connection I had, when entering life, the advantage  
(8-38)of hearing the good old lady, then our neighbour in  
(8-38)George's Square, tell many entertaining anecdotes of the

(8-38)Vieille Cour, and of ancient Scotch manners.

(8-38)I was also a sort of permitted attendant on the late  
(8-38)Countess at public places, particularly the theatre, where  
(8-38)she retained a box so constantly, that the lady dowager  
(8-38)used to call her "the good-wife of the playhouse." 1

(8-38)Moreover, your ladyship gives me too much grace in  
(8-38)supposing Soph Johnstone 2 was not of my day. Well do  
(8-38)I remember her jockey coat, masculine stride, strong  
(8-38)voice, and, occasionally, round oath ; I remember also  
(8-38)many of her songs, for example-

(8-38)" Eh! quo' the tod, it's a braw light night,  
(8-38)The wind's i' the west, and the moon shines bright," &c.3

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-39)Moreover, did I not see her kick my poor sister's shins  
(8-39)under the card-table at Mrs. Cockburn's,1 for moving her  
(8-39)feet in some way inconvenient to the said Soph, who added  
(8-39)at the same time to her pedestrian correction this exclamation  
(8-39)(how acceptable to a miss in teens your ladyship may  
(8-39)believe),-" What is the lassie wabster 2-wabster-wabstering  
(8-39)that gate for     "-In short, I saw this extraordinary  
(8-39)original both at home and at Mrs. Cockburn's, and am  
(8-39)like to laugh even now whenever I think of her.

(8-39)It was not from Soph Johnstone, however, that I  
(8-39)learned "Auld Robin Gray," but from my aunt Mrs.  
(8-39)Russell, who used to sing very prettily, and had learned  
(8-39)it, I think, in your ladyship's family, if not from yourself.

(8-39)She only sung the first part, but, many years afterwards,  
(8-39)I got from her sister, my much regretted relation,  
(8-39)Miss Christian Rutherford (the great friend of Mrs.

(8-39)Murray Keith), about seven or eight verses of the  
(8-39)continuation, but which only made a fragment. All these  
(8-39)persons were perfectly convinced of your ladyship's right  
(8-39)to this beautiful ballad, and spoke of it as a matter of  
(8-39)which they never had a moment's doubt, and I, knowing  
(8-39)their opportunities of information, never considered the  
(8-39)matter as being at all questionable ; indeed, I supposed  
(8-39)that Mrs. Russell had learned the circumstance from your  
(8-39)ladyship directly, and though that, from your ladyship's  
(8-39)information, must have been a mistake, yet I am satisfied  
(8-39)that, either from Soph Johnstone's being less absolutely  
(8-39)faithful than your ladyship supposes, or very likely from  
(8-39)some chain of circumstantial proof, added to her knowledge  
(8-39)of Lady Anne's genius for the profitless and profane  
(8-39)art of ballad-making, she had arrived at the true

(8-40)conclusion without the assistance of any direct testimony.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-40)The Miss Hepburns, too, of Congalton, who belonged to  
(8-40)the same society of friends (and a very pleasant society  
(8-40)they formed, till a strange and simultaneous fate swept  
(8-40)most of them off within a few days of each other), used  
(8-40)always to speak of "Auld Robin Gray" as being indubitably  
(8-40)the composition of Lady Anne Barnard,-and many  
(8-40)a wish have I formed to know Lady Anne in consequence  
(8-40)of this conviction.

(8-40)It is within these few weeks that Lord Montagu, with  
(8-40)whom I am in the habits of constant correspondence,  
(8-40)wrote to me on this very subject, and mentioned that a  
(8-40)clergyman arrogated to himself the merit of writing  
(8-40)"Auld Robin Gray." <sup>2</sup> I wrote in reply, mentioning a  
(8-40)part of the facts on which I felt myself from good authority  
(8-40)entitled to ascribe the praise to the lady I have now the  
(8-40)honour to address,-odd enough, that his excellent aunt <sup>3</sup>

(8-40)should be the first to penetrate your mystery, and that he  
(8-40)should be in danger of being mystified at this time of day.

(8-40)Now, I have a great mind to ask your ladyship's goodness  
(8-40)to put a stop to these petty-larceny proceedings in the  
(8-40)following manner. I belong to a society 4 of literary  
(8-40)folks in Edinburgh, whose principal bond of union is the  
(8-40)resolution to preserve as many floating records of Scottish  
(8-40)history and antiquities as we can collect ; each member  
(8-40)prints what he pleases, not exceeding the number of  
(8-40)copies necessary for the members, and a few more for  
(8-40)particular friends,-for the object is, to preserve from the  
(8-40)risk attending manuscripts, without intending any  
(8-40)immediate publication. Will you allow me to put a

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-41)complete copy of "Auld Robin Gray" in this curious record,  
(8-41)either with or without the name of the ingenious authoress,  
(8-41)and with as much or as little of its history, as you think  
(8-41)better -I wish to Heaven I could obtain an equally  
(8-41)authentic copy of "Hardyknute," and I think old Fife  
(8-41)might cock her crest in honour other two poetesses.1

(8-41)I think Dalzell's criticism rather hypercritical, but very  
(8-41)characteristic ; were I to reply to it in the manner of  
(8-41)Shakspeare's commentators, trumping each other's nonsense,  
(8-41)I would, in logical phrase, grant his premises and  
(8-41)deny his conclusion. A crown, I would say, is no  
(8-41)denomination of Scottish money, and therefore the pound to  
(8-41)which it is to be augmented is not a Scottish pound. If  
(8-41)it were objected to my exposition, that it is unnatural that  
(8-41)Jamie should speak of any other denomination of coin  
(8-41)than the Scotch, I would produce you a dozen of old  
(8-41)papers to prove that the coast of Fife in ancient times  
(8-41)carried on a great trade with Holland and other countries,

(8-41)and of course French crowns and pounds sterling were  
(8-41)current denominations among them.-Moreover, he  
(8-41)shews himself so ready to gang to sea, that, for aught I can  
(8-41)tell, or Dalzell either (if he were alive), Jamie may have  
(8-41)gone a trial voyage to Campvere already, and speak rather  
(8-41)as a mariner than in the usual style of " poor Scotland's  
(8-41)gear." 2

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(8-42)Dalzell's remark can only be matched by one made by  
(8-42)Mr. Farquharson, an old Edinburgh accomptant,-one  
(8-42)who executes pretty much the duty of a master in  
(8-42)chancery, to whom the judges refer such complicated cases  
(8-42)connected with figures as their own skill and Cocker's  
(8-42)assistance do not enable their own wisdom to disentangle.  
(8-42)He was with some difficulty prevailed on by his own family  
(8-42)to read "Cecilia," which had just come out.<sup>1</sup> On their  
(8-42)asking how he liked it, he expressed himself much amused,  
(8-42)but observed there was a gross error and inconsistency in  
(8-42)the narrative,-a part of the distress or embarrassment of  
(8-42)the heroine being, as your ladyship may remember, on the  
(8-42)loss of her fortune.-" Now," said my old friend, "although  
(8-42)Cecilia was cheated other money in the funds, and  
(8-42)lost her landed property by marrying Delville, who would  
(8-42)not change his name, she must still have been a considerable  
(8-42)heiress, for no account is given of the arrears of her  
(8-42)rents, which, under Mr. Briggs' careful management,  
(8-42)must at the end of nineteen or twenty years," he said, " be  
(8-42)a very respectable sum. I have made a small schedule  
(8-42)of it," he added, drawing a balance-sheet from his pocket,  
(8-42)"in which it plainly appears that, even at simple interest,  
(8-42)she must have been worth so many thousands."-With  
(8-42)such different views do people read works of fancy!

(8-42)I was in the neighbourhood of Balcarres for the first

(8-42)time in my life about a month ago ; I never saw so many  
(8-42)good houses of people of family and fortune nestled so  
(8-42)close together as in that part of Fife 2 ; it is more like

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-43)England than Scotland. I was only a member of a large  
(8-43)party, without any independent means of conveyance,  
(8-43)otherwise I should have paid my respects to Mr. Lindsay.

(8-43)But I begin to think I have rather abused the privilege  
(8-43)which your ladyship's goodness has allowed me, and  
(8-43)bestowed on you, with all Dogberry's generosity, a full  
(8-43)allowance of my tediousness. I will only add, that I am  
(8-43)not likely soon to profit by the very flattering invitation  
(8-43)with which your ladyship honoured me ; perhaps, before  
(8-43)I come to town, some happy chance may determine your  
(8-43)course to Scotland, and I need scarce say how happy I  
(8-43)should be to receive the authoress of " Robin Gray " and  
(8-43)her companion,

(8-43)" On well-sung Tweed's baronial stream,"

(8-43)where I am just concluding a hobby-horsical sort of a  
(8-43)mansion, with as little of Solomon's skill in the design, as  
(8-43)there is of his silence in the execution, which makes even  
(8-43)now a clatter about my ears, enough to stun any one who  
(8-43)was bred in a writer's office like myself:-its best  
(8-43)recommendation to you will be its near neighbourhood to Yair.1

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(8-44)But you will never get rid of me, if I start anew to old  
(8-44)stories :-Believe me, dear Lady Anne, Most respectfully  
(8-44)and sincerely. Your obedient servant,



(8-44)WALTER SCOTT

[Lives of the Lindsays]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(8-44)MY DEAR CHARLES,-The inclosed 1 informs me that our

(8-44)cake is like to be dough-There is no help for it-as in

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-45)many cases we are thwarted by a chance we did not

(8-45)reckon upon.

(8-45)I send Frendraught 1 which so far as I have read is a

(8-45)trashy Exclamation upon the place without any light on

(8-45)the curious subject. There are some other curious tracts

(8-45)in the volume. Yours truly

(8-45)THE DISAPPOINTED W. S.

(8-45)15 July [1823]

[Hornel]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK, WINDSOR, BERKS.

(8-45)MY DEAR LORD,-Poor Sir Henry Reaburn is no more-

(8-45)He was over in Fife with the Chief Commissioner Chief

(8-45)Baron & myself on a pleasure party about three weeks

(8-45)hence and I never saw a man in better health. But he

(8-45)died of water in the head a hopeless disease which must

(8-45)have been long in the constitution. When he came back

(8-45)from Fife he said now [that] I am better acquainted

(8-45)with your face than ever I was (having been three or four

(8-45)days in company) I will finish Lord Montagu's picture &

(8-45)my own 2 for I had agreed long since to sit to him on his

(8-45)own account and both pictures were nearly finishd. I  
(8-45)went accordingly and sate to him for nearly three hours  
(8-45)when he finishd his own head in a most masterly manner  
(8-45)and did a great deal to that designd to your Lordship but  
(8-45)chiefly to the drapery. I upbraided him in jest with  
(8-45)having taken best care of himself & he allowd he had but  
(8-45)agreed whenever the paint on your copy was dry I should  
(8-45)have a finishing sitting. All this being the case I think  
(8-45)your Lordship should have the finishd picture which is  
(8-45)really considerd as the best likeness which ever has been

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(8-46)made of so indifferent an original for your Lordship  
(8-46)cannot certainly be expected to take the unfinishd picture  
(8-46)which would require one long sitting to bring it to the  
(8-46)same perfection. In all respects they are quite the same  
(8-46)only the dress is different to show that both were originals.  
(8-46)Perhaps this can be arranged when your Lordship comes  
(8-46)down.

(8-46)We are putting all oars in the water to get poor Charles  
(8-46)Sharpe named Limner to His Majesty. No one can doubt  
(8-46)his qualifications and the salary is but     100 or thereabout  
(8-46)yet I am sorry to say even that pittance would double his  
(8-46)fortune. I do not ask your Lordship to interfere in this  
(8-46)matter but should you be writing to Lord Melville you  
(8-46)can give an intimation of your good will to poor Charles.

(8-46)Your Lordships letter is just put into my hands with the  
(8-46)very interesting intelligence of my fair freind Lady  
(8-46)Isabella's approaching change of condition.<sup>1</sup> There are  
(8-46)few people I should think worthy of so much gaiety and  
(8-46)goodness of disposition united but Mr. Cust as your Lordship  
(8-46)describes him is likely to prize both as an old freind  
(8-46)of Lady Isabella through infancy childhood and youth

(8-46)warmly hopes and prays he may. I am a little jealous of  
(8-46)England and Ireland carrying off so many of our young  
(8-46)ladies especially as it limits the chance of our seeing them  
(8-46)in Scotland so frequently as I could wish. I shall be quite  
(8-46)prudent in letting no item escape of the intended nuptials  
(8-46)untill I hear it publickly mentiond.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-47)I am delighted that you have got such a tutor 1 for Walter  
(8-47)as entirely satisfies a person so well acquainted with  
(8-47)mankind as your Lordship and I am not afraid that a freind of  
(8-47)yours should be imbued with any of [the] very dangerous  
(8-47)qualities which are sometimes found in the instructors  
(8-47)placed around our noble youths. Betwixt a narrow-  
(8-47)minded pedantry which naturally disgusts a young man  
(8-47)and the far more formidable vices of flattery assentation 2  
(8-47)and self-seeking of all kinds there are very few of the  
(8-47)class of men who are like to adopt the situation of tutor  
(8-47)that one is not afraid to trust near the person of a boy  
(8-47)of rank and fortune. I think it is an argument of your  
(8-47)freinds great good sense and judgement that he thinks  
(8-47)the knowledge of domestic history essential to his pupil-  
(8-47)it is in fact the accomplishment which of all others carries  
(8-47)most home to the business and breast of a public man-  
(8-47)and the D. of B. can never be regarded as a private  
(8-47)one-Besides it has in a singular degree the tendency  
(8-47)to repose mens judgement upon the wild political  
(8-47)speculations now current. Any one who will read  
(8-47)Clarendon with attention and patience may regard Veluti  
(8-47)in speculo the form and pressure of our own times if you  
(8-47)will just place the fanaticism of Atheism and irreligion  
(8-47)instead of that of enthusiasm and combine it with the  
(8-47)fierce thirst after innovation proper to both ages. Men of  
(8-47)very high rank are I have noticed in youth peculiarly  
(8-47)accessible to the temptations held [out] by the ingenious

(8-47)arguers upon speculative politics to their inexperience.  
(8-47)There is popularity to be obtained by listening to these  
(8-47)lectures-there is also an idea of generosity and  
(8-47)indep[en]dence and public spirit in affecting to hold cheap  
(8-47)the privileges which are peculiarly their own-and there  
(8-47)may be in some minds the idea (a very vain one) that the  
(8-47)tower may seem higher and more distinguishd when

(8-48)some parts of the building are pulled down that overtop it.  
(8-48)I have no doubt your friend is aware of all this and will  
(8-48)take his own time & manner in leading our young friend  
(8-48)to draw inferences from history in his own way which may  
(8-48)apply to his own times. I will consider anxiously what  
(8-48)your Lordship mentions about a course of Scottish study.  
(8-48)We are still but very indifferently provided with Scotch  
(8-48)histories of a general description. Lord Hailes annals  
(8-48)are the foundation stone and an excellent book though  
(8-48)dryly written. Pinkerton in two very unreadable 4tos  
(8-48)which yet abound in information takes up the thread  
(8-48)where Hailes drops it and then you have Robertson down  
(8-48)to the union of the Kingdoms. But I would beware of task  
(8-48)work which Pinkerton at least must always be and I would  
(8-48)relieve him every now and [then] by looking at the pages  
(8-48)of old Pitcottie whose events are told with so much  
(8-48)naivete and even humour and such individuality as it  
(8-48)were that it places the actors and scenes before the reader.  
(8-48)The whole history of James Vth & Queen Mary may be  
(8-48)read to great advantage in the elegant latin of Lesly  
(8-48)Bishop of Ross 1 and collated with the account which his  
(8-48)opponent Buchanan in language still more classical gives  
(8-48)of the same eventful reigns. Laing is but a bad guide  
(8-48)through the seventeenth century yet I hardly know where  
(8-48)a combined account of these events is to be had so far as  
(8-48)Scotland is concerned and still less how we could

(8-48)recommend to the young Duke an account of Scottish  
(8-48)jurisprudence that is not too technical. All this I will be  
(8-48)happy to talk over with your Lordship for that our young  
(8-48)freind should possess this information in a general way is  
(8-48)essential to his own comfort and the welfare of many.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-49)To change this important subject, I had a letter the  
(8-49)other day from Lady Anne Barnard (born Lindsay of  
(8-49)Balcarras) with a more full account of Auld Robin Gray  
(8-49)than I was able to send your Lordship formerly 1 -a most  
(8-49)excellent letter it is-one curious part of it is that her claim  
(8-49)to the honour of the authorship was detected by our dear  
(8-49)and regretted Lady Douglas. You shall see the letter  
(8-49)when you come to Abbotsford.

(8-49>About the land I have no doubt your Lordship is quite  
(8-49)right but I have something of what is calld the yeard-  
(8-49)hunger.<sup>2</sup> I dare say you will get the other lots a bon marche  
(8-49)when you wish to have them and to be sure a Ducal  
(8-49)Dignity is a monstrous beast for devouring ready cash.  
(8-49)I do not fear on the part of Duke Walter those ills which  
(8-49)might arise to many from a very great command of ready  
(8-49)money which sometimes makes a young man like a horse  
(8-49)too full of spirits make too much play at starting and flag  
(8-49)afterwards. But I think improvident expenditure will  
(8-49)not be his fault though I have no doubt he will have the  
(8-49)generous temper of his father & grand father with more  
(8-49)means to indulge an expence which has others for its  
(8-49)object more than mere personal gratification. This I  
(8-49)venture to foretell and hope to see the accomplishment  
(8-49)of my prophecy-few things will give me more pleasure.

(8-49)My court yard rises but Masons of all men but lovers  
(8-49)love to linger ere they depart. Two men are now tapping

(8-49)upon the summit of my gate as gently as if they were laying  
(8-49)the foundation stone of a Methodist Meeting House and  
(8-49)one plumber sits sparrow like companionless upon the  
(8-49)top of a turret which should have been finishd a month  
(8-49)since. I must go and as Judge Jefferies used to express  
(8-49)it give them a lick with the rough side of my tongue which  
(8-49)will relieve your Lordship sooner than it might otherwise  
(8-49)have been.

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(8-50)Melrose is looking excellently well. I begin to think  
(8-50)taking off the old roof would have hurt it at least externally  
(8-50)by diminishing its effect on the eye. The lowering the  
(8-50)roofs of the aisles has had a most excellent effect. Sir  
(8-50)Adam is well & his family augmented by his Indian  
(8-50)brother Major Fergusson who has much of the family  
(8-50)manner-an excellent importation of course to Tweedside.

(8-50)I will endeavour to get another packet of shells for the  
(8-50)excellent Provost. I had no idea that the old business of  
(8-50)the oyster was such an utter non suit on all sides-for it is  
(8-50)plain if Law had but given both the shells to [one] and he a  
(8-50)conchologist he would have [made] Themis wellcome to  
(8-50)the contents of the bi-valve-but one to each ruind both  
(8-50)parties.

(8-50)I am particularly happy at the prospect of seeing the  
(8-50)family next month. My respectful love and duty to them  
(8-50)all. Believe me My dear Lord Ever yours

(8-50)ABBOTSFORD 17 July [PM. 21 July 1823]      W SCOTT

(8-50)Wilkie has got the situation of Kings painter-could not  
(8-50)certainly be better bestowd.1

[Buccleuch]

TO RICHARD HEBER

(8-50)MY DEAR HEBER,-My son Charles's instructor &  
(8-50)friend Mr Williams promises that he will be fit to enter at  
(8-50)College next Easter for Residence & that he should for  
(8-50)that purpose be put on the books if possible this season.  
(8-50)I have made no motion in this matter relying on your kind

1823

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-51)assistance but am now under the necessity of jogging your  
(8-51)memory a wee bit. I wish I could set you a jogging so  
(8-51)completely that you would not stop till you had crossd  
(8-51)the Borders. Sure it would be more sensible than  
(8-51)Reginald jogging away to be a Bishop in partibus infidelium  
(8-51)for I fear Calcutta is little better. I wish he had let  
(8-51)the Nullifidian 1 Europeans and the pagan Gentoos go to  
(8-51)the Devil their own way & stayd with us in Old England.

(8-51)Pray come this season if you can and believe me always  
(8-51)my dear Heber most truly yours

(8-51)WALTER SCOTT

(8-51)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 17 July [1823]

[Cholmondeley]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(8-51)YOUR kind letter 2 my dear friend heaps coals of fire on  
(8-51)my head for I should have written to you in common  
(8-51)gratitude long since but I waited till I should read through  
(8-51)the miscellany with some attention which as I have not

(8-51)yet done I can scarce say much to the purpose so far as  
(8-51)that is concernd. My own production sate in the porch  
(8-51)like an evil thing and scared me from proceeding farther  
(8-51)than to hurry through your compositions with which I  
(8-51)was delighted and one or two others. In my own case  
(8-51)I have almost a nervous reluctance to look back on any

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(8-52)recent poetical performance of my own. I almost think  
(8-52)with MacBeth

(8-52)I am afraid to think on what I have done  
(8-52)Look on't again I dare not.<sup>1</sup>

(8-52)But the best of the matter is that your purpose has been  
(8-52)so satisfactorily answerd and great reason have you to be  
(8-52)proud of your influence with the poem-buyers as well as  
(8-52)the poem-makers. By the bye you know your request  
(8-52)first set me a hammering on an old tale of the Swintons <sup>2</sup>  
(8-52)from whom by the mothers side I am descended and  
(8-52)the tinkering work I made of [it] warmed the heart  
(8-52)of a cousin <sup>3</sup> in the east Indies a descendant of the renownd  
(8-52)Sir Allan who has sent his kindred poet by this fleet not  
(8-52)a butt of sack but a pipe of most particular Madeira.  
(8-52)You and Miss Agnes shall have a glass of it when you  
(8-52)come to Abbotsford for I always consider your last only  
(8-52)a payment to accompt : you did not stay half the time  
(8-52)you promised. I am going out there on friday and shall  
(8-52)see all my family reunited around me for the first time  
(8-52)these many years. They make a very good figure as  
(8-52)honest men and bonny lasses. I will make it my first  
(8-52)task when I get to Abbotsford to read what you recommend.  
(8-52)I used to think G. K.'s 4 poesy a little of the heaviest  
(8-52)but he is an excellent person in his way. I read Miss



(8-53) Fanshaws pieces which are quite beautiful. Miss  
 (8-53) Heman 1 is somewhat too poetical for my taste-too many  
 (8-53) flowers I mean and too little fruit but that may be the  
 (8-53) cynical criticism of an elderly gentleman for it is certain  
 (8-53) that when I was young I read verses of every kind with  
 (8-53) infinitely more indulgence because with more pleasure  
 (8-53) than I can now do-the more shame for me now to  
 (8-53) refuse the complacency which I have had so often to  
 (8-53) solicit. I am hastening to think prose a better thing than  
 (8-53) verse and if you have any hopes to convince me of the  
 (8-53) contrary it must be by writing and publishing another  
 (8-53) volume of plays, as fast as possible I think they would  
 (8-53) be most favourably received and beg like Burns to

(8-53)--tell you of mine and Scotlands drouth  
 (8-53) Your servants humble.2

(8-53) A young friend of mine Lord Leveson Gower 3 has made  
 (8-53) a very fair attempt to translate Goethe's untranslatable

(8-54) play of Faust or Faustus. He has given also a version of  
 (8-54) Schillers very fine poem on casting the bell which I think  
 (8-54) equals Mr Sotheby nay-privately for tell it not in Epping  
 (8-54) forest whisper it not in Hampstead, rather excels our  
 (8-54) excellent friend. I have not compared them minutely  
 (8-54) however.

(8-54) As for Mr Howison 1 such is the worldly name of Polydore  
 (8-54) I never saw such a change in my life upon a young man.  
 (8-54) It may be fourteen years or thereabouts since he introduced  
 (8-54) himself to me by sending me some most excellent verses  
 (8-54) for a youth of 17 years old. I askd him to Abbotsford

(8-54)and he came-a thin hectic youth with an eye of dark  
(8-54)fire a cheek that colourd at the slightest emotion and a  
(8-54)mind fraught with feeling of the tender and the beautiful  
(8-54)and eager for poetical fame-otherwise of so little  
(8-54)acquaintance with the world and the worlds ways that  
(8-54)a sucking-turkey might have been his tutor. I was rather  
(8-54)a bear-like nurse for such a lamb-like charge. We could  
(8-54)hardly indeed associate together for I was then eternally  
(8-54)restless and he as sedentary. He could neither fish  
(8-54)shoot or course-he could not bear the inside of a carriage  
(8-54)with the ladies for it made him sick nor the outside with  
(8-54)my boys for it made him giddy, he could not walk for  
(8-54)it fatigued him nor ride for he fell off. I did all I could  
(8-54)to make him happy and it was not till he had caught two  
(8-54)colds and one sprain besides risquing his life in the Tweed  
(8-54)that I gave up all attempts to convert him to the things  
(8-54)of this world. Our acquaintance after this languishd and

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-55)at last fell asleep till one day last year I met at Lockharts  
(8-55)a thin, consumptive looking man bent double with study  
(8-55)and whose eyes seemd to have been extinguishd almost  
(8-55)by poring over the midnight lamp though protected by  
(8-55)immense green spectacles. I then found my poet had  
(8-55)turnd metaphysician and that these spectacles were to  
(8-55)assist him in gazing into the millstone of moral philosophy.  
(8-55)The poor lad lookd at least twice as old as he really is and  
(8-55)has since publishd a book very small in size but from its  
(8-55)extreme abstracted doctrines more difficult to comprehend  
(8-55)than any I ever opend in my life.<sup>1</sup> Such is his present  
(8-55)situation I will take care he has one of my copies. Lockhart  
(8-55)who thinks very highly and I believe justly of his  
(8-55)genius will take care he has it. His father luckily is a  
(8-55)man of substance though of low penurious habits I believe  
(8-55)so that poor Howison is secure of a competent portion of

(8-55)the goods of this world. He is a singular instance of  
(8-55)talents hitherto lost to the public but if he gets on the  
(8-55)right line he may do something remarkable yet.

(8-55)We saw you will readily suppose a great deal of Miss  
(8-55)Edgeworth 2 and two very nice girls her younger sisters.  
(8-55)It is scarce possible to say more of this very remarkable  
(8-55)person than that she not only completely answered but

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(8-56)exceeded the expectations which I had formed yet these  
(8-56)were not very moderate. I am particularly pleased with  
(8-56)the naivete and good humoured ardour of mind which she  
(8-56)unites with such formidable powers of acute observation.  
(8-56)In external appearance she is quite the fairy of our  
(8-56)Nursery-tale the Whippity Stourie if you remember such  
(8-56)a sprite who came flying in through the window to work  
(8-56)all sort of marvels. I will never believe but what she has  
(8-56)a wand in her pocket and pulls it out to conjure a little  
(8-56)before she begins to write those very striking pictures of  
(8-56)manners. I am grieved to say that since they left Edinburgh  
(8-56)on a tour to the Highlands they have been detained  
(8-56)at Forres by a Erysipelas breaking out on Miss Edgeworth's  
(8-56)face, they have been twelve days there and are now  
(8-56)returning southwards as a letter from Harriet informs me.  
(8-56)I hope soon to have them here where We will take good  
(8-56)care of them, and the invalid in particular.

(8-56)What would I give to have Miss Agnes and you to meet  
(8-56)them and what canty cracks we would set up about the  
(8-56)days of langsyne. The increasing powers of Steam which  
(8-56)like you I look on "half proud half sad half angry and

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(8-57)half pleased" in doing so much for the commercial world  
(8-57)promise something also for the sociable, and like Prince  
(8-57)(8-57)Hosseins tapestry will I think one day waft friends together  
(8-57)in the course of a few hours and for aught we may be able  
(8-57)(8-57)to [tell] bring Hampstead and Abbotsford within the  
(8-57)distance of "will you dine with us quietly to-morrow."  
(8-57)I wish I could advance this happy abridgement of time  
(8-57)and space so as to make it serve my present wishes. I  
(8-57)have for the first time these several years my whole family  
(8-57)united around me excepting Lockhart who is with his  
(8-57)yeomanry but joins us tomorrow. Walter is returned a  
(8-57)fine steady soldier like young man from his abode on the  
(8-57)continent and little Charles with his friend Surtees are  
(8-57)come from Wales so that we draw together from distant  
(8-57)quarters. When you add Sophias baby I assure you my  
(8-57)wife and I look very patriarchal.- The misfortune is all  
(8-57)this must be soon over for Walter is admitted one of the  
(8-57)higher class of students at the Military College and must  
(8-57)join against the first of August. I have some chance I  
(8-57)think when he has had a years study of getting him upon  
(8-57)the Staff in the Ionian Islands which I should greatly  
(8-57)prefer to his lounging about villages in horse-quarters. He  
(8-57)has a strong mathematical turn which promises to be of  
(8-57)service in his profession. Little Charles is getting steadily  
(8-57)on with his learning to what use he is to turn it I scarce  
(8-57)know yet.

(8-57)I am very sorry indeed that the Doctor is complaining,  
(8-57)he whose life has been one course of administering help  
(8-57)and comfort to others should not one would think suffer  
(8-57)himself. But such are the terms on which we hold our  
(8-57)gifts, however valuable to others they are sometimes less  
(8-57)availing to ourselves. I sincerely hope this will find him  
(8-57)better and Mrs Baillie easier in proportion. When I was  
(8-57)subject a little to sore throats I cured myself of that  
(8-57)tendency by spunging my throat breast and shoulders

(8-57)every morning with the coldest water I could get but this  
(8-57)is rather a horse-remedy though I still keep up the

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(8-58)practice. All here-that is wives maidens and bachelors  
(8-58)bluff not forgetting little John Hugh or as he is popularly  
(8-58)stille[d] Hugh Littlejohn send loving remembrances to  
(8-58)you and Miss Agnes. Ever Dear Mrs Joanna most truly  
(8-58)yours    WALTER SCOTT

(8-58)ABBOTSFORD 18 July [1823]

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO THOMAS SHORTREED, WRITER, JEDBURGH

[Extract]

(8-58)MY DEAR TOM,- ... I have to thank you most sincerely  
(8-58)for your exertions in favour of my maternal ancestry. My  
(8-58)Mother used to say her father represented one of the  
(8-58)seven or nine sons (I forget which) of the cock of Hunthill  
(8-58)Chief of the Rutherfords of days of yore, and the locality  
(8-58)of Grundesnook seems to give some countenance to this  
(8-58)family tradition. My cousin Robert Rutherford 1 says his  
(8-58)father always told him the same, and I have heard my  
(8-58)aunts make other additions to which I give little weight.  
(8-58)I should be delighted to number in my ancestry the  
(8-58)provost of the valiant burgh and would to heaven our  
(8-58)researches may land on no worse coast.

(8-58)Mr. Bell has very handsomely offered me inspection of  
(8-58)the old titles of Hunthill and Robert Rutherford as the  
(8-58)party principally concerned and a professional man has  
(8-58)undertaken the scrutiny. ... I am always Dear Tom

(8-58)Sincerely yours

WALTER SCOTT

(8-58)ABBOTSFORD 23d July [1823]

[Abbotsford Copies]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO MRS. HUGHES

(8-59)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-Your son's most obliging  
(8-59)present of two Nos. of the Provence Views I have reached  
(8-59)me yesterday under Mr. Freling's care and I need not  
(8-59)say are extremely acceptable. Make my best thanks  
(8-59)acceptable to the ingenious young artist whose dexterity  
(8-59)at illustrating the agreeable narrative which he has given  
(8-59)us shows his skill as a draughtsman equals his powers of  
(8-59)composition. I trust he will one day take a look of our  
(8-59)highland hills.

(8-59)We were much disappointed in the interruption experienced  
(8-59)by you in your proposed Northern tour but in  
(8-59)the state of Dr. Hughes's health you could not have  
(8-59)reaped the expected pleasure-it is a sort of comfort that  
(8-59)the weather has been infamous-too bad almost for  
(8-59)Scotland-rain without ceasing & no possibility of seeing  
(8-59)with any pleasure out of doors sights in a country where  
(8-59)there is so little within doors.

(8-59)I was much entertained with your account of the Lions  
(8-59)of Leamington. The learned Doctor Parr is certainly one  
(8-59)of the first order.<sup>2</sup> I saw him to my astonishment in the

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1823

(8-60)streets of Edinburgh at a time when they are deserted

(8-60)by all but tradesfolks and tourists but when some  
(8-60)accidental business obliged me to come to town. I heard a  
(8-60)prodigious talking and looking out saw the Doctor much  
(8-60)like a turtle erect on his hinder claws in full canonicals  
(8-60)and surrounded by a sort of halo of satellites male and  
(8-60)female to whom he was laying down the law as if the whole  
(8-60)town had been his town. After all it is very difficult to be  
(8-60)a lion in good society if you happen to be at the same time  
(8-60)a beast of moderate bearing and of common sense. The  
(8-60)part played by the Lion in the Spectator who fought on  
(8-60)the stage with Nicolini is much easier. If you do not  
(8-60)make some play you are set down either for a sulky or a  
(8-60)paltry animal-and if you do there is generally something  
(8-60)very absurd in it. For my part who am sometimes called  
(8-60)on to be a lion I always form myself on the model of that  
(8-60)noble animal who was so unnecessarily disturbed by the  
(8-60)Knight of the woeful countenance. He rose up turned  
(8-60)himself round in his caravan shewed himself front and  
(8-60)rear then licked his mustachios with a yard of tongue  
(8-60)yawned most formidably and then lay down in peace.  
(8-60)Pray tell your son to practice this in time against his claws  
(8-60)and mane attain the due of notoriety. I have a notion  
(8-60)they will grow rapidly.

(8-60)Adieu my dear Madam.1 Give Dr. Hughes my best  
(8-60)compliments with kindest wishes for his convalescence.  
(8-60)His malady is unpleasant but better an enemy who shows  
(8-60)himself than internal malady. I am always Dear Mrs.  
(8-60)Hughes yours with much respect 2      WAITER SCOTT

(8-60)ABBOTSFORD 26 July [1823].

[Heffer and Wells]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(8-61)MY DEAR CHARLES,-Even your most acceptable  
(8-61)present did not for some time put the sulks out of my  
(8-61)heart. I reckon as surely on the thing as Falstaff on  
(8-61)his two & twenty yards of sittin.<sup>1</sup> But transeat quoth John  
(8-61)cum ceteris erroribus. I greatly approve your plan of  
(8-61)Frendraught and wish you would inquire into the truth  
(8-61)of an anecdote which I had from a lady in Aberdeenshire  
(8-61)vizt new house being erected on the site of the old castle  
(8-61)near it a puzzle arose how to get water-the old ballad  
(8-61)& the mention of the "deep drawwell" was recollected  
(8-61)the well was sought for & discovered and in clearing out  
(8-61)the same the fatal keys were found. I wonder what is  
(8-61)the history of the modern ballad. It is very pretty as  
(8-61)you purpose (and I am heartily glad on't) to continue  
(8-61)your Minstrelsy. I send you a bone to pick to wit the  
(8-61)collection of an old Lady's complete set of ballads written  
(8-61)in her own beautiful orthography & caligraphy. I have  
(8-61)no doubt that among many common things there are  
(8-61)some rare or perhaps unique but before they reachd my  
(8-61)hand the rage of ballad hunting had coold and I now  
(8-61)turn them over to your superior industry. From analysis  
(8-61)which I have made you will find there are ten songs which  
(8-61)have not been published I got the manuscript from Skene  
(8-61)who can give complete information concerning the old  
(8-61)lady by whom it was written. It is quite possible to put  
(8-61)them to rights as I have ascertaind by repeated experience.  
(8-61)Skene had made a transcript of some of these ditties of  
(8-61)which I inclose a part. If you carry on your collection  
(8-61)as I trust you will I can give sundry unpublished ditties  
(8-61)for example The tod's foray beginning

(8-61)Oh! quo the Tod tis a brow licht nicht etc.<sup>2</sup>



(8-62)This is base rainy weather, one day always following  
(8-62)worse than its [predecessor] & within are four idle boys  
(8-62)and twice four busy carpenters the idleness of the former  
(8-62)decidedly the more noisy than the industry of the others,  
(8-62)I hope we will get all our matters so quiet in a week or two  
(8-62)that we may claim with a good conscience your kind  
(8-62)promise to spend some time with us.

(8-62)A thousand thanks for your kind dedication which I  
(8-62)prize as I ought to do. Always dear Chas. Most truly yours

(8-62)27 July 1823 ABBOTSFD. Sunday W. SCOTT

(8-62)I have just received yours and at the same time the  
(8-62)inclosd 1 from Lady Gwidir which shows that there is no  
(8-62)balm in Gilead

(8-62)" Now a' is done that man can do  
(8-62)And a' is done in vain."

(8-62)I like Lady G's alertness however & will not fail to hint  
(8-62)that if unsuccessful on this occasion she may on a future  
(8-62)occasion extend her pretty arm

(8-62)put in her thumb  
(8-62)And pull out a plum.

(8-62)Of course you have nothing to do with my hints.  
[Hornel]

TO HENRY RAEBURN 2

(8-62)DEAR SIR,-Considering the great loss which you have  
(8-62)so lately sustained in the person of my late admired and  
(8-62)excellent friend Sir Henry I feel reluctance to intrude

(8-62)upon you personally concerning a matter in which I am  
(8-62)but indirectly interested but which I wish to place before  
(8-62)you in all its relations.

1823

SIR WALTER SCOTT

63

(8-63)Lord Montagu had the goodness to ask me to sit to  
(8-63)Sir Henry for a portrait intended for himself and at the  
(8-63)same [time] my good and regretted friend claimd an  
(8-63)old promise that I would sit for a picture for himself. I  
(8-63)had pleasure in complying with both requests and both  
(8-63)pictures went on at the same time Sir Henry sometimes  
(8-63)working on one sometimes on the other. After we  
(8-63)returnd from Fife I had one long sitting which I meant  
(8-63)indeed chiefly for Lord Montagus picture as I wishd it  
(8-63)to be finishd against he came down but your father said  
(8-63)in his goodnatured way that he would look after his own  
(8-63)interest first and finishd accordingly the head which he  
(8-63)meant to keep for himself and only touchd the drapery  
(8-63)of that intended for Lord Montagu which is therefore left  
(8-63)in an unfinishd state.

(8-63)This is the whole story. Lord Montagu is very desirous  
(8-63)to have the finishd picture for who is to pretend to touch  
(8-63)that which is left less perfect. But the finishd picture as I  
(8-63)have acquainted his Lordship is certainly the property of  
(8-63)Sir Henrys family and it must be for them to determine  
(8-63)what is to be done in the matter. Undoubtedly if the  
(8-63)picture is to be sold Lord Montagu should seem to have a  
(8-63)right to the refusal of it and he seems very anxious on the  
(8-63)subject. Of course it will be for Sir Henry's family to  
(8-63)decide in this matter. Lord Montagu will be at Dalkeith  
(8-63)in a very few days and I believe would feel much obliged  
(8-63)if he could be accomodated in this matter.<sup>1</sup>

(8-63)I very little thought when I last shook your father by



(8-64)& I am ever My dear Lord Yours most truly

(8-64)ABBOTSFORD Saturday [docketed Augt. 1823] W SCOTT

[Buccleuch]

TO WILLIAM STEWART ROSE

[Extract]

(8-64)ABBOTSFORD, Sunday Morning [August 1823]

(8-64)MY DEAR ROSE,-Yours brings the joyous news of your  
(8-64)safe arrival in the Land of Cakes. Your chamber here is  
(8-64)inviolate, come who may; you have escaped the quintessence

1823

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-65)of bores in the best-humoured of all Irishmen and  
(8-65)the dullest of created beings. I never found your  
(8-65)apophthegm more true, that a Bore must have something  
(8-65)estimable about him, for, if it had not been for his extreme  
(8-65)humility and good-nature, I was on the eve of instituting  
(8-65)family prayers, for the purpose of expatiating on Sir  
(8-65)Walter Riddell's text- "Remove thy foot from thy  
(8-65)neighbour's house, lest he grow weary of thee and so hate  
(8-65)thee."1 The great Hogg found his lair at Abbotsford on  
(8-65)Friday, Lockhart bringing him here like a pig in a string,  
(8-65)for which the lady of the mansion sent him little thanks,  
(8-65)she not thinking the hog's pearls (qu. Perils) 2 an apology  
(8-65)for his freedoms. I am to be from home on Friday and  
(8-65)Saturday next. . . . But you know that if your shooting  
(8-65)arrangements, or any others, include these days, at  
(8-65)Abbotsford you have the ladies and Lockhart to make  
(8-65)much of you, so come as soon as you can. About the  
(8-65)25th, I go for two days to Drumlanrig. As for food, we

(8-65)must take what the gods send us, but there is a turtle  
(8-65)come hither-

(8-65)" And if we could but get it dressed,  
(8-65)Which will be right uneasy,  
(8-65)I would lay baith my legs in pawn,  
(8-65)We'll have a feast to please ye."

(8-65)I wish Lord and Lady Minto and Lady Anna Maria  
(8-65)would come over and assist at ridding of this nuisance.  
(8-65)The arrival has shaken Lady Scott's nerves excessively,  
(8-65)for first the brute must be killed, which shocks her  
(8-65)humanity, and secondly it must be dressed, which I foresee  
(8-65)is to prove embarrassing to her culinary associate.-Yours  
(8-65)ever, WALTER SCOTT  
[Abbotsford Copies]

66                                      LETTERS OF                                      1823

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(8-66)MY DEAR CHARLES,-I thank you ten thousand times  
(8-66)for your beautiful drawing 1 in which nothing but your  
(8-66)own wicked wit could see anything ludicrous. I will get  
(8-66)it engraved by Lizars for Auld Robin who shall come forth  
(8-66)in proper stile.

(8-66)Your gracious acceptance of Roger North 2 which ought  
(8-66)by the way to have the Lives of his two other Brothers the  
(8-66)High Sheriff of London & the Doctor who after living a  
(8-66)grave and ascetic life during his youth read bawdy books  
(8-66)in his old age to get the better of a paralytic affection-  
(8-66)(the sentence grows long tailed) I say your kind acceptance  
(8-66)of the Life of the Lord Keeper emboldens me to send you  
(8-66)two or three trifles of no value in themselves but useless to  
(8-66)me as duplicates.

(8-66)There is a life of McBane 3 without the plates. I have a

1823

SIR WALTER SCOTT

67

(8-67)copy with them I will bring to town should you wish to

(8-67)copy out the first which presents the author in his

(8-67)fighting gear

(8-67)Broad sword and target.

(8-67)Another is rather a curious tract upon Lycanthropie 1 and

(8-67)a third some of Patrick Walker's lives which you probably

(8-67)have. I trust you will find Porto Bello more pleasant

(8-67)than you anticipate and heartily wish your hearth rug

(8-67)had the properties of Prince Hassan's tapestry that you

(8-67)might according as your humour dictated

(8-67)Be here with a hoop

(8-67)And be gone with a hallo

(8-67)This will perhaps be for some time in Princes Street but all

(8-67)that belongs to it will keep cold Yours truly &

(8-67)affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

(8-67)ABBOTSFORD 1st August [1823]

(8-67)Walter is come from sketching in Kent black as the devil

(8-67)except a large pair of light grey eyes.

[Hornel]

TO SAMUEL WARREN, 4 CITY ROAD 2

(8-67)SIR,-I am favoured with your letter of 26th which

(8-67)some business prevented my sooner replying to. I am

(8-68)not the author of those Novels which the world chuses to  
 (8-68)ascribe to me and am therefore unworthy of the praises  
 (8-68)due to that individual whoever he may prove to be. It  
 (8-68)is needless therefore to add that I cannot be useful to you  
 (8-68)in the way you propose. Indeed if you will take my  
 (8-68)advice you will take no other person's judgment or  
 (8-68)countenance on the project of publishing which you  
 (8-68)entertain than that of an intelligent bookseller who is in a  
 (8-68)good line in the trade. Although no great readers nor  
 (8-68)pretending to particular taste these gentlemen whose  
 (8-68)profession it is to cater for the public acquire much more  
 (8-68)accurate knowledge of what will give satisfaction to the  
 (8-68)general reader than can be obtained by a man of letters  
 (8-68)in his closet. They have also ready access to good judges  
 (8-68)and their own interest peremptorily commands them to  
 (8-68)give as much encouragement as possible to genius or any  
 (8-68)thing approaching it.

(8-68)Excuse these hints from one who has had some  
 (8-68)experience and believe me Sir Your most obedt servant,

(8-68)ABBOTSFORD 3 August [1823]

WALTER SCOTT

[Blackwood Copy]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DALKEITH HOUSE, EDINBURGH

(8-68)MY DEAR LORD,-The inclosed 1 will show that my  
 (8-68)attempts to procure for your Lordship the mor[e] finishd

(8-69)portrait (or that which I thought most finishd) have been

(8-69)ineffectual and I cannot well resist the grounds on which  
(8-69)Mr. Raeburn pleads his wish to keep his fathers very  
(8-69)last production. It will be a lesson to me on the subject  
(8-69)of procrastination so long as I live. Mr. Syme was used  
(8-69)to finish the draping of Raeburns portraits but your  
(8-69)Lordship will be best judge whether he should be permitted  
(8-69)to touch yours. You can see the picture by looking  
(8-69)in at 32 York-place.

(8-69)I am anxious to hear when your Lordship & freinds  
(8-69)come this way. Harden the Liddesdal[e] Keeper has  
(8-69)sent me a Dandie Dinmont terrier a real pepper which  
(8-69)I take as a piece of great attention. Always most truly and  
(8-69)faithfully Your Lordships WALTER SCOTT

(8-69)ABBOTSFORD 4th Augt. [PM. 1823]

[Buccleuch]

TO HENRY RAEBURN

(8-69)SIR,-I am obliged with your letter which I have  
(8-69)transmitted to my Lord Montagu who I dare say will be  
(8-69)as much satisfied with the contents as I am since I am  
(8-69)convinced his Lordship did not wish to deprive you of a  
(8-69)picture which you valued but only to have some  
(8-69)preference in case it had been to be disposed of.

(8-69)Mr. Syme asked my permission to copy the picture  
(8-69)which I did not feel myself at liberty either to give or  
(8-69)refuse but if you should feel any delicacy on the subject  
(8-69)I beg you will just do what you think would have been  
(8-69)most agreeable to your excellent father. I am Sir very  
(8-69)much Your obedt Sert WALTER SCOTT

(8-69)ABBOTSFORD 5 Augt [1823]



[Owen D. Young]

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LETTERS OF

1823

TO LORD MONTAGU, DALKEITH HOUSE

(8-70)MY DEAR LORD,-I had your favour yesterday just after  
(8-70)I forwarded young Raeburns letter. I hope the difference  
(8-70)between the pictures may be less than I apprehended as I  
(8-70)understand poor Sir Henry wrought on yours after I saw  
(8-70)it. We will certainly be at home here from the 11th to  
(8-70)the 18th and happy to see as much of your Lordship as  
(8-70)your mor[e] weighty engagements will permit. We are  
(8-70)dislodging the work-people as the French did the Spaniards  
(8-70)at Saragossa beating them that [is] from room to room.  
(8-70)I am very desirous to have your Lordships opinion on this  
(8-70)dream of a house for such is its best description Always (in  
(8-70)haste) most truly yours W SCOTT

(8-70)ABBOTSFORD 5 August [1823]

(8-70)The Knight of Gattonside is bound for the highlands  
[Buccleuch]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-70)MY DEAR SIR,-I will be happy to communicate with  
(8-70)you on the subject you mention so important to us all.1

1823

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-71)I have a complete state of these affairs made up at  
(8-71)Whitsunday and have knowlege also of what has been done  
(8-71)in the way of reduction or addition since that time. I am  
(8-71)therefore quite prepared to receive your opinion and the

(8-71)advice your experience may enable you to afford. Had  
(8-71)matters continued in their usual train the reduction would  
(8-71)have been greater as you see it is very considerable. I  
(8-71)will be glad either to hear from or to see you on these  
(8-71)subject[s] and am always very truly yours

(8-71)ABBOTSFORD 10 Augt. [PM. 1823] W SCOTT

(8-71)We expect some Highland game which I begd Mr. Scrope  
(8-71)to address to your House hoping your clerk would forward  
(8-71)it by the Blucher or Carlisle mail coach according to the  
(8-71)time of the arrival. I sent M[r.] Napiers proof on tuesday

(8-71)private  
[Stevenson]

72 LETTERS OF 1823

TO JOHN ADOLPHUS

ABBOTSFORD, August 14th [1823]

(8-72)MY DEAR SIR,-I have received your very acceptable  
(8-72)favour, and will be particularly happy to have the  
(8-72)pleasure of seeing you, according to your kind proposal  
(8-72)of being with us on the 24th or 25th current.

(8-72)Here shall you see  
(8-72)No enemy ;  
(8-72)But winter and foul weather.

(8-72)The walls, however, are thick, and we will be merry  
(8-72)within, though the storm seems determined to make the  
(8-72)welkin split without doors. Yours very truly,

(8-72)WALTER SCOTT

[Doig Wilson and Wheatley]

TO LIEUT. WALTER SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS, R.M. COLLEGE,  
BAGSHOT, SURREY

(8-72)MY DEAR WALTER,-We are very anxious about these  
(8-72)repeated visits of the ague and think them much owing  
(8-72)to your own thoughtlessness who are apt to forget that  
(8-72)the ague is not like a fever which is beat out of the field  
(8-72)after a pitched battle with the Doctor but rather maintains  
(8-72)a guerilla warfare which unless managed with circumspection  
(8-72)may last many years and embitter your life as  
(8-72)well as interfere with your professional duties. I intreat  
(8-72)and request you as you value our happiness to pay serious  
(8-72)attention to the mode of treatment which may be recommended  
(8-72)and to follow it implicitly untill your health is  
(8-72)fairly re-established. You will otherwise give Mama and  
(8-72)me great distress and do much to injure the excellent  
(8-72)constitution with which God has blessed you.

(8-72)I inclose a cheque on Coutts for 50 to replace your  
(8-72)draught on your agent and to pay for your instruments.

1823                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      73

(8-73)Be a good husband of it for my poor brothers family are  
(8-73)like to cost me more money than I can comfortably afford.  
(8-73)But with steadiness and attention we shall do very  
(8-73)well.

(8-73>About your horse I am still uncertain. He is very useful  
(8-73)& suits you but scarce so handsome as to draw what  
(8-73)you aim at. I therefor[e] think it better to keep than to  
(8-73)sell him for you will not probably get your price for him  
(8-73)-he suits you & is up to your weight and it may cost you  
(8-73)much to get one that will do so. I have applied to Sir

(8-73)Alexr. Don hoping his grooms may know of a steady  
(8-73)fellow to ride him up to Sandhurst & though it should  
(8-73)cost 12 or 14 I am afraid that a large sum will hardly  
(8-73)balance the selling and buying a new charger. I will  
(8-73)however act by the advice of the knowing ones and do as  
(8-73)I shall be advised is most expedient.

(8-73)I really beg you will write often especially while you  
(8-73)feel any tendency to relapse. You may be aware how  
(8-73)natural it is for us to ascribe your silence to illness and  
(8-73)how easily you may prevent anxious moments by writing  
(8-73)to me or other[s] of the family once a week. I am particularly  
(8-73)anxious to hear about your studies & the disposal  
(8-73)of your time at the College-how you like it-how you  
(8-73)are establishd in Lodgings and all these trifling  
(8-73)particulars which are interesting to us when we are absent  
(8-73)from those that are dear to us.

(8-73)When you go to town do not omit the Duke of Yorkes  
(8-73)levee. His R.H. has been uniformly kind to you and  
(8-73)attended to every application in your behalf and gratitude  
(8-73)as well as propriety dictate your paying every proper degree  
(8-73)of attention. Young men are apt to give offence unintentionally  
(8-73)merely from shyness and a natural reluctance  
(8-73)to put themselves forwards. But shyness is not only silly  
(8-73)but actually impertinent when good manners and gratitude  
(8-73)dictate your taking steps to shew yourself sensible of  
(8-73)benefits received.

(8-73)If you present the inclosed in person at Coutts I am

(8-74)sure my friend Sir Edmund Antrobus 1 or Sir Coutts  
(8-74)Trotter will be happy to shake you by the hand. When  
(8-74)the Duke of Wellington comes to London I will send you

(8-74)a letter to him of introduction.

(8-74)We expect all the Buccleuch family tomorrow and I

(8-74)regret you are not here to help us to entertain them.

(8-74)Charles & Mr. Surtees leave us soon so we shall be quite

(8-74)(8-74)lonely in comparasion to what we have been this summer.

(8-74)But so long as you are all well and improving we must be

(8-74)content to be deprived of your society for such is the

(8-74)habit of Scotland where the sons and the black cattle are

(8-74)always sent abroad.

(8-74)I need scarce say how anxious I am that you should

(8-74)make [the] most of your time at the College. The opportunity

(8-74)of attending there has been obtained at the expence of

(8-74)some trouble perhaps of some ill will and were it neglected

(8-74)would throw some ridicule upon us for the anxiety with

(8-74)which we thought of & pursued it. But this I am not

(8-74)afraid of as I was pleased to observe that you gave yourself

(8-74)with earnestness to your mathematical studies when with

(8-74)us. Do not neglect your french and german but read

(8-74)frequently in both besides embracing the opportunities

(8-74)which I presume the college affords to perfect yourself

(8-74)in these important requisites for your profession.

(8-74)Anne writes a few lines and all the rest send a hundred

(8-74)loving compliments. I am always your affectionate father

(8-74)ABBOTSFORD 16 August [PM. 1823]      WALTER SCOTT

(8-74)I have just received this letter and send you the inclosed

(8-74)Ostensible 2 to Sir George Murray who is aware how far

(8-74)I was from wishing to sacrifice your years residence at

(8-74)Sandhurst to your going on full pay. If it could be

(8-75)arranged by your going into another regiment instead of  
(8-75)the 15th I should have no great objection as I foresee  
(8-75)inconveniences to you in that regiment hereafter. Sir  
(8-75)George Murray or Sir Herbert Taylor will advise you  
(8-75)about this. When you go to London pray call on poor  
(8-75)Colonel Stanhope.

[Law]

TO LIEUTENANT WALTER SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS

(8-75)MY DEAR WALTER,-I have just received your letter  
(8-75)enquiring whether I had come on your part under any  
(8-75)engagement with the Commanding Officer of the 15th  
(8-75)Hussars respecting your giving up your attendance on  
(8-75)Sandhurst College in consequence of your entering that  
(8-75)regiment. I have to reply that I had no communication  
(8-75)with the Commanding Officer of the 15th or any other  
(8-75)person either for the above or any other purpose the exchange  
(8-75)having been conducted by the Agents in the usual form.

(8-75)Indeed I must add that so far from being willing to  
(8-75)renounce on your part the advantages of the Royal  
(8-75)Military College I made enquiry previous to the Exchange  
(8-75)whether the promotion to full pay would be likely to  
(8-75)interfere with that arrangement as though I am fully  
(8-75)sensible of the great advantages of your joining so  
(8-75)distinguishd a corps as the 15th you must yourself be aware  
(8-75)it has been always my great anxiety that you should have  
(8-75)an opportunity of studying the scientific department of  
(8-75)your profession.

(8-75)I regret deeply that you should have been placed in a  
(8-75)situation opposed in any respect to the wishes of those to  
(8-75)whom you owe the highest deference but the collision  
(8-75)which has occasiond it being totally unexpected on my

(8-75)part I had not the means of avoiding it.

(8-75)All here send love. I am always Dear Walter Your

(8-75)affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

(8-75)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 17th Augt. [1823]

[Law]

76                      LETTERS      OF                      1823

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-76)DEAR SIR,-I am very sorry at the disappointment of  
(8-76)today still more at the cause 1 -I hope Mrs. Constables  
(8-76)health will be soon reestablishd. There is much may be  
(8-76)better said than written upon our matters not that the  
(8-76)essential part cannot be as well expressd on paper but  
(8-76)a personal interview between friends leads them more  
(8-76)perfectly to understand the tone of feeling upon which  
(8-76)their resolution rests. The first question I should candidly  
(8-76)have asked you was whether the cause of your present  
(8-76)correspondence arose merely out of the extent of those  
(8-76)pecuniary transactions which I am as desirous as you to  
(8-76)abridge or whether the deficiency of the sale of Q.D. has  
(8-76)diminishd your general confidence in this sort of literature  
(8-76)and inclined you to restrict on all points our hitherto very  
(8-76)extensive concerns. Do not suppose me selfish enough to  
(8-76)be vexd or angry if the latter should be the case and pray  
(8-76)be candid and speak it out at once. I cannot expect  
(8-76)and do not wish you to bestow the capital your skill &  
(8-76)industry has acquired upon that which does not promise  
(8-76)profit-nor do I think that because our former intercourse

1823

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-77)has been lucrative I have acquired or would wish to  
(8-77)exercise any right to put my hand into your pocket deeper  
(8-77)than you desire. You observe that very different arrangements  
(8-77)must be thought upon in these two different cases.  
(8-77)I will not deny that I sincerely wish that your letters may  
(8-77)bear the full meaning of your present correspondence  
(8-77)because though I should not be surprized yet I should be  
(8-77)sorry that there was a deeper cause lurking in your mind  
(8-77)than that which you have assigned.

(8-77)On the subject of the accomodations supposing that  
(8-77)the only subject of discussion between us I would have  
(8-77)shewn you my own calculations for reducing them the  
(8-77)operation of which have been only postponed by the delay  
(8-77)of publishing this new affair a delay which shall cease  
(8-77)immediatly as I have finishd Mr. Napiers article 1 which  
(8-77)proved a tougher piece of work than I expected.

(8-77)When that affair is publishd say in the end of October  
(8-77)I will have 4000 of bills instantly and if you incline to  
(8-77)contract for another work as hitherto I shall have between  
(8-77) 7000. and 8000. Out of this sum I have no occasion  
(8-77)whatever for more than about 1200 which I wish to  
(8-77)pay an old debt with but even this is not pressing. The  
(8-77)application of 6500,, of these receipts to the floating  
(8-77)balance would bring down the accomodations to 12000,,  
(8-77)and I could easily reduce it within the space of the next  
(8-77)three months to 8000 or 10,000 the sum mentiond  
(8-77)in your letter. You mentiond to me that an accomodation  
(8-77)of 5000,, could be had & such might be used in  
(8-77)whole or in part to turn into cash the long dated bills which  
(8-77)I mentiond as accruing to me upon [the] publication of  
(8-77)St. Ronans. I have no debts here of the least annoyance  
(8-77)my land being almost all paid for. My house is also so  
(8-77)far cleard as I have paid 4000 to account. And my  
(8-77)personal income free of interests etc is amply sufficient



(8-77)for my expences besides which most of my land is let

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LETTERS OF

1823

(8-78)or will be let next Whitsunday. If you had been here  
(8-78)I should have had no reluctance to confide to you the  
(8-78)most minute particulars of my own affairs & show you  
(8-78)that with moderate deductions for certain purposes I  
(8-78)propose that the whole produce of my literary labour shall  
(8-78)go to extinguish those accomodations which have accumulated  
(8-78)far beyond my wish. If you think these explanations  
(8-78)& this plan of proceeding satisfactory you will let me  
(8-78)know. If the grounds of the anxiety you have expressed  
(8-78)be deeper I shall be no less desirous to know them and I  
(8-78)intreat you for the sake of all concerned to be explicit on  
(8-78)the subject and to rely that whatever future courses we  
(8-78)may either of us think of adopting my efforts to fulfill all  
(8-78)existing engagements will be as zealous as ever. I am  
(8-78)in haste to save post Dear Constable Very truly yours

(8-78)ABBOTSFORD 21 Augt. [PM. 1823]      WALTER SCOTT

(8-78)I thought it better to write thus explicitly without delay  
(8-78)-it is putting something off both our minds. When Mrs.  
(8-78)Constables health will permit we will be happy to see you  
(8-78)here to talk affairs more fully over. You are quite at  
(8-78)liberty to show this to Mr. Caddel. I should be sorry he  
(8-78)thought I was acting unwisely in my own affairs or  
(8-78)unfairly in yours. In saying I receive 4000 I count only on  
(8-78)making about 2200 or 2300,, effectual because there are  
(8-78)expences of print & paper to repay out of the gross sum.

[Stevenson]

TO CONSTABLE AND CO.

(8-78)GENTLEMEN,-I am duly favoured with your letter 1 and  
(8-78)adverting to the statement you there make I quite agree

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-79)with you in the propriety of abridging these transactions  
(8-79)which are founded on accomodation. With this purpose  
(8-79)I have adopted and maintained a system of retrenchment  
(8-79)which has reduced 6000 since April last as will appear  
(8-79)from your books. I propose to have this present work  
(8-79)out of hand by the end of October and propose you  
(8-79)should then contract for another on the same terms the  
(8-79)money to be applied to retire the same value of accomodation  
(8-79)bills. I shall have at the same time the command of  
(8-79)about 4000 long dated bills which may go to the same  
(8-79)purpose so far as they can be discounted & betwixt these  
(8-79)two resources I imagine there will be little difficulty in  
(8-79)clearing of[f] 6000 or thereabouts at Martinmas and such  
(8-79)being the case the sum will be brought down to 12000  
(8-79)and I have little doubt of bringing it entirely within your  
(8-79)hands (indeed very much within them) by Whitsunday. I  
(8-79)look forward to this without the least doubt or shadow of

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(8-80)anxiety. Only if Mr. Constables experience and knowlege  
(8-80)of these matters can suggest any mode of turning  
(8-80)over 4000 or 5000 till about Whitsunday it would save  
(8-80)expence and even the possibility of inconvenience.

(8-80)I mentiond to Mr. Constable in a private letter that I  
(8-80)might need about 1200 or 1400 to pay off some of the  
(8-80)very little personal debts which remain due by me but  
(8-80)should this seem to impede the operation of our scheme of  
(8-80)retrenchment too much I can let it lie over.

(8-80)I hope we understand each other perfectly and am in  
(8-80)haste Gentlemen Your obedt. Servant

(8-80)WALTER SCOTT

(8-80)ABBOTSFORD 23 August 1823

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[August 1823]

(8-80)DEAR JAMES,-I have your letter with all the inclosures  
(8-80)and am obliged by your attention to all my commissions.  
(8-80)I send you the proofs and a reasonable lot of copy & will  
(8-80)keep forward.

(8-80)I hope you will take care of your health. A ticklish  
(8-80)stomach is ill united with a naturally good appetite and  
(8-80)a sedentary disposition not to mention a natural love of  
(8-80)society when one can add to its amusements and happiness.  
(8-80)I think there is nothing for you so good as temperance  
(8-80)even to abstemiousness for a little while for I do not  
(8-80)think it is right [to] practise it long. This would suit  
(8-80)you I think with exercise and the privation I believe is  
(8-80)not great after the few first days.

(8-80)I am much obliged by Caddells letter which I take  
(8-80)most kind & friendly and beg you will say so to him. But  
(8-80)I am sure it will appear when I have the Accots. I have  
(8-80)so long wishd that the engagements in which the business  
(8-80)stands on my accompt are greatly diminishd since  
(8-80)Whitsunday. I have not the means of exact calculation but

(8-81)I think from memory the inputs 1 on my account will

(8-81)stand nearly thus-

(8-81)Two engagements say 3000 each are - - 6000

(8-81)The various prices for your sheets printing &c

(8-81)cannot be less than on two copies - - 3000

(8-81)Printing office Bills have been perhaps - - 3000

12000

(8-81)

(8-81)Out of this sum I took on bills at

(8-81)Marts. ----- 1500,,

(8-81)To pay Erske. & Curl - - - 350,,

(8-81)In various sums by you say - - 500

(8-81)Acceptance to be discounted at

(8-81)Galashiels - - - - 300 2350

9750

(8-81)Now off this balance must come perhaps 2000 for

(8-81)wages &c which are going on making money to repay

(8-81)themselves with interest which will still leave 7750 paid

(8-81)off against debts formerly existing which is a great deal

(8-81)more than our good friend wishes. If I had the Accompts

(8-81)I am sure I could show this distinctly.

(8-81)My own engagements are these. On the 15 I lett my

(8-81)grass parkes which hitherto a source of expence will be

(8-81)now a source of revenue. My establishment here will

(8-81)of course be curtaild and next year abridged to a small

(8-81)focus. The expence of my house & furniture must go

(8-81)on but as nearly 3000 has been paid I calculate 2000

(8-81)mor[e] will finish me. I must pay my poor brothers

(8-81)draughts-and I shall be desirous to get Walter again into

(8-81)the active line of his profession which will stand me

(8-81)[in] a good deal of money. I am offerd an exchange  
(8-81)for the full pay of his own regimt. The regulation  
(8-81)price 600 but it will cost me 300 or 400 of premium  
(8-81)much of which however will be saved on his being  
(8-81)possessed of the dresses and rattle traps of different kinds

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LETTERS OF

1823

(8-82)which going into a new regiment would cost him at least  
(8-82) 300,, thanks to our horse-millinery. I have no debts  
(8-82)that can be claimd of me and I think that during a  
(8-82)twelve month I cannot need more than about 3000 on  
(8-82)these various accounts while my income will more than  
(8-82)treble that amount if God gives me health and  
(8-82)continuance of spirits. I therefore think that our friends  
(8-82)prudent advice is like to be much more than accomplishd.  
(8-82)In the above statement I have taken no notice of my  
(8-82)official & properly personal income which defrays my  
(8-82)ordinary expenditure including the allowance & education  
(8-82)to my children.

(8-82)I shall be glad to know how all this corresponds with  
(8-82)facts as they stand on your books of which you alone can  
(8-82)inform me. The influx of the money is certain & the  
(8-82)mode of its expenditure is easily traced when one has the  
(8-82)cyphers. You are at perfect liberty to show this to our  
(8-82)good friend. I do not pretend to be the most saving man  
(8-82)in the world because I think my family having independent  
(8-82)expectations or rather certainties leave my hands  
(8-82)much at liberty. But my expences are orderly and with  
(8-82)a view to future though distant profit, & not so distant  
(8-82)neither for Abbotsford begins to pay pretty well times  
(8-82)considerd. I have several offers for a good farm I have to  
(8-82)let and as I mentiond before I expect a round rent for Six  
(8-82)large grass parkes of which I inclose the advertisement.  
(8-82)Nevertheless

(8-82)Your Banks being furnished with Bees

(8-82)I scarce expect that

(8-82)Their murmurs should invite you to sleep.<sup>1</sup>

(8-82)And am at all times ready to do my best to contribute to

(8-82)your repose. Yours truly W. SCOTT

(8-82)ABBOTSFORD Sunday eveng.

[Glen]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO LT. W. SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS, R. MIL. COL., SANDHURST

(8-83)MY DEAR WALTER,-As Rose is here to give me a frank

(8-83)I-hasten [to] say I received your letter and observe with

(8-83)regret that your health continues precarious. I intreat

(8-83)you to take good care of it and shun all temptations to

(8-83)intemperance either in eating drinking exercise or study.

(8-83)Your hours seem pretty completely filld up and I hope

(8-83)to purpose. The french and german you already in some

(8-83)degree possess and you must labour not to lose ground if

(8-83)you cannot get any.

(8-83)Your horse started for England this morning under

(8-83)protection of Thomas Scott a groom recommended by

(8-83)Sir Alexr. Don who mentions the terms in the inclosed

(8-83)note. I have given him seven pounds to accompt so I

(8-83)fancy the whole which you will have to pay him on arrival

(8-83)can scarce be more than about 5., 0., 0. He proposes

(8-83)to lead the horse great part of the way & if he does so will

(8-83)deserve his 5 per diem well enough. I think you will be

(8-83)a gainer this way as the horse seemd a favorite and as you

(8-83)could not have got one fitted for your purpose cheaper

(8-83)than 70., or 80., and probably Saint George would



(8-84)to see you any day next week which will best suit you

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-85)Monday excepted. I hope Mrs. Constables health will be  
(8-85)no longer any objection to this trip which will do you good  
(8-85)besides the business we have to transact together.

(8-85)There are two books I wish much to have-Recollections  
(8-85)on the Peninsula-and The Sexagenarian 1818.1

(8-85)I have to thank you for a most splendid collection of  
(8-85)Witches which I trust to turn to good accompt.2  
(8-85)Shakespeare arrived safe. Yours truly W SCOTT  
(8-85)friday [PM. 29 August 1823] 3

(8-85)SELKIRK

(8-85)per W. Shore  
[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE, MR. HOGARTHS, TEVIOT GROVE,  
JEDBURGH

(8-85)MY DEAR JAMES,-I am sincerely concernd at your  
(8-85)feeling yourself again obliged to withdraw from business  
(8-85)and the cause. In my own case I should have preferd a  
(8-85)lodging by the sea if bathing is indeed recommended to  
(8-85)the residing in any friends house how intimate soever  
(8-85)because diet society or solitude are much more in ones

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(8-86)own power. But I sincerely trust your own remedy will  
(8-86)suit. The use of the fleshbrush or still better the human  
(8-86)hand on the spine you will find of real use in those chilling



(8-86)fits you mention. But you must be rubd as long as you  
(8-86)can bear it.

(8-86)I send the notes inclosed-we will not be able long to  
(8-86)want a superintendent on the spot for as the Woman said  
(8-86)(an Aberdonian) in travail "This may dee for a wee  
(8-86)whilie but it winna dee long." I return the proofs &c to  
(8-86)Cadell. I wish you above all to attend to your spirits.  
(8-86)Your stomach since I knew you has always given you  
(8-86)alarms of the kind which now annoy you and though  
(8-86)these things do not mend with advancing life yet men  
(8-86)should learn to bear with more confidence. I (who am  
(8-86)most interested in your health after your family) have  
(8-86)always observed that it is best when your mind is fully  
(8-86)occupied and worst when time permits you to attend most to  
(8-86)your maladies. So rouse up a brave mind and do not after  
(8-86)having labourd through the tempest die of a Calm forsooth.

(8-86)We will be very happy to see Mrs. Ballantyne and you  
(8-86)any time except from 16th. to 20 or thereabout when I am  
(8-86)to be in Lanarkshire. I send herein [ ] copy. Yours  
(8-86)truly  
(8-86)WALTER SCOTT

(8-86)ABBOTSFORD 3 Sept [1823]

(8-86)I have been two days at Minto which prevented my  
(8-86)writing to you.

[Glen]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(8-86)MY DEAR CHARLES,-Upon a rummage at this place I  
(8-86)have discoverd a few more duplicates of which I beg your  
(8-86)acceptance so far as you are unprovided. They are none

(8-86)of them of any value but I judge that sometimes a shabby  
(8-86)book happens to accomodate an antiquary as an useless  
(8-86)piece of wood will stop a leak. John Stevenson will also  
(8-86)shew you and submit to your inspection all the rest of my

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-87)ballant-books eight or ten of which all (or chiefly) modern  
(8-87)trash I am so superfluous as to wish done up like those of  
(8-87)Bell-pray let John have a volume for a specimen-You  
(8-87)are to keep all the duplicates of those scroll copies that  
(8-87)you care for. I know that there are a good many. When  
(8-87)you are quite done with the ballads-not a minute  
(8-87)sooner-you may return them by the Melrose carrier as  
(8-87)I approach the place of the library in which they are to  
(8-87)be arranged & catalogued. My laborious scribe has got  
(8-87)about half way through his task.

(8-87)I am much diverted with your account of a certain  
(8-87)learn'd Baronet. Lord send him a good deliverance.  
(8-87)Excuse brevity my eyes are complaining of ill usage  
(8-87)having ridden through Yarrow and Moffat dales to  
(8-87)Drumlanrig (as I told you of late) in a blue bonnet with  
(8-87)never a brim to it. I am always my dear Sharpe truly  
(8-87)yours while W. SCOTT

(8-87)ABBOTSFORD 6 (1) September [1823]

[Hornet]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-87)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-The promised packet was  
(8-87)delay'd but I now inclose it. Pray keep up your spirits  
(8-87)and do not let your spirit be cast down. You are our  
(8-87)helmsman and we cannot do without you. I think the

(8-87)Article on romance may as well be concluded as it stands.

(8-87)Yours always WALTER SCOTT

(8-87)ABBOTSFORD Wednesday [docketed 10 Sept. 1823]

[Stevenson]

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TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-88)DEAR CONSTABLE,-I send you two proofs and a lot of

(8-88)copy. Pray get me a box of Bramah's patent pens such

(8-88)as the empty box inclosed. I use them fast now for

(8-88)mending is out of the question with me. J. Ballantyne

(8-88)is to be at the office on Wednesday to abide there and to

(8-88)be in constant communication with you when you require

(8-88)him. I leave this place for the circuit on Tuesday and

(8-88)go to Lanarkshire 1 for two days afterwards but count to

(8-88)be back on Friday at furthest. The work is about half

(8-88)finished or more. I would be glad to hear of your health

(8-88)& spirits. You should keep up both my good old friend

(8-88)for your own sake & that of Your trusty correspondent.

(8-88)WALTER SCOTT

(8-88)ABBOTSFORD Sunday [14th -docketed Sept. 1823] 2

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-88)DEAR JAMES,-I sent you a bill & proofs 3 &c from

(8-88)Lanark which doubtless you had. I now return sheet C.

(8-88)but beg to insist that in future the sheets be sent in order

(8-88)for Sheet D was that which I returned from Lanark. My

(8-88)difficulties are greatly increased by the proofs not being

(8-89)returnd in order of reading and I beg they may be so sent  
 (8-89)in future. I send you also a lot of copy.

(8-89)I am in need of some writing paper such as this which  
 (8-89)I write on-thick small post. I hope you find yourself  
 (8-89)well on resuming the oar-nothing like labour in this best  
 (8-89)of possible world[s]. But I conclude you must be greatly  
 (8-89)better as I do not suppose Mrs. Ballantyne would  
 (8-89)otherwise have trusted you to your own management. When  
 (8-89)you tire [ ] take a ride out here and I will take care of  
 (8-89)you. Yours truly W S  
 (8-89)Sunday night [21 September 1823]1

(8-89)I mentiond you might send proofs under the weight of  
 (8-89)2 oz-(two penny-pieces) under Mr Roses cover. It will  
 (8-89)prevent mistakes to put them under an inner cover to me.  
 (8-89>Your name Jas. Ballantyne on the outside. Divide into  
 (8-89)two when one will not serve.

[Glen]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH, EDGEWORTHSTOWN

(8-89)ABBOTSFORD, 22d Sept. 1823

(8-89)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,-Miss Harriet had the  
 (8-89)goodness to give me an account of your safe arrival in the  
 (8-89)Green Isle, of which I was, sooth to say, extremely glad ;  
 (8-89)for I had my own private apprehensions that your very  
 (8-89)disagreeable disorder might return while you were among  
 (8-89)strangers, and in our rugged climate. I now conclude  
 (8-89)you are settled quietly at home, and looking back on  
 (8-89)recollections of mountains, and valleys, and pipes, and  
 (8-89)clans, and cousins, and masons, and carpenters, and

(8-89)puppy-dogs, and all the confusion of Abbotsford,as one  
(8-89)does on the recollections of a dream. We shall not easily  
(8-89)forget the vision of having seen you and our two young

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1823

(8-90)friends, and your kind indulgence for all our humours,  
(8-90)sober and fantastic, rough or smooth. Mamma writes  
(8-90)to make her own acknowledgments for your very kind  
(8-90)attention about the cobweb stockings, which reached us  
(8-90)under the omnipotent frank of Croker, who, like a true  
(8-90)Irish heart, never scruples stretching his powers a little  
(8-90)to serve a friend.

(8-90)We are all here much as you left us, only in possession  
(8-90)of our drawing-room, and glorious with our gas-lights,  
(8-90)which as yet have only involved us once in total darkness  
(8-90)-once in a temporary eclipse. In both cases the remedy  
(8-90)was easy, and the cause obvious ; and if the gas has no  
(8-90)greater objections than I have yet seen or can anticipate,  
(8-90)it is soon like to put wax and mutton-suet entirely out of  
(8-90)fashion. I have recovered, by great accident, another  
(8-90)verse or two of Miss Sophia's beautiful Irish air ; it is  
(8-90)only curious as hinting at the cause of the poor damsel  
(8-90)of the red petticoat's deep dolour :-

(8-90)I went to the mill, but the miller was gone ;  
(8-90)I sate me down and cried ochone,  
(8-90)To think on the days that are past and gone,  
(8-90)Of Dickie Macphalion that's slain.  
(8-90)Shool, shool, &c.

(8-90)I sold my rock, I sold my reel,  
(8-90)And sae hae I my spinning-wheel,  
(8-90)And all to buy a cap of steel,  
(8-90)For Dickie Macphalion that's slain.

(8-90)Shool, shool &c. &c.1

(8-90)But who was Dickie Macphalion for whom this lament  
(8-90)Was composed     Who was the Pharaoh for whom the  
(8-90)Pyramid was raised     The questions are equally dubious  
(8-90)And equally important, but as the one, we may reasonably  
(8-90)Suppose, was a King of Egypt, so I think we may guess  
(8-90)The other to have been a Captain of Rapparees, since the  
(8-90)Ladies, God bless them, honour with the deepest of their

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-91)lamentation gallants who live wildly, die bravely, and  
(8-91)scorn to survive until they become old and not worth  
(8-91)weeping for. So much for Dickie Macphalion, who, I  
(8-91)dare say, was in his day "a proper young man." 1

(8-91)We have had Sir Humphry Davy here for a day or two,  
(8-91)very pleasant and instructive, and Will Rose for a month  
(8-91)-that is, coming and going.-Lockhart has been pleading  
(8-91)at the circuit for a clansman of mine, who, having  
(8-91)sustained an affront from two men on the road home from  
(8-91)Earlstown fair, nobly waylaid and murdered them both  
(8-91)single-handed.2 He also cut off their noses, which was  
(8-91)carrying the matter rather too far, and so the jury thought  
(8-91)-so my namesake must strap for it, as many of The Rough  
(8-91)Clan have done before him. After this Lockhart and I  
(8-91)went to Sir Henry Stewart's, to examine his process of  
(8-91)transplanting trees. He exercises wonderful power,  
(8-91)certainly, over the vegetable world, and has made his  
(8-91)trees dance about as merrily as ever did Orpheus ; but  
(8-91)he has put me out of conceit with my profession of a  
(8-91)landscape gardener, now I see so few brains are necessary  
(8-91)for a stock in trade. I wish Miss Harriet would dream no  
(8-91)more ominous visions about Spicie.3 The poor thing

(8-92)has been very ill of that fatal disorder proper to the  
 (8-92)canine race, called, par excellence, the Distemper. I have  
 (8-92)prescribed for her, as who should say thus you would  
 (8-92)doctor a dog, and I hope to bring her through, as she is a  
 (8-92)very affectionate little creature, and of a fine race. She  
 (8-92)has still an odd wheezing, however, which makes me  
 (8-92)rather doubtful of success. The Lockharts are both well,  
 (8-92)and at present our lodgers, together with John Hugh, or,  
 (8-92)as he calls himself, Donichue, which sounds like one of  
 (8-92)your old Irish kings. They all join in everything kind  
 (8-92)and affectionate to you and the young ladies, and best  
 (8-92)compliments to your brother.-Believe me ever, dear  
 (8-92)Miss Edgeworth, yours, with the greatest truth and  
 (8-92)respect, WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-92)DEAR JAMES,-I inclose a rect. for •'250 due to me on  
 (8-92)20th by Mr. Marshal, Register House. It may be he  
 (8-92)may not pay all at once in which case he will

(8-92)Give all he can & let us dream the rest.1

(8-92)I also send a summons to pay up a share of the Waterloo  
 (8-92)Humbug tavern [ ]. It is about •'25 with some interest  
 (8-92)I suppose which perhaps you will be so good as to pay out  
 (8-92)of said rect.

(8-92)I am vexd enough about Constable 2 who I believe is  
 (8-92)more to be pitied than blamd for I saw marks of insanity  
 (8-92)about him while he was here. To write to him would be  
 (8-92)only to make matters worse I believe the best is to jouk 3

(8-92)& let the jaw go bye. In short to be quiet & perhaps he  
(8-92)will come right or some other crisis may end it.

(8-92)I beg you will be on the watch for who knows what a

1823                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      93

(8-93)day may bring forth. I am glad your health is better  
(8-93)exercise and temperance does much for every one. I return  
(8-93)all the sheets hitherto sent and a trifle more copy. I am  
(8-93)determined not to let these untoward circumstances vex  
(8-93)me more than can be helpd. I have not the slightest doubt  
(8-93)of Cadells honour & integrity & I am specially glad he  
(8-93)is on the spot at this awkward time.

(8-93)You have never returnd my book made up-Yours truly  
(8-93)Tuesday 23 Sepr [1823]                      WALTER SCOTT  
[Stevenson]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

[Copy]

(8-93)MY DEAR SISTER,-I am extremely glad to see by your  
(8-93)letter just received that you are once more in your native  
(8-93)land not I hope again to leave it. I have the pleasure to  
(8-93)say Walter is well and well-doing. He spent the vacation  
(8-93)with us at Midsummer and I have the utmost pleasure  
(8-93)in saying what I would not say were it not true. I  
(8-93)consider him not only as an amiable and well disposed  
(8-93)boy but as possessed of talents and application likely to  
(8-93)make his way in the world. He has gained some advantages  
(8-93)in his school since he went back and from all I can  
(8-93)learn is giving himself seriously to his studies. His  
(8-93)address is Cadet East India Co's Service Addiscombe  
(8-93)Croydon. I proposed that he should have staid at the



(8-93)College this ensuing Christmas and plied the [oar]. But  
(8-93)I think now he must come down and see Mama and  
(8-93)his sisters. I need scarce say your drat. for •'100 was of  
(8-93)course duly honoured by me. All our affairs of business  
(8-93)are in the hands of Mr John Gibson successor of poor

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(8-94)Donaldson and who I can recommend as completely  
(8-94)trustworthy. If you want any money pray let me know  
(8-94)& it shall be supplied.

(8-94)My wife and daughters send best love and kind compliments  
(8-94)to their cousins. We will be particularly desirous  
(8-94)to see you here as soon as the claims of Mrs McCulloch  
(8-94)and your brothers will permit and I am especially so as  
(8-94)I shall make much better acquaintance with my nieces  
(8-94)here than is possible in Edinburgh. We are bound  
(8-94)thither as you know on 11 November so I hope you will  
(8-94)fix to come to see us so soon as your other engagements  
(8-94)will permit and remain as long as you can. We have  
(8-94)plenty of room having just completed an addition to my  
(8-94)house which makes it large enough to all intents &  
(8-94)purposes. In the meantime if I can be of any use or  
(8-94)assistance either by council or act in your future plans of  
(8-94)residence &c you will do me the greatest pleasure to  
(8-94)acquaint being with great sincerity My dear Sister Yours  
(8-94)very affectionately                                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-94)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 23 Sept [1823]

[Miss B. L. Hutchins]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-94)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I have your letter with the

(8-94)parcel alluded to and write in haste as I want to take a ride  
(8-94)this fine morning.

(8-94)The last of the Ordnance maps which I have is No 40  
(8-94)being [a] large part of Pembrokeshire whatever has been  
(8-94)since publishd I would gladly be posscsd of.

(8-94)The Copy for Swift l is lying in my dressing room in  
(8-94)Castle Street and I should wish to have it sent out here  
(8-94)without loss of time-it lies on the top of a small table  
(8-94)close by the Mahogany cabinet and the housekeeper on  
(8-94)shewing her this letter will allow you to pack it up and

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(8-95)forward it with the reprint so far as it has gone and  
(8-95)Vol XXX as arranged for press. I should wish you to take  
(8-95)the trouble to see the books packed yourself in case of  
(8-95)mistakes or accidents and besides it is not every one I  
(8-95)would send into these premises.

(8-95)I am glad every thing is going on to your satisfaction  
(8-95)as it is to mine. I wish when your time hangs a little  
(8-95)heavey and you are fatigued with business you would come  
(8-95)out for a quiet day or two & sort the Auld Buikies.  
(8-95)Davie Laing is in the neighbourhood & we could hold a  
(8-95)committee of Bannatynians. If I knew when you could  
(8-95)come I would whistle him over from Minto. Health &  
(8-95)fraternity    WALTER SCOTT

(8-95)28 Septr. 1823

(8-95)Many thanks for Hercules Cramond l who seems a  
(8-95)queer liege [    ].

(8-95)Private

[Stevenson]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-95)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-Many thanks for the Witch-  
(8-95)craft book-A'thing helps as the wren said when it  
(8-95)bestowd the superfluities of its person upon the sea.

(8-95)As you request I have put Swift in full progress. It  
(8-95)only waited some calculations about dividing the  
(8-95)volumes. I think as the Index must necessarily be  
(8-95)revised you should bestow a good one upon this classick  
(8-95)-the last was one of [the] most careless I ever saw-some  
(8-95)of poor Webers hasty works I suppose. Ballantyne has  
(8-95)five volumes in his hands now & the rest may be had on  
(8-95)two days notice or sooner.

(8-95)The weather is bad and imprisons me in the house  
(8-95)where I endeavour to be busy. I send a drawing of my

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(8-96)arms properly tintured which you have long wishd.  
(8-96)They look very natty I think. Yours truly

(8-96)ABBOTSFORD Monday [docketed 1823]    WALTER SCOTT  
[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-96)DEAR JAMES,-I return the proof with a paltry supply  
(8-96)of copy being frankly too lazy to write in this delightful  
(8-96)weather and after a very long walk. I will waken up if  
(8-96)tomorrow be rainy as it threatens. At present the  
(8-96)country is delicious-it is positive enjoyment to live and  
(8-96)breathe a sort of cows paradise.

(8-96)You see the humbug of the Spanish war is over.<sup>1</sup> The  
(8-96)military who were radicals because they got no pay have  
(8-96)commenced anti-radicals because the radicals in their  
(8-96)turn have emptied their purse and can pay no longer.  
(8-96)The people that much abused name care as little for the  
(8-96)Spanish Constitution of 1812 as they care for baby-house  
(8-96)-You who are one of the great Hum-fums will be much  
(8-96)shocked at what every man who knows anything of the  
(8-96)European politics could have assured you of twenty  
(8-96)weeks ago-But much good may it do you & pray let  
(8-96)Naples & Spain excite a doubt when you read of nations  
(8-96)rising in mass to defend what nations dont care a damn  
(8-96)for-Nations as Spain proved in 1808 will rise in mass  
(8-96)for their own laws and independence as a country but  
(8-96)not for the visionary theories of constitution mongers.

(8-96)I trust we will interfere to get them real liberty which  
(8-96)in my opinion consists not in voting for members of  
(8-96)parliament so much as for personal security for life limb  
(8-96)and property often enjoyed much more perfectly under  
(8-96)the most apparently despotic government than under the

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(8-97)despotism of a popular government-of all others so far  
(8-97)as my knowledge of history goes the most severe and  
(8-97)intolerable because it is despotism exercised in the name  
(8-97)& under the pretence of freedom.

(8-97)To speak to what concerns us more nearly you will  
(8-97)look towards July with your first spare time as I suppose  
(8-97)& hope you will move soon to Harrowgate-if not you  
(8-97)lose the season : pray send the enclosed to Castle Street.  
(8-97)Yours very truly  
WALTER SCOTT

(8-97)ABBOTSFORD Sunday [docketed 1823]

[Fairley]

TO DAVID LAING 1

[October 1823]

(8-97)DEAR SIR,-I inclose some rough remarks on the  
(8-97)Howlat & have markd some others on the edge. It is a  
(8-97)curious tract. I doubt much if there is any satire on  
(8-97)James intended after all. If you avail yourself of any of  
(8-97)my suggestions I would like to see the revised proof before  
(8-97)throwing off. Yours truly W. SCOTT  
[Edin. Univ. Lib.]

TO DAVID LAING

(8-97)DEAR MR. DAVID,-I inclose the proof Sheets of the  
(8-97)Howlat and have made a few additions and alterations.  
(8-97)I am more & more convinced that there is no ground for  
(8-97)supposing James II to be the object of the poets satire.  
(8-97)I am always very truly yours WALTER SCOTT

(8-97)CASTLE STREET Tuesday [Oct. 1823]  
[Mitchell]

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TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(8-98)MY DEAREST FRIEND-Your very kind letter reachd  
(8-98)me just while I was deliberating how to address you on  
(8-98)the painful, most painful, subject to which it refers and  
(8-98)considering how I could best intrude my own sympathy  
(8-98)amidst your domestic affliction.<sup>1</sup> The invaluable token

(8-98)you have given of your friendship by thinking of me  
(8-98)at such a moment I will always regard as a most  
(8-98)precious tho' melancholy proof of its sincerity. We  
(8-98)have indeed to mourn such a man as since medicine was  
(8-98)first esteemd an useful and honourd science has rarely  
(8-98)occured to grace its annals and who will be lamented  
(8-98)so long as any one lives who has experienced the advantage  
(8-98)of his professional skill and the affectionate kindness  
(8-98)by which it was accompanied. My neighbour and  
(8-98)kinsman John Scott of Gala who was attended by our  
(8-98)excellent friend during a very dangerous illness is mingling  
(8-98)his sorrow with mine as one who laments almost a  
(8-98)second father and when in this remote corner there are

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(8-99)two who join in such a sincere tribute to his memory  
(8-99)what must be the sorrows within his more immediate  
(8-99)sphere of exertion. I do indeed sincerely pity the family  
(8-99)and friends who have lost such a head and that at the  
(8-99)very time when they might in the course of nature have  
(8-99)lookd to enjoy his society for many years and even more  
(8-99)closely and intimately than during the preceding period  
(8-99)of his life when his domestic intercourse was so much  
(8-99)broken in upon by his professional duties. It is not for  
(8-99)us in this limited state of observation and comprehension  
(8-99)to enquire why the lives most useful to society and most  
(8-99)dear to friendship seem to be of a shorter date than those  
(8-99)which are useless or perhaps worse than useless but the  
(8-99)certainty that in another and succeeding state of things  
(8-99)these apparent difficulties will be balanced and explaind  
(8-99)is the best if not the only cure for unavailing sorrow and  
(8-99)this your well-balanced and powerful mind knows better  
(8-99)how to apply than I how to teach the doctrine.

(8-99)We were made in some degree aware of the extremely

(8-99)precarious state of our late dear friends health by letters  
(8-99)which young Surtees had from his friends in Glostershire  
(8-99)during a residence of a few weeks with us and which  
(8-99)mentiond the melancholy subject in a very hopeless  
(8-99)manner and with all the interest which it was calculated  
(8-99)to excite.

(8-99)Poor dear Mrs Baillie is infinitely to be pitied. But you  
(8-99)are a family of love and though one breach has been  
(8-99)made among you will only extend your arms towards each  
(8-99)other the more to hide though you cannot fill up the gap  
(8-99)which has taken place. The same consolation remains for  
(8-99)Mrs Agnes and yourself my dear friend and I have no  
(8-99)doubt that in the affection of Dr Baillies family and  
(8-99)their success in life you will find those pleasing ties which  
(8-99)connect the passing generation with that which is rising  
(8-99)to succeed it upon the stage.

(8-99)Lockhart will be much affected with approbation  
(8-99)from such a quarter and under such circumstances.

(8-100)His work has faults in taste but none in point of powerful  
(8-100)composition. Sophia is in the way of enlarging her  
(8-100)family an event to which I look forward with a mixture  
(8-100)of anxiety and hope. Lockhart is perfectly and indeed  
(8-100)exclusively so far as his pleasures are concernd the  
(8-100)husband and the father and one baby not very strong  
(8-100)though lively and clever is a frail chance upon which to  
(8-100)stake happiness. At the same time God knows there  
(8-100)have been too many instances of late of the original curse  
(8-100)having descended on young mothers with fatal emphasis  
(8-100)but we will hope the best. In the meantime her spirits  
(8-100)are good and her health equally so. I know that even  
(8-100)at this moment these details will not be disagreeable to

(8-100)you so strangely are life and death sorrow and pleasure  
(8-100)blended together in the tapestry of human life.

(8-100)I answer your letter before I have seen Sophia but  
(8-100)I know well how deeply she is interested in your grief. My  
(8-100)wife and Anne send their kindest and most sympathetic  
(8-100)regards. Walter is at the Royal Military College to study  
(8-100)the higher branches of his profession and Charles returned  
(8-100)to Wales. My affectionate respects attend Mrs Baillie  
(8-100)and Mrs Agnes and I ever am my dear friend respectfully  
(8-100)and affectionately yours WALTER SCOTT

(8-100)ABBOTSFORD 3 October [1823]  
[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK, WINDSOR, BERKS.

(8-100)MY DEAR LORD,-If it were not that I am always most  
(8-100)happy to be honoured with your commands I should be  
(8-100)sorry that your Lordship had the trouble of writing in  
(8-100)form on the matter of the Dep. Lieutenancy.<sup>1</sup> I am of

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(8-101)course Mr. Surecard as Falstaff says 1 in whatever post  
(8-101)I can be useful. As you ask the question I think a letter  
(8-101)to Harden would not be misplaced and that though I  
(8-101)have no idea he would consider the omission as any mark  
(8-101)of [dis]respect yet he would look on the offer as a piece  
(8-101)of attention. He lives near enough to be within hail and  
(8-101)often attends the Selkirk meetings : he is fond too of  
(8-101)calling himself an Up-the-country-man. The invitation  
(8-101)will come in perfect good time when your Lordship  
(8-101)receives your own commission.

(8-101)We will not forget to solemnize the 9th with a due



(8-101)libation. I will endeavour to arrange with the knight  
(8-101)of Gattonside that we may do it in company and with  
(8-101)colours hoisted " on the outer walls "-I am very sorry  
(8-101)that the procession does not take place to the parish  
(8-101)church. But now that coaches & six brocade waistcoats  
(8-101)and pompons are out of fashion a proces[s]ion would [be]  
(8-101)a bare unfledged plumeless sort of affair creating great  
(8-101)dismay to the parties principally concernd without a  
(8-101)corresponding degree of pleasure to the spectators who  
(8-101>would only as things go now have a glimpse of mufled  
(8-101)personages whirled along in chaises and four with  
(8-101)blinds drawn down. You might manage by the bye a  
(8-101)very snug procession in miniature from your mansion to

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(8-102)the chapel which with assistance of the moat and rural  
(8-102)scenery as the man said of your fire might make a very  
(8-102)respectable figure in the last chapter of a novel.

(8-102)I am glad for many reasons the Duke leaves Eton at  
(8-102)this most interesting period of his life. I should be afraid  
(8-102)of his being stimulated by the natural emulation of so  
(8-102)many young people to over-exertion which whether in  
(8-102)exercise or study is a thing much to be avoided when  
(8-102)the constitution is as it were on the balance between  
(8-102)boyhood and manhood. And there are other and moral  
(8-102)reasons which in his case require a selection of society  
(8-102)made under the eye of a judicious freind better than  
(8-102)the promiscuous fellowship of a great school. Lads of  
(8-102)less expectations pass through well enough-it is worth  
(8-102)no one's while to seduce them from the straight course  
(8-102)but rank and wealth have their own peculiar class of  
(8-102)Daemons to wait on them and these very often assume  
(8-102)the appearance of school intimates & find out the weak  
(8-102)point which all characters have in order to avail

(8-102)themselves of it to gratify their own immediate vanity &  
(8-102)perhaps with a view to their own future interest.

(8-102)I have been thinking a great deal about the plan of  
(8-102)reading history in the most useful manner. The great  
(8-102)preliminary matter is if possible to create a taste for the  
(8-102)study which cannot be done by imposing a course of  
(8-102)reading as mere task work. The sight of Rollins Ancient  
(8-102)History 1 makes me yawn as I see it upon the shelves from  
(8-102)the recollection of the weary hours I spent when my  
(8-102)excellent mother coursed me through it-there are in  
(8-102)particular a set of Shepherd Kings 2 whose existence is a  
(8-102)matter of very little consequence whom I recollect with  
(8-102)a peculiar disposition towards slumber. And I believe  
(8-102)in general that most boys have a right to say to their

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(8-103)tutor "You cram these words into my ear against the  
(8-103)stomach of my sense." 1 To continue the allusion it seems  
(8-103)clear that the instruction like the aliment which we  
(8-103)receive only does us good when we have such a degree of  
(8-103)appetite as enables us to digest it. But the great question  
(8-103)is-cannot this appetite for knowlege be sharpend or  
(8-103)even entirely created. I think in most cases it may and  
(8-103)our young freind is precisely one of those favourable  
(8-103)subjects to whom I think during the next three or four  
(8-103)years of his life the desire of acquiring information might  
(8-103)be renderd habitual-He is intelligent and light hearted,  
(8-103)nothing dull about him and yet I think without the  
(8-103)high flow of spirits that amounts to levity. This is a  
(8-103)favourable soil to cultivate even if there should be a little  
(8-103)indolence. If I had such a youth under my charge I  
(8-103)would I think endeavour to interest him in British  
(8-103)history by mingling as far as I could without affectation  
(8-103)or boring its most interesting events in general conversation.

(8-103)I would visit as a party of pleasure remarkable  
(8-103)scenes-talk over what had happend at such & such  
(8-103)places-endeavour to guess or make him guess the manner  
(8-103)in which the actors lookd and try to estimate the changes  
(8-103)which must have taken place in the scenery around.  
(8-103)Pictures and prints I have found in my family lectures  
(8-103)a very good mode of fixing attention-indeed I am so  
(8-103)convinced of this that I would have a gallery of portraits  
(8-103)annexd to every great school-it is not to children alone  
(8-103)that such illustrations are useful. I think for example  
(8-103)he would be a dull man who should walk once a day in  
(8-103)the gallery of historical portraits at Knowle without  
(8-103)becoming well acquainted with the characters & principal  
(8-103)occurrences in the lives of the personages there  
(8-103)represented. I dare say your Lordship remembers the  
(8-103)humbug of the Prussian lecturer on memory who taught  
(8-103)folks to remember what they had a mind by forming  
(8-103)an association between the thing to be rememberd

(8-104)and some fantastic combination which bore an allusion  
(8-104)to it. As usually happens in such cases the professor  
(8-104)was a charlatan but his art had a deep foundation in  
(8-104)human nature. For after the events which we have  
(8-104)actually seen those which dwell deepest in our mind are  
(8-104)such as are connected with scenes which we have visited  
(8-104)or actors whose features are familiar to us-If therefore  
(8-104)I wanted to study the history of Richard III with an  
(8-104)young freind I would go to see the play and I would  
(8-104)visit Crossby house in the City where he resided and so  
(8-104)forth. I think I said before that I would be much more  
(8-104)anxious to create the taste for the science of history in the  
(8-104)outset than that my pupil should go through many  
(8-104)books-in fact I would defer to the very last what is  
(8-104)always taught first namely the philosophy as it has been

(8-104)termd of history-Let a youth get the leading and  
 (8-104)interesting facts fixd in his mind and the philosophy  
 (8-104)will come afterwards both with ease and pleasure. At  
 (8-104)the same time whenever the youth himself showd  
 (8-104)curiosity that way by comparing different natures or  
 (8-104)different stages in society it will be a precious opportunity  
 (8-104)and not to be omitted by a tutor. Your Lordship  
 (8-104)observes my plan would include a good deal of travelling  
 (8-104)both in Scotland and England which may be united  
 (8-104)with many objects of entertainment & interest. I do  
 (8-104)not so much approve of one great tour as of several  
 (8-104)limited excursions-in the former case the knowlege  
 (8-104)acquired is huddled together confusedly-If the Duke  
 (8-104)shews an inclination to draw to which art he has a  
 (8-104)family claim it should be anxiously encouraged. The  
 (8-104)best antiquarian engravings by Strutt 1 & others should  
 (8-104)be collected they will always be ornamental & useful

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(8-105)additions to the library & it is a point on which no  
 (8-105)expencc should be spared. Were I to begin my  
 (8-105)experimental course of history I would for example take  
 (8-105)Stoddarts engraving of the tapestry at Bayeux which  
 (8-105)shows the whole progress of the Norman invasion and  
 (8-105)conquest-then I should be apt if I saw the investigation  
 (8-105)gave interest to take a trip down to Dover and Hastings,  
 (8-105)reading at the same time the best accounts of the event[s]  
 (8-105)and comparing them with each other. In short I would  
 (8-105)endeavour if possible to create a strong interest in  
 (8-105)historical events by combining them with every external  
 (8-105)circumstance which could give interest-The taste for  
 (8-105)history being once acquired the course of reading becomes  
 (8-105)a subsequent and easier subject of consideration. I have  
 (8-105)already said in a former letter that I would take the  
 (8-105)outline from one historian of more modern date and

(8-105)resort to the old chronicles for illustrations of such facts  
(8-105)as are told with more naivete or piquancy of detail by  
(8-105)contemporaries. But I have for the present sufficiently  
(8-105)bored your lordship and laid a handsome foundation for  
(8-105)boring my young & friendly Chief.

(8-105)My book cases are not finishd but I have employd the  
(8-105)cedar which Mr. Atkinson vilipends so much in fitting  
(8-105)up the little drawing room which your Lordship was  
(8-105)[in]-it looks very well just now and will do better when  
(8-105)varnishd. I am with kindest respect to Lady Montagu  
(8-105)and best and most affectionate good wishes to the bride  
(8-105)& bridegroom if not out of reach Always your Lordships  
(8-105)truly & affectionately WALTER SCOTT

(8-105)5 October 1823 ABBOTSFORD

(8-105)In throwing the considerations together which you  
(8-105)will find in this long letter I am only endeavouring to  
(8-105)obey your Lordships commands for I am sure from all  
(8-105)I have heard of Mr. Blakeney 1 he is much better qualified  
(8-105)to chalk out a path for himself than I am to throw out

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(8-106)hints-but those which I have pointed out can do [no]  
(8-106)harm. My Walter is at the military Royal College at  
(8-106)Sandhurst. He is so shy that it perhaps may not occur  
(8-106)to him to present himself at Ditton to pay his respects  
(8-106)which however I will write to him to do as I have the  
(8-106)vanity to think your Lordship & Lady M. will not be  
(8-106)sorry to receive him.

[Buccleuch]

TO LIEUT. WALTER SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS, R.M. COLLEGE,

SANDHURST, BAGSHOT

(8-106)DEAR WALTER,-I am rather surprized you have let  
(8-106)so long time pass away without letting me hear from you  
(8-106)at least to say that your ague was completely got under  
(8-106)and to acquaint me how you like your present situation  
(8-106)-whether you find your opportunities of instruction  
(8-106)such as you expected and whether you avail yourself  
(8-106)of them. Anne tells me you wrote her about the horse  
(8-106)and that he came safe. I wish you had let me know  
(8-106)about it. When you can make such a journey I think  
(8-106)you should pay your respects at Ditton where Lord and  
(8-106)Lady Montagu will I know be particularly glad to see  
(8-106)you.

(8-106)Have you heard any thing from your regiment or  
(8-106)have you had an opportunity of seeing anything of them  
(8-106)I fear you will be no great favourite there but you need  
(8-106)not care so much about that if you do your duty firmly  
(8-106)and regularly and suffer no advantage to be taken of  
(8-106)negligence. I suppose you must join and be with them  
(8-106)unless I am able to get you put on the staff which I will  
(8-106)certainly attempt with all the interest I can make. I  
(8-106)hope Colonel Stanhope poor fellow will be well enough  
(8-106)to give me some assistance and advice.

(8-106)Captn. John Pringle was here yesterday most fiercely  
(8-106)whiskerd and with him a party of indescribable dandies

(8-107)-Lord Barnard 1 (a sensible well behaved man) and the  
(8-107)inimitable Sir William Elliot and God knows what other  
(8-107)fine animals. Luckily it was but a flying visit-they  
(8-107)did but skim round and light down for a moment like  
(8-107)so many wild ducks. I might say wild geese but the

(8-107)simile would not be civil.

(8-107)Of heavier birds of passage we had in the house  
(8-107)yesterday the Advocate and lady Sir Alexr. Wood and  
(8-107)lady Mr. and Mrs. Skene two Miss Swintons one Miss  
(8-107)Skene one Miss Rae all sleeping comfortably and without  
(8-107)being crouded. You are so far the better of this party  
(8-107)that you will get this under cover. From this you will  
(8-107)understand that we are now inhabiting the bedroom  
(8-107)story of the new house and also the drawing room. The  
(8-107)hall and library are getting on but so very slow that it  
(8-107)will be next summer before I can get my books into  
(8-107)order which is a longer time than I thought of.

(8-107)Cousin Walter is getting very well forward at Addiscombe  
(8-107)and very favourably reported of. I suppose the  
(8-107)little gentleman is kept tight at work. His mother and  
(8-107)two sisters are come over.<sup>2</sup> I expect them here one of these  
(8-107)days.

(8-107)Sophia and Lockhart are well. She looks to be confined  
(8-107)in winter. God send her well through it. There  
(8-107)have of late been terrible examples of mishap in such  
(8-107)cases. Little Hugh is well and in high feather.

(8-107)Our Gas establishment is now perfect and in full  
(8-107)brilliancy. I never saw a house so completely and  
(8-107)beautifully lighted both in sitting rooms passages and  
(8-107)bedrooms. I do not think on the whole it will prove  
(8-107)oeconomical because the machinery for making the gas  
(8-107)costs a great deal in the first instance and then though the  
(8-107)gas is itself easily manufactured and very cheap yet this  
(8-107)cheapness is an encouragement for great liberality not to

(8-108)say extravagance in the use of it. But then your house is  
(8-108)twenty times lighter for the same expence so that one  
(8-108)gains a great deal in comfort and brilliancy and the  
(8-108)servants are clear of all this endless trouble of cleaning  
(8-108)argand 1 burners and so forth. It is really a very pretty  
(8-108)and pleasing sort of apparatus and can be managed by  
(8-108)a common labourer with a little direction from the  
(8-108)gardner.

(8-108)I beg you will write soon and do not be so long again  
(8-108)without letting some one of us hear from you. Quarter  
(8-108)day is coming about and will in the beginning or middle of  
(8-108)November bring you 50., which I suppose will not be  
(8-108)unacceptable. I shall desire to know how your cash holds  
(8-108)out and what expence you live at in your college.

(8-108)Our large barn is now clear and on the 24th 2 we will  
(8-108)display the flag and have a ball of all the folks to your  
(8-108)worships honour and glory. Whiskey is now so cheap that  
(8-108)a guinea would fill a whole country side drunk. It is now  
(8-108)selling at Edinr. about 9d or tenpence a bottle a most  
(8-108)pernicious thing for the poor. Tell me how the horse does.

(8-108)Mama is rather shocked you never think of writing to  
(8-108)her but joins with Anne and me in love to you. I hope  
(8-108)you are careful of your health. Take care of any excess  
(8-108)in wine by which I observe your constitution suffers much.  
(8-108)I am my dear Walter always Your affectionate father

(8-108)[PM. 23 October 1823]                      WALTER SCOTT  
[Law]

TO LIEUT. WALTER SCOTT, R.M.C., SANDHURST,  
BAGSHOT

[docketed 24 Octr. 1823]



(8-108)DEAR WALTER,-This being your birthday I send you  
(8-108)affectionate wishes and best blessing trusting your

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-109)behaviour through life will always induce me to consider  
(8-109)it as one of the most fortunate events of my pilgrimage.  
(8-109)We are all in the highest spirits flag flying and whiskey  
(8-109)provided with plenty of stout brown ale.

(8-109)I had your amusing letter yesterday. I am glad you put  
(8-109)the princesse's or duchesses anxiety on my accompt to rest  
(8-109)though at the expence of a small rent in the hem of the  
(8-109)garment of Truth. Wish I could send you a good bulletin  
(8-109)of Spice but she has the distemper badly & I fear I shall  
(8-109)lose her in spite of Ethiops [ ] mineral Tartar emetic &  
(8-109)calomel.

[At this point the remaining portion of the MS. has been cut out.]

[ABBOTSFORD]

[Bayley]

TO RICHARD HEBER, AT THE POST OFFICE, BATH

(8-109)MY DEAR HEBER,-I have been hoping for some time  
(8-109)to hear from you the probabilities of my son Charles  
(8-109)getting to Oxford about Easter next when he leaves his  
(8-109)present residence in Wales. If your kind wishes in his  
(8-109)behalf are like to prove ineffectual which may easily be  
(8-109)the case even with your powerful interest I must either  
(8-109)think of applying to "Englands other eye" 1 or of sending  
(8-109)him on the continent for which I have a good opportunity.  
(8-109)Either course will be much better than his

(8-109)coming home to me till the giddy time is a little passd bye.  
(8-109)I am more anxious about him than his brother. Walter  
(8-109)is just the sort of fellow who is in his element in the  
(8-109)military-remarkabl[y] athletic and excellent at all his  
(8-109)exercises-good drawer good mathematician-a fine person  
(8-109)and just the stuff out of which would have been made  
(8-109)in former days

(8-109)A verie parfite gentil knight.

(8-109)Although entering a rollocking regimt. of Irish dragoons  
(8-109)at eighteen he has been always attentive not to go out of

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(8-110)limits in expence and in his little warfare with the Irish  
(8-110)kerne 1 behavd with great temper and spirit.-So he is in  
(8-110)his place studying at the Royal College at Sandhurst on  
(8-110)the Senior department with a good chance of getting on  
(8-110)the Staff.

(8-110)But Charles costs me more anxiety being very lively  
(8-110)imaginative and having much of what papas might call  
(8-110)genius with its concomitant of indolence and love of the  
(8-110)pleasure of the moment. I know too well the dangers  
(8-110)of this sort of character by experience being precisely that  
(8-110)which my Scotch friends said of me namely that "I would  
(8-110)either make a spoon or spoil a horn." 2

(8-110)I must think about disposing of him and think early  
(8-110)that I may act to purpose and so I am obliged reluctantly  
(8-110)to be pressingly troublesome on your leisure so far as to  
(8-110)beg you will let me know whether there is any chance of  
(8-110)Oxford for him that if otherwise I may look about elsewhere.

(8-110)We have had a vile broken season-I never saw so much

(8-110)bad weather.

(8-110)My last amusement has been Dr Meyrickes treatise on  
(8-110)old armour 3 which is got up with much information  
(8-110)though with some few inaccuracies.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-111)Do write me a few of your pieds de mouche just to let me  
(8-111)know you have not altogether forgot Dear Heber Yours  
(8-111)truly WALTER SCOTT

(8-111)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 29 October [PM. 1823]

(8-111)Lady Scott sends kind Compliments.

[Cholmondeley]

TO D.TERRY, LONDON

(8-111)ABBOTSFORD, October 29, 1823

(8-111)MY DEAR TERRY,-Our correspondence has been  
(8-111)flagging for some time, yet I have much to thank you for,  
(8-111)and perhaps something to apologize for. We did not  
(8-111)open Mr. Baldock's commode, because, in honest truth,  
(8-111)this place has cost me a great deal within these two years,  
(8-111)and I was loth to add a superfluity, however elegant, to  
(8-111)the heavy expense already necessarily incurred. Lady  
(8-111)Scott, the party most interested in the drawing-room,  
(8-111)thinks mirrors, when they cast up, better things and more  
(8-111)necessary. We have received the drawing-room grate-  
(8-111)very handsome indeed-from Bower, but not those for  
(8-111)the library or my room, nor are they immediately wanted.  
(8-111)Nothing have we heard of the best bed and its accompaniments,  
(8-111)but there is no hurry for this neither. We are in

(8-111)possession of the bed-room story, garrets, and a part of  
(8-111)the under or sunk story-basement, the learned call it ;  
(8-111)but the library advances slowly. The extreme wetness  
(8-111)of the season has prevented the floor from being laid, nor  
(8-111)dare we now venture it till spring, when shifting and  
(8-111)arranging the books will be "a pleasing pain and toil with  
(8-111)a gain." The front of the house is now enclosed by a

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(8-112)court-yard wall, with flankers of 100 feet, and a handsome  
(8-112)gateway. The interior of the court is to be occupied by  
(8-112)a large gravel drive for carriages,-the rest with flowers,  
(8-112)shrubs, and a few trees : the inside of the court-yard wall  
(8-112)is adorned with large carved medallions from the old Cross  
(8-112)of Edinburgh, and Roman or colonial heads in bas  
(8-112)relief 1 from the ancient station of Petreia, now called Old  
(8-112)Penrith. A walk runs along it, which I intend to cover  
(8-112)with creepers as a trellised arbour : the court-yard is  
(8-112)separated from the garden by a very handsome colonnade,  
(8-112)the arches filled up with cast-iron, and the cornice carved  
(8-112)with flowers, after the fashion of the running cornice on  
(8-112)the cloisters at Melrose : the masons here cut so cheap  
(8-112)that it really tempts one. All this is in a great measure  
(8-112)finished, and by throwing the garden into a subordinate  
(8-112)state, as a sort of plaisance, it has totally removed the  
(8-112)awkward appearance of its being so near the house. On  
(8-112)the contrary, it seems a natural and handsome accompaniment  
(8-112)to the old-looking mansion. Some people of very  
(8-112)considerable taste have been here, who have given our  
(8-112)doings much applause, particularly Dr. Russell, a  
(8-112)beautiful draughtsman, and no granter of propositions.  
(8-112)The interior of the hall is finished with scutcheons,  
(8-112)sixteen of which, running along the centre, I intend to  
(8-112)paint with my own quarterings, so far as I know them, for  
(8-112)I am as yet uncertain of two on my mother's side ; but

(8-112)fourteen are no bad quartering to be quite real, and the  
(8-112)others may be covered with a cloud,<sup>2</sup> since I have no  
(8-112)ambition to be a canon of Strasburg,<sup>3</sup> for which sixteen

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-113)are necessary : I may light on these, however. The  
(8-113)scutcheons on the cornice I propose to charge with the  
(8-113)blazonry of all the Border clans, eighteen in number, and  
(8-113)so many of the great families, not clans, as will occupy the  
(8-113)others. The windows are to be painted with the different  
(8-113)bearings of different families of the clan of Scott, which,  
(8-113)with their quarterings and impalings, will make a pretty  
(8-113)display. The arranging all these arms, &c., have filled  
(8-113)up what Robinson Crusoe calls the rainy season, for such  
(8-113)this last may on the whole be called.-I shall be greatly  
(8-113)obliged to you to let me know what debts I owe in  
(8-113)London, that I may remit accordingly : best to pay for  
(8-113)one's piping in time, and before we are familiar with our  
(8-113)purchases. You mentioned having some theatrical works  
(8-113)for me ; do not fail to let me know the amount. Have  
(8-113)you seen Dr. Meyrick's account of the Ancient Armour -  
(8-113)it is a book beautifully got up, and of much antiquarian  
(8-113)information.

(8-113)Having said so much for my house, I add for my family,  
(8-113)that those who are here are quite well, but Lady Scott a  
(8-113)little troubled with asthma. Ballantyne will send you my  
(8-113)last affair I now in progress : it is within, or may be easily  
(8-113)compressed into, dramatic time ; whether it is otherwise  
(8-113)qualified for the stage, I cannot guess.-I am, my dear  
(8-113)Terry, truly yours, WALTER SCOTT  
[Lockhart]

TO COLIN MACKENZIE OF PORTMORE, HARCUS COTTAGE,  
ETTLESTONE

(8-113)MY DEAR COLIN,-I am in no good condition to advise  
(8-113)you on the subject of your letter 2 for it so happens that

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(8-114)I am in great uncertainty whether Charles can be  
(8-114)admitted at Easter to Brazn. Nose aye or no. Heber seemd  
(8-114)confident on the subject at one time and I hope took the  
(8-114)measures for securing success but I have not yet heard  
(8-114)from him decidedly though I wrote two months since  
(8-114)which induced me not later than yesterday to write him  
(8-114)a long letter begging to be placed at my wits end. The  
(8-114)merit of the colleges of course entirely depends on the  
(8-114)fame of the tutors. I believe University is rising into  
(8-114)notice. I hear also that Xchurch is not likely to be in  
(8-114)such request since Dean Jacksons death.<sup>1</sup> After all I  
(8-114)shall not be greatly shocked if I cannot get Charles in at  
(8-114)all for but for the fashion of the thing a youth may get  
(8-114)more real knowledge <sup>2</sup> useful to him in future life by  
(8-114)studying the modern languages on the continent. One  
(8-114)thing is certain-that no lad should be sent to College  
(8-114)who is not already so thoroughly grounded in Greek &  
(8-114)latin that he is ready to proceed with the niceties of these  
(8-114)languages. It is in this way credit [is] to be gaind and  
(8-114)if a lad does not find himself qualified to enter the Arena  
(8-114)for honours he has every temptation to join the numerous  
(8-114)class of idlers. If it had not been for Mr. Williams  
(8-114)opinion <sup>3</sup> on the subject of Charleses proficiency I should  
(8-114)scarce have thought of Oxford and to tell you the truth  
(8-114)inter nos I will not break my heart if the plan is

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-115)disappointed. In that case I will send him to the continent  
(8-115)in Spring. No Edinburgh for a couple of years happen

(8-115)as it will.

(8-115)You see I am possessd of no private key to the halls of  
(8-115)Isis-when I learn anything on the subject I will not fail  
(8-115)to communicate it.

(8-115)Thank you for your information about the Commission.  
(8-115)This is the age of legislative innovation and I am far from  
(8-115)supposing that such a crisis in society does not become  
(8-115)necessary or that our institutions do not wax old as our  
(8-115)garments. But our old clothes always sit easier than  
(8-115)new because they have learnd by habit to adapt themselves  
(8-115)to the person and new clothes are felt to pinch from want  
(8-115)of that adaptation. Men think they have a right to  
(8-115)expect that new laws shall approach nearer perfection-  
(8-115)otherwise why alte[r what w]as 1 tolerable before. Above  
(8-115)all speculative opinions are indulged and acted upon and  
(8-115)so limited is our sphere of speculative judgement that in  
(8-115)all the great changes which I have yet seen the  
(8-115)consequences which were totally unexpected and unpredicted  
(8-115)have proved far more extensive and important than  
(8-115)those that were foreseen & argued upon. To interpose  
(8-115)delay is certainly the highest wisdom for the evils under  
(8-115)which our legal practice has labourd cannot (considering  
(8-115)the improvement of the country under their influence) be  
(8-115)so very intolerable as to require hasty or violent remedies.  
(8-115)I have one stern consolation in observing the interference  
(8-115)of these Englishmen which is that while they think they  
(8-115)are only modelling our poor old system after their own  
(8-115)fashion they are in effect preparing the downfall of their  
(8-115)own. To Westminster Hall the great change must and  
(8-115)will come with all its countless and awful consequences  
(8-115)of good & evil. But before that time you and I will  
(8-115)probably be with Durie & Dalrymple heroes of the clerks  
(8-115)table of the days of old. I am sorry for it for entertaining  
(8-115)a sincere resentment of their conceited interference I

(8-116)should like to see the unsparing monster Innovation  
(8-116)playing the Devil with their periwigs and parchment  
(8-116)bags.

(8-116)Kin[d]1 Compliments to Mrs Mackenzie and family &  
(8-116)believe me always yours very truly

(8-116)WALTER SCOTT

(8-116)ABBOTSFORD 30 October 1823.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO RICHARD HEBER, M.P., HODNET, SHREWSBURY

(8-116)MY DEAR HEBER,-I receivd both your kind letters and  
(8-116)the inclosure from the Principal of Brazen Nose 2 and I  
(8-116)paused on the contents for a couple of days that I might  
(8-116)reply with all mature deliberation. Upon the whole I  
(8-116)think I cannot do better for Charles than embrace the  
(8-116)advice which Dr. Gilbert has so kindly given and adopt  
(8-116)such arrangement as shall enable Charles to commence  
(8-116)his residence in October. I trust he will be then ready  
(8-116)to go to his studies with the advantage of a good foundation  
(8-116)and as he has quick and lively spirits I am fully  
(8-116)sensible of the advantages of his becoming resident at a  
(8-116)long term when the minds of the young men are turnd  
(8-116)more decidedly towards their studies than in summer.  
(8-116)This arrangement will require him to make his Act of  
(8-116)Entrance after Christmas. My son-in-law Lockhart will  
(8-116)write to an intimate of his who is high in the university  
(8-116)to see him through the forms of his act which will save



(8-117)you any trouble on that account unless you will have the  
(8-117)kindness to send him a note of introduction to Principal  
(8-117)Gilbert that he may thank him in my name and his own  
(8-117)for his uncommon kindness and receive any hints which  
(8-117)he may be favoured with concerning his line of study till  
(8-117)October. If you think Charles's doing so would be proper  
(8-117)his address is Falcondale, 1 Lampeter, 1 Cardiganshire.

(8-117)If we are alive and well I entertain some hopes of seeing  
(8-117)him settled at Alma Mater in October which I might  
(8-117)easily manage and if you were in that neighbourhood at  
(8-117)the time "there will be a play fitted." 2 Or why should  
(8-117)you not take your promised tour and visit us here and we  
(8-117)could see you back again to your own southern land. I  
(8-117)assure you Don Quixote might be pardoned if he took  
(8-117)Abbotsford for an absolute Castle though perhaps except  
(8-117)in bringing to the landlord no profit it is a good deal more  
(8-117)of an inn.

(8-117)I beg you to express my very grateful thanks to Dr.  
(8-117)Gilbert. I should rejoice to think that the mode he has  
(8-117)suggested of availing myself of his great kindness should  
(8-117)be most convenient for him as I know well how great a  
(8-117)favour he has conferred on me and how many solicitations  
(8-117)he is subjected to deservedly high as the reputation of his  
(8-117)College stands.

(8-117)I am my dear Heber always most truly yours & that  
(8-117)with an unfeigned sense of obligation

(8-117)WALTER SCOTT

(8-117)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 12 November [1823]

(8-117)I highly approve of exhausting [ ] the first two short  
(8-117)terms. Unless in the case of illness it would be a great pity  
(8-117)to have [ ] the means of interrupting the necessary course  
(8-117)of study. Lady Scott sends kind and grateful compliments  
(8-117)& thanks.

[Cholmondeley]

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TO JOHN GIBSON LOCKHART, ADVOCATE, NORTHUMBERLAND  
ST., EDINR.

(8-118)MY DEAR LOCKHART,-After all I have come to a  
(8-118)resolution in Charles's case and it is that I will wait till  
(8-118)October as the Principal advises. To take his opinion is  
(8-118)respectful & perhaps to push for Lent might be thought  
(8-118)intrusive on his kindness. Besides I am by no means  
(8-118)confident that Charles will be fit for college at Lent-at  
(8-118)least Mr Williams thought a longer time adviseable 1 and  
(8-118)to a lad who is rather impatient of labour it is a great  
(8-118)discouragement not to find himself on an equal footing  
(8-118)with other students in the necessary preliminaries. I  
(8-118)myself sufferd much by having my education prematurely  
(8-118)pushd on.<sup>2</sup> Then as to the short terms you know Charles  
(8-118)would wish to do as other lads did and therefore it is of  
(8-118)high importance that he should go at a season when study  
(8-118)not amusement is fashionable among them. I propose  
(8-118)he should remain with Mr Williams if he can keep him  
(8-118)till the summer holidays. If not he must e'en come down  
(8-118)and we must make the best of him we can.

(8-118)Having come to this resolution I have used the freedom  
(8-118)to suppress your letter on the subject to Mr Williams. I  
(8-118)think on the whole I have done for the best. I am sure  
(8-118)I have thought enough about it.

(8-118)Kind Love to Sophia and Donnihu.<sup>3</sup> We propose to  
(8-118)dine with you on Monday when we come to town. Always  
(8-118)Yours affectionately WALTER SCOTT

(8-118)12 Novr. [PM. 1823]

(8-118)According to the plan proposed Charles goes to Oxford  
(8-118)to enter after Xmas & will then need your letter to the  
(8-118)friend you mention. Deil stick it Ignoro nomen.

[Law]

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TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

(8-119)November 1823.

(8-119)THAT I have not my time so much at my command as  
(8-119)you, my dear Miss Edgeworth, would persuade me, is  
(8-119)evident from this packet containing the two miniatures,  
(8-119)which has lain on my table several days waiting for the  
(8-119)few lines which you are now reading.<sup>1</sup> I do not believe,  
(8-119)however, that any one can want time who has a strong  
(8-119)and forcible desire to make use of that which we all enjoy.  
(8-119)Two hours' rising in the morning before the rest of the  
(8-119)family are astir makes the greatest possible difference

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(8-120)between leisure and want of it. This space resolutely  
(8-120)employed will serve in the usual case to despatch much of  
(8-120)the business which is necessarily pressed upon every man,  
(8-120)and it is also a very healthy practice, for if you arise in  
(8-120)the morning you secure sound and refreshing sleep during

(8-120)the earlier part of the night. It is not many years since  
(8-120)I adopted this practice, and I am sorry for it, but late  
(8-120)hours at night made me formerly averse to quit my couch  
(8-120)in the morning. By constitution I require a great deal of  
(8-120)sleep, seven hours at least ; and if I have not, I am sure  
(8-120)to indemnify myself by a nap during the day.

(8-120)Were you not much shocked at poor Lord Hopetoun's 1  
(8-120)death We saw him so well and so happy in his paternal  
(8-120)palace with all his flourishing family, the husband of a  
(8-120)beautiful woman, lord of a noble estate, a great name in  
(8-120)war, and in peace looked up to by a large body of his  
(8-120)countrymen as their natural head and leader-and all  
(8-120)this has passed away and left but mourning and sorrow  
(8-120)behind it. I think I shall never forget our visit to  
(8-120)Hopetoun House. I am truly glad of your sister's recovery.  
(8-120)We heard with much interest of the melancholy way in  
(8-120)which you were engaged after your return to Ireland. I  
(8-120)sincerely hope that as in my own case the obstructions  
(8-120)which cause these cramps and spasms in the region of the  
(8-120)stomach being effectually removed by vigorous medicine  
(8-120)the disease itself may not return.

(8-121)Caraboo 1 reached me safe, and is a most delightful  
(8-121)personage. She was obviously slightly touched with  
(8-121)insanity, and possessed of all the cunning which often  
(8-121)belongs to such dispositions. It is curious how often the  
(8-121)great impostors who have driven their success to the  
(8-121)verge of incredibility, seem to have been in a certain  
(8-121)degree insane. No one completely possessed of a rational  
(8-121)judgment can possibly guess the extent of popular  
(8-121)credulity-they are like regular doctors, who fail to carry  
(8-121)their point now and then, by giving medicine in quantities  
(8-121)too moderate, when empirics are successful by wholesale

(8-121)and triumphant doses. It is more humbling to think  
(8-121)that utter and egregious folly will have the same success  
(8-121)as madness in enabling people to gull the world-this  
(8-121)wretched Poyais Cacique 2 is a mixture of knave and fool,  
(8-121)in which the latter greatly predominates, yet you see how  
(8-121)he has been able to impose the grossest deceits upon his  
(8-121)cautious countrymen, and that in spite of warning.

(8-121)We had our great harvest home supper on Walter's  
(8-121)birthday as usual, and all the natives, young and old,  
(8-121)danced till four in the morning. Whisky a discretion,  
(8-121)but no drunkenness, unless amongst two or three of the  
(8-121)old jockies, who, being past dancing, consoled themselves  
(8-121)with punch. The festivity much enlivened by the news

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(8-122)that a certain John Scott called the Turk,<sup>1</sup> an old retainer  
(8-122)of mine, had beat all the wild Macras at a wrestling match  
(8-122)in Kintail, flinging Duncan above Donald and plaid over  
(8-122)bonnet in such a style as has not been seen since Culloden.  
(8-122)The champion was one of my stoutest men, a great dancer  
(8-122)at the Kirn suppers, where he used to dance reels with  
(8-122)Sophia and Anne, never sinking into the ordinary  
(8-122)dancing step but cutting most resolutely from the beginning  
(8-122)to the end. His father, the old Turk, shakes his head  
(8-122)and wishes him better gifts. I will send to Liddesdale to  
(8-122)see to get a good puppy for you, and keep it till it has had  
(8-122)the distemper, so fatal to the canine race, and fatal to them,  
(8-122)as it strangely happens, always in proportion to the  
(8-122)purity of the breed. Vaccination is said greatly to  
(8-122)mitigate the virulence of the disease. Spice will I think  
(8-122)recover. She has got her agility again, and her appetite,  
(8-122)but still wheezes strangely, and I should fear the  
(8-122)consequences of cold. I would not like Dr. King to have a  
(8-122)creature to become attached to, and then to lose it. . . ,<sup>2</sup>

(8-122)I really did not write the additions to Shulagaroo 3: I  
(8-122)found them in a curious little collection of Dumfriesshire  
(8-122)songs, made by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, and which he  
(8-122)has printed, but for distribution only. It is easy to  
(8-122)account for the song having strayed into Dumfriesshire  
(8-122)from Ireland. If your brother looks sharp about among  
(8-122)the Irish labourers I daresay he will find more of it. Love  
(8-122)to Misses Harriet and Sophia. I do not think the  
(8-122)miniature does the former justice, yet it is like. Lady  
(8-122)Scott sends kindest wishes, in which Anne joins, and has

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(8-123)the grace to write besides. I beg my compliments to your  
(8-123)brother and am, dear Miss Edgeworth, most faithfully  
(8-123)yours,

(8-123)WALTER SCOTT

[Butler]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-123)DEAR JAMES,-I was pretty well aware that the inclosed  
(8-123)is either a hit or a miss. I am glad you think it the former.

(8-123)I do not think of an introduction. I do not want to  
(8-123)tie myself down to give one always.

(8-123)The title page may bear for motto the lines of  
(8-123)Wordsworth

(8-123)A merry place he said in days of yore  
(8-123)But something ails it now-the place is cursed.<sup>1</sup>

(8-123)You can look at the exact words in the poem of Hartleap  
(8-123)Well.

(8-123)I inclose some more sheets & want copy to send off to  
(8-123)Terry. I think he will have more real advantage seeing  
(8-123)it all together a week or two before the public has it than  
(8-123)in detail.

(8-123)W. S.

(8-123)There are but two or three pages more.

[November 1823]

[Stevenson]

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TO LIEUT. WALTER SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS, ROYAL MILITARY  
COLLEGE, SANDHURST, LONDON

(8-124)We leave this on Monday so direct to Edinr.

(8-124)ABBOTSFORD 12 November [PM. 1823]

(8-124)MY DEAR WALTER,-I have your letter by Thos. Scott.<sup>1</sup>

(8-124)I am sorry to hear from him that your horse has had an  
(8-124)accident and hope it is better.

(8-124)Charles's plans are now determined. He is to enter at  
(8-124)Oxford after Christmas and to go there for residence in  
(8-124)October after the long vacation. I could have managed  
(8-124)by the kindness of the Principal of Brazn. Nose (a queer  
(8-124)name that for a college) to have sent him there in the  
(8-124)summer. But the summer terms are very short and I  
(8-124)believe a good deal of idleness and folly is then going on.  
(8-124)So by advice of the Principal and also because I believe

(8-124)it will be more commodious to him to give Charles  
(8-124)Chambers in the autumn I think it better he should  
(8-124)stay two or three months longer with Mr. Williams and  
(8-124)then come down to us at Midsummer and snuff the  
(8-124)Tweedside air before he goes to Alma Mater.

(8-124)I see with pleasure by your letter to Anne that you think  
(8-124)of being with us at Xmas-You will receive presently if  
(8-124)Mr. Ballantyne has not yet sent you a bill for 50,, If  
(8-124)when Christmas comes you want some reinforcement for  
(8-124)travelling expences you shall have it. Be careful of the  
(8-124)supplies by contracting no debt with Taylors or others.  
(8-124)At present your expences cannot be great so you may keep  
(8-124)a friend in pouch I mean the ready penny.

(8-124)I want to know if you have seen Sir George Murray of  
(8-124)whom you say nothing-also if you have pleasant  
(8-124)companions in your college and any society out of it.

(8-124)When you go to London (if you go there) do not  
(8-124)neglect the Dukes levee. You owe him much and it is  
(8-124)the only way to show your sense of his kindness. For the

(8-125)same reason see Mr. Greenwood who will not I believe  
(8-125)be insensible to the attention. I have some interest with  
(8-125)these great folks but you should found upon that an  
(8-125)interest personal to yourself-Too much bashfulness in  
(8-125)such cases though not meant as such is very apt to be  
(8-125)construed into neglect or perhaps ingratitude. I need not  
(8-125)bid you pay every attention to Miss Dumergue your  
(8-125)mothers old friend and Mrs. Nicolson. In their situation  
(8-125)politeness is kindness. But probably you get seldom to  
(8-125)town for such purposes.



(8-125)Have you had any nearer communication with Col.  
(8-125)Thackwell and your present regiment And does your  
(8-125)servant answer Thos. Scott seemd to think you were  
(8-125)but indifferently pleased with him but it may be better  
(8-125)if the man has no serious faults not to be too nice. You  
(8-125)have something to beat up against in that quarter and  
(8-125)must take care to give no advantages.

(8-125)My affairs here get on well-the Courtyard is uncommonly  
(8-125)handsome and the screen which divides it from  
(8-125)the garden much admired. Certainly Abbotsford is  
(8-125)one of the best houses of the size in this country-rather  
(8-125)too large for the estate-but exertion and oeconomy may  
(8-125)regulate that and I hope Lt. Genl. Sir W. Scott will one  
(8-125)day sit very warm in it otherwise I should not have the  
(8-125)pleasure in making it for all my time.

(8-125)Mama is well-very well-and also Anne. Sophia left  
(8-125)us two days since to go to town and I fear will not be here  
(8-125)at Christmas which will make a woeful blank in our  
(8-125)circle. I own to you I wish she were to come and remain  
(8-125)here till her accouchement for I have more confidence in the  
(8-125)elder Clarkson who never had a bad case of the kind than  
(8-125)in Hamilton 1 who is an ass and a theorist and whose  
(8-125)practice of late has been unsuccessful in many calamitous  
(8-125)instances. But though I say this to you I dare not take the

(8-126)responsibility of pressing such a thing on them and the  
(8-126)ideas and impressions of women themselves must not be  
(8-126)meddled with in such cases.

(8-126)We have had Mrs. Thos. Scott and her two daughters  
(8-126)here. The younger a very fine girl the elder an  
(8-126)uncommonly nice young woman modest and well mannerd.

(8-126) Little Walter is to come down at Christmas and I hope  
(8-126) you will manage to come together if you can make your  
(8-126) time suit. You can write and enquire into the date of  
(8-126) his holidays-God willing I hope to be here on the 20th  
(8-126) December only a month hence and months fly fast over  
(8-126) the head[s] of old gentlemen. Write soon and let me know  
(8-126) what you think of all this. Always your affectionate  
(8-126) father

(8-126) WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

TO SIR ADAM FERGUSSON, ETC., ETC., GATTONSIDE HOUSE,  
NEAR MELROSE

[26th November 1823]

(8-126) MY DEAR ADAM,-I paid into your Sisters accompt with  
(8-126) Messrs Ramsay & Bonar 113 consisting of one sum of  
(8-126) 72,, ballance of interest due by me after crediting them  
(8-126) with rents &c and 41 being ten months interest upon  
(8-126) the 1000 bill which acquits us till this term.

(8-126) I hope this will find Lady Fergusson and Miss Wells  
(8-126) quite recovered from the effects of the very unpleasant  
(8-126) accident. I still think I see you chasing and  
(8-126) counteracting Evil Fame in the shape of the old Tinkler  
(8-126) wife.

(8-126) Met yesterday the Bannatyne club. Lord Eldin, Chief  
(8-126) Commissioner &c very great. My head in the bees with  
(8-126) the creaming champagne. I begin to count days till the  
(8-126) holidays and if the Almanac keep good faith we will be

(8-126)out on Sunday 21 Decr.

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(8-127)Compliments to the Lady,<sup>1</sup> the Major and the Nuns of

(8-127)Huntley Burn. Always yours

WALTER SCOTT

(8-127)Christmas comes but once a year

(8-127)Once a year once a year

(8-127)Christmas comes but once a year

(8-127)And therefore we'll be merry

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

[Nov.-Dec. 1823]

(8-127)MY DEAR RICHARDSON,-I have been cumberd with

(8-127)many things which have prevented my thanking you for

(8-127)two kind letters one accompanying two or three little

(8-127)dalilabs of the shelves which I am grateful for. I will bind

(8-127)the quaint labours of the old piscators Whiteway 2 and

(8-127)Barker with the immortal Walton of whom they have just

(8-127)printed a new and highly ornamented edition with some

(8-127)very pretty plates. I envy you your German tour and

(8-127)always think time may give me such an enjoyment Sed

(8-127)fugit interea fugit irrevocabile tempus.

(8-127)The death of Dr. Baillie 3 is a great deprivation to our

(8-127)excellent freind. I had a most kind letter from her

(8-127)announcing the event-there is a sort of firmness which arises

(8-127)even out [of] the extent of such a calamity, much like

(8-127)that which enables men to start up and exert themselves

(8-127)after receiving a dreadful fall-the extent of the injury

(8-127)received is not perceived till long after. I am truly

(8-128)concerned about Joanna for she is not strong and likely  
 (8-128)to suffer under the excess of her feeling. He is himself  
 (8-128)an inestimable loss to society and especially for his total  
 (8-128)contempt of that science of humbug by which so many of  
 (8-128)his brethren make fortunes. He always put me in mind  
 (8-128)of Johnsons beautiful lines though made for a humbler  
 (8-128)practitioner

(8-128)When fainting nature called for aid  
 (8-128)And hovering Death prepared the blow  
 (8-128)His powerful remedy displayed  
 (8-128)The force of Art without the show.<sup>1</sup>

(8-128)I have Mrs. Carpenters release which I only detain till I  
 (8-128)see Walter which I expect in a few days when having  
 (8-128)holidays at the Royal Military College where he has the  
 (8-128)advantage of being at present among the more advanced  
 (8-128)class of young officers. He will bring it back in January  
 (8-128)duly executed by Mr & Mrs Lockhart and himself.  
 (8-128)Anne will sign it next year when she has the misfortune to  
 (8-128)be according to our old rhyme

(8-128)Anne pan  
 (8-128)Muskie dan  
 (8-128)Tweedle dum Twaddle dum  
 (8-128)Twenty one 2

(8-128)elegant verses which I propose to have set by the same  
 (8-128)eminent Master who composed the music of Goosie Gander  
 (8-128)and sung by a strong band upon that important occasion.  
 (8-128)Charles is still between three & four years from that age.  
 (8-128)He goes to Oxford next year and I am induced to hope  
 (8-128)from his present tutor Mr Williams who has never

(8-128)flatterd me about him, with the information requisite to  
(8-128)make proficiency and a strong disposition to be a reading  
(8-128)man. If so I shall have succeeded very happily in my

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(8-129)boys for Walter is really what you call un beau Cavalier  
(8-129)and with the advantages of a good figure and great  
(8-129)address in all exercizes he has steady good sense & temper  
(8-129)and though much left to himself since he was eighteen  
(8-129)years old and having spent three years with a rollocking  
(8-129)Irish regiment of cavalry has never given me a moments  
(8-129)uneasiness either by over expence or otherwise. These  
(8-129)are little papa details which I tell you though they would  
(8-129)be out of place to others who were not papas themselves.

(8-129)You will find from the report of Mr. Mackenzie that I  
(8-129)am concernd in an Oil Gas Compy. to no great extent however  
(8-129)but one must find something better than land to [in]vest  
(8-129)money in at present. Abbotsford has cost me a mint  
(8-129)of money without much return as yet. But after all it is  
(8-129)the surest way of settling a familly if one can do without  
(8-129)borrowing money or receiving interest. Said Abbotsford  
(8-129)has thrust its lofty turrets into the skies 1 since you saw it &  
(8-129)I will scarce forgive you unless you make it a comfortable  
(8-129)visit next season. It is from the unusual combination of  
(8-129)the garden & courtyard with the manor house a sort of  
(8-129)romance in Architecture.

(8-129)A place to dream of, not to tell.2

(8-129)In fact I have at last nearly completed a sort of vision  
(8-129)which I always had in my mind. All our rooms are  
(8-129)moderate in size except the Library which is forty feet by  
(8-129)eighteen yet will not hold my books without the assistance  
(8-129)of my private room. Our Bannatyne Club goes on a

(8-129)merveille only that at our Gaudeamus this year we drank  
(8-129)our wine more majorum and our new judge Lord Eldin had  
(8-129)a bad fall on the staircase which has given rise to some  
(8-129)bad jokes as for instance that to match Coke upon  
(8-129)Littleton we have now got Eldin upon Stair and so forth.  
(8-129)I did not get to my carriage without a stumble neither

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(8-130)but had no hurt & being praeses was not sorry to have kept  
(8-130)my Senior in company. After all we were as you may  
(8-130)believe "no very fou but gaily yet." It is said there is to  
(8-130)be an act of Sederunt prohibiting all judges from keeping  
(8-130)company with Sir Samuel Shepherd & me. Pray is  
(8-130)Cockburn to send you his duplicates of this learnd &  
(8-130)thirsty body for if not you shall have mine.

(8-130)Lady Scott joins in kind respects to Mrs. Richardson  
(8-130)pray come all down next summer & bring the babies.  
(8-130)Alway[s] my dear Richardson Yours truly

(8-130)WALTER SCOTT

(8-130)I rely on you to direct Mr Mackenzie who seems to be  
(8-130)a clever young man.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

(8-130)MY DEAR MRS SCOTT,-The inclosed will give you both  
(8-130)pleasure and pain- pleasure that little Walter is disposed  
(8-130)to follow up his studies closely at the expence of his  
(8-130)pleasure and pain because it threatens to deprive you of  
(8-130)the pleasure of seeing him at Christmas. His deficiency  
(8-130)in drawing is as he himself feels the only obstacle to his

(8-130)getting the Engineers and his chance of fortune & success  
(8-130)in that lucrative department is a very great inducement  
(8-130)to hard study. The artillery is in every respect inferior.  
(8-130)Now what am I to say to this my dear Mrs Scott for I will  
(8-130)be directed entirely by you. I have arranged every thing  
(8-130)for his coming down with big Walter and the plan may  
(8-130)still stand if you are desirous it should do so. But pray  
(8-130)write me without delay that I may take measures  
(8-130)accordingly.

(8-130)I have but indifferent news from your brother Robert.  
(8-130)The accompts seem in no forwardness and [the] Irish  
(8-130)Claim 1 is revived. There is no remedy but patience.

(8-130)We move towards Abbotsford on 20 or 21 December.

1823                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      131

(8-131)What are your motions to be. Do you come to Edinr. a  
(8-131)day or two before or how      Love to the nieces and  
(8-131)believe me Your affectionate Brother WALTER SCOTT

(8-131)EDINR. 30 Novr. [1823]  
[Huntington]

TO SIR THOMAS DICK LAUDER, BART., RELUGAS, FORRES

(8-131)DEAR SIR THOMAS,-I have sent the Manuscript to  
(8-131)Mr MacBean Charlotte Square as you desire-it is a very  
(8-131)curious one & contains many strange pictures of the  
(8-131)times. Our ancestors were sad dogs and we to be worse  
(8-131)than them as Horace tells us the Romans were, have a  
(8-131)great stride to make in the paths of iniquity. Men like  
(8-131)your ancestor were certainly rare amongst them. I had  
(8-131)a scrap somewhere about the murder of the Lauders  
(8-131)at Lauder where Fountainhall's ancestor was Baillie

(8-131)at the time. After this misfortune they are said to  
(8-131)have retired to Edinburgh & Fountainhalls grandfather  
(8-131)lived at the Westport. All this is I hope familiar to you.  
(8-131)I say I hope so for after a good deal of search I have  
(8-131)abandond hope of finding my memorandum.

(8-131)I have seen Constable who promises to send me the  
(8-131)sheets as they are thrown off 1 and any consideration that  
(8-131)I can bestow on them will be a pleasure to Dear Sir  
(8-131)Thomas Your most obedient Servant WALTER SCOTT

(8-131)EDINR. 2d. December [1823]  
[Dick-Lauder]

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TO RICHARD HEBER

(8-132)A THOUSAND kind thanks to you my dear Heber for one  
(8-132)of the greatest favours you could possibly have done in  
(8-132)paving Charles's path to Alma Mater. If I may trust the  
(8-132)report<sup>1</sup> of Mr Williams himself an excellent scholar as well  
(8-132)as a very candid in his communications [it] gives me the  
(8-132)comfortable assurance that he is possessd of the learning  
(8-132)and at present of the disposition to make a good use of  
(8-132)your patronage. He will of course attend religiously on  
(8-132)the first day of the Lent term and I trust will feel the  
(8-132)"strong contagion of the gown."<sup>2</sup> From April to  
(8-132)October he will worship the domestic Lares and in  
(8-132)October offer up his time to the Dei majores of Isis.

(8-132)We are just now establishing a new Grammar school <sup>3</sup> here  
(8-132)and large subscriptions have [been raised]-to be taught by  
(8-132)four Masters and a Rector. We propose the situation of the  
(8-132)latter to be a handsome one and it is our present purpose  
(8-132)to warrant him     500,, pr. ann. for four years after which



(8-132)time having the encouragement which the trustees are  
(8-132)entitled to expect it will be as Slender says a better  
(8-132)penny.<sup>4</sup> This would be a very desirable situation for a  
(8-132)man of learning and preceptor[i]al talent should such a

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-133)person of desert be within the sphere of our knowledge and  
(8-133)we look to England to obtain candidates for the situation.  
(8-133)The majority of the committee & great majority of the  
(8-133)subscribers are Tories and to speak truth in your private  
(8-133)ear we are rather afraid that the others who are always  
(8-133)very active mean to palm a Whig upon us through the  
(8-133)intervention of Pillans.<sup>1</sup> I know these gentry pretty well  
(8-133)and have good experience how loud they can sound their  
(8-133)horns when they have a mind to sell their own fish but I  
(8-133)should be sorry were a Whig to be fairly cramd down our  
(8-133)throat[s] for want of a man of good principles in church &  
(8-133)state to pull against him. I should think Oxford abounded  
(8-133)with young men of learning and talent to whom this  
(8-133)would be a Godsend and if such were presented in time  
(8-133)(there is no absolute hurry) I think he would be the  
(8-133)winning horse. I promised to several of the Committee  
(8-133)to mention this business to you knowing your Zeal for  
(8-133)learning all over the world. The question of his appointment  
(8-133)will immediatly occur and our computation is this-  
(8-133)there are to be four under masters and the rector. We  
(8-133)propose that each of the four ordinary masters shall be  
(8-133)insured in 200, a year and the Rector in 400 for the  
(8-133)first four years. We compute that if the school receives  
(8-133)the encouragement we expect they will long before the  
(8-133)four years expire be in possession of a much better income  
(8-133)but we cannot expect that the school should fill at once  
(8-133)and therefore[e] in every case in which the school fees  
(8-133)should fall short of the above appointments we insure the  
(8-133)above amount. If any class as may be the case with first

(8-133)and also with the Rectors class should be so full that the  
(8-133)school fees do more than clear the salaries above mentd.  
(8-133)he will be just so much the better off. In a word the  
(8-133)Rector will have 400 & possibilities. If he chuses to  
(8-133)take boarders & be a man of proper manners & attention  
(8-133)he may do great things. We suppose his emoluments  
(8-133)when the school is full will be about 600,.,. There are

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(8-134)surely many people of desert [to] whom such a situation  
(8-134)would be highly acceptable. It is a rare case when a post  
(8-134)goes seeking a man instead of the man careering after the  
(8-134)post. I am dear Heber always most truly yours

(8-134)WALTER SCOTT

(8-134)EDINR. 13 December [1823]

[Cholmondeley]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE, PARK PLACE 1

(8-134)DEAR CONSTABLE,-I have been repeatedly determined  
(8-134)almost every day this week to be over to see you in your  
(8-134)Patmos in Park Street but what with Committees of Gas  
(8-134)men & Committees of Education and Committees of  
(8-134)Bannatynians every morning & afternoon has had its duty  
(8-134)completely & indispensibly allotted. If this is to [go]  
(8-134)on I think you will have a good action against those who  
(8-134)press your lawful packhorse of an author into public  
(8-134)services & should have an allowance for damage.  
(8-134)Seriously I am desirous to know how you are before  
(8-134)Tomorrow 2 when I start for Abbotsford & hope Mrs.  
(8-134)Constable or you will favour me with a line. Yours truly  
(8-134)WALTER SCOTT

(8-134)CASTLE STREET Saturday [circa 19 or 20 Dec. 1823]

(8-134)Mr. Secy. Laing talks of sending the Classicks to Abbotsford

(8-134)in which case I will send my Barbour to little Charles

(8-134)who I am told is turning a fine scholar.

[Stevenson]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO DANIEL TERRY

[Extract]

(8-135)ABBOTSFORD, 22 December 1823

(8-135)DEAR TERRY,-I enclose a letter to poor Theodore

(8-135)Hook,1 which pray give into his own hands. If, as Lieutenant

(8-135)Bowling 2 says, " a small spill of cash " was wanted

(8-135)there on such an immediate and distressing pinch, I have

(8-135) 50 at his service, but of this I of course can say nothing

(8-135)till I shall hear from you how his matters stand. It will

(8-135)be an eternal shame if they leave the poor fellow in the

(8-135)lurch after all he has done, and yet there is so much

(8-135)candour (or want of pluck) in those principally benefited

(8-135)by his exertions, that my fears rather outweigh my hopes

(8-135)on his account. Yet surely the commercial value of the

(8-135)speculation itself must be considerable. And I should think

(8-135)there are many friends who with prudent management

(8-135)might be induced to "put five pounds in a sartain place."

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(8-136)We are here for Christmas, but deprived of Sophia by

(8-136)a return of an illness indicative of those cursed cramps

(8-136)which attended her last confinement, in a gentler degree

(8-136)however, and which I hope will give way before the proper

(8-136)treatment.

(8-136)We expect Walter daily ; . . . Charles goes to enter at

(8-136)Oxford, though he does not become resident till next

(8-136)Autumn. . . .

(8-136)I expect our old friend Russell 1 here one of these days.

(8-136)We have been playing tragedy in Edinburgh. Sir Giles

(8-136)I saw, and he was very judicious and respectable, but still

(8-136)his features are comic in their natural expression, and he

(8-136)seems to be conscious of this, from the bad habit he has of

(8-136)contracting and sharpening them into a tragical contortion

(8-136)of aspect. I hope he may succeed however, for he is a

(8-136)good fellow, and clever to boot ; I will try and insinuate

(8-136)to him to stick by the sock. . . .

[Familiar Letters]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE, HERRIOT ROW, EDINBURGH

(8-136)DEAR JAS.,-I received 250,, safe & inclose the bills-

(8-136)A damnable ramble of Mr. Tom Purdie is like to cost me

(8-136)the future services of that devoted retainer. Yours in

(8-136)wrath & haste

W. S.

[PM. 24 December 1823]

[Glen]

1823

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO THOMAS THOMSON

(8-137)CASTLE STREET, Tuesday

(8-137)DEAR THOMAS,-The committee of Bannatynians dine

(8-137)here on Friday first, meeting at five for business, and

(8-137)dining at half-past five.-Yours truly W. SCOTT

(8-137)Without you we are a tongueless trump.

[1823]

[Innes's Memoir of Thomson]

1824 LETTERS

TO ALEXR. YOUNG 1

(8-138)MY DEAR SIR,-I return the Report which states very  
(8-138)distinctly what we saw and what we were told.<sup>2</sup> I regret  
(8-138)much we did not see the operation of transplanting with  
(8-138)our eyes and should have given the sanction of the  
(8-138)committee with much more comfort if we had. There is also  
(8-138)a natural imperfection in our report which may be

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(8-139)compared to the preliminary direction of making hare-  
(8-139)soup-viz. first catch your hare. Before the transplanter can  
(8-139)proceed to work in order to produce the marvellous  
(8-139)effects which Sir Henry has certainly effected he must  
(8-139)stand provided in a certain number of trees in training  
(8-139)to be transplanted a point of expence which is not  
(8-139)considerd in any of the calculations we have heard. For  
(8-139)instance in Mr. Measons letter (p. 33) of the report he  
(8-139)supposes (at least if I understand him) that the act of  
(8-139)forming the new plantation supersedes all the previous  
(8-139)expence of "planting groups of young plants enclosing  
(8-139)&c for twenty years at besides losing the value of the  
(8-139)ground." Now in fact all this expence has been incurd-  
(8-139)not indeed on where the trees are ultimately placed but  
(8-139)surely on that where they were originally reard & from

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(8-140)which they have been transplanted. For example you  
(8-140)form in 1823 a nursery-plantation and in doing so you  
(8-140)incur as much expence as you would have done by forming  
(8-140)your intended plantation on the spot which it was  
(8-140)originally intended to occupy having besides the expence of  
(8-140)transplanting them into the bargain. It seems to me that  
(8-140)we should keep before the eyes of the society the necessity  
(8-140)of making such a previous nursery [the cost of] which I  
(8-140)suspect will be found to add considerably to that of the  
(8-140)transplantation which is allowd [to] be from 5/ to 8/ per  
(8-140)tree. I consider Sir Henrys discoveries as highly interesting  
(8-140)and his practice as triumphant but I should be much  
(8-140)afraid of giving in a vague report concerning them. It  
(8-140)would for example have done nothing for me who purchased  
(8-140)a perfectly bare property & had therefore only  
(8-140)to plant my trees where I meant them ultimately to stand.  
(8-140)Whereas if I had had a few old fashiond clumps like those  
(8-140)at Allanton from which the transplantations were made  
(8-140)I might have followd Sir Henrys plan with much effect.  
(8-140)As it is I can only use it upon a very small scale and for  
(8-140)planting single trees by way of experiment.<sup>1</sup>

(8-140)It seems to me only justice to Sir Henry and to ourselves  
(8-140)to be very accurate in all this business and I would like  
(8-140)much if the committee could meet before giving in the  
(8-140)report. All new projects are apt to get discredited from  
(8-140)too much being expected from them at first.

(8-140)I hope to see Mr. Cranstoun and you when I come to  
(8-140)town about the 10th. Believe me ever Dear Sir Your  
(8-140)most faithful & obedient Servant

(8-140)WALTER SCOTT

(8-140)ABBOTSFORD 1st January [1824]

(8-140)All good wishes of the season attend you.

[Herries]

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

(8-141)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,-I sincerely hope your long

(8-141)silence has not been due to any distress of your family.

(8-141)I sent more than six weeks ago the two miniatures under

(8-141)one of Crokers franks not indeed with a cork jacket as

(8-141)recommended by Miss Harriet but by substituting an

(8-141)old book out of which I cut as much of the leaves as to

(8-141)form a sort of cradle for the portraits leaving them entire

(8-141)all round the edges in a way that I thought must needs

(8-141)defy all scrutiny. I hope to hear from you that they have

(8-141)come safe. I do not know what it is which makes the

(8-141)forwarding of packages to Ireland so uncertain but it

(8-141)has fallen to my lot to lose several and I am especially

(8-141)anxious to know that these have reached you in safety.

(8-141)But it would be much more painful to me to learn that

(8-141)any cause of a more unpleasant nature still had occasioned

(8-141)your silence therefore shall think it is only owing to

(8-141)the canna be fasgd which you have learnd in our sluttish

(8-141)country and for which you ought to be rebuked and as

(8-141)it is given out in orders " stand rebuked accordingly."

(8-141)You will have seen that Captain Parry 1 has got the

(8-141)situation of hydrographer-if it can be a consolation to

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1824

(8-142)know that your friend was more fitted for the situation

(8-142)by scientific acquirements I believe it is a point much

(8-142)agreed upon. But Parrys Northern Voyages gave a sort

(8-142)of claim nor do I mean to say he is at all deficient in  
(8-142)qualifications for the office only when two men ride a  
(8-142)horse one must ride behind-and it is not always he who  
(8-142)rides foremost that is the best horseman. I understand  
(8-142)Capt Parrys appointment had been long a settled thing.

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-143)I enclose two letters one which Sophia returns and one  
(8-143)of an old date which has been waiting for weeks for some  
(8-143)mode of conveyance. We are not quite easy on her  
(8-143)account for she has been unable to concur [ ] in our  
(8-143)Christmas festivities the first time she has saddened them  
(8-143)by her absence.<sup>1</sup> She expects to be confined in the end  
(8-143)of this month and has already been affected though  
(8-143)thank God only slightly with the hereditary spasmodic  
(8-143)affections which hurt her so much on the former occasion.  
(8-143)Her little boy never very strong as he rather came too  
(8-143)soon into this bustling world alarmd us by a kind of  
(8-143)drooping without any formd complaint but looking  
(8-143)more like the withering of a flower than any fixed illness.  
(8-143)Suddenly however he got the better of this and is now  
(8-143)happily so well as to give her no anxiety. In other  
(8-143)respects 1824 has commenced happily with us my nephew  
(8-143)Walter has gained a mathematical prize at his college  
(8-143)and my son Walter got a step in his regiment being now  
(8-143)3d Lieut. though he was only gazetted in summer last.  
(8-143)My sister in law a very clever woman is now with us with  
(8-143)two uncommon fine girls my nieces so very agreeable  
(8-143)and modest in their manners that when I recollect they  
(8-143)were brought up entirely in his Majestys 70th regiment  
(8-143)of Infantry I could really recommend it conscientiously  
(8-143)as an excellent boarding school for young ladies.

(8-143)In the canine race Spice's disorder has degenerated  
(8-143)to a kind of asthma which I fear will not leave her



(8-143)so I have got another for my immediate attendant.  
(8-143)I have not yet got a puppy that I liked for your medical  
(8-143)friend.<sup>2</sup> I could have got one yesterday about two years  
(8-143)old but then it had been entered as it is called that is  
(8-143)regularly trained to the destruction of vermin and when  
(8-143)they have fairly adopted that profession they seldom make  
(8-143)quiet companions excepting to those who indulge them

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(8-144)in these pursuits and your friend I dare say has other  
(8-144)things to mind than hunting rats or drawing badgers.

(8-144)We see with great pleasure that the disorders in Ireland  
(8-144)are less frequent. I wish to God our statesmen would find  
(8-144)some way of employ[ing] Pats energetic and active  
(8-144)disposition consistent with the peace of the country. I  
(8-144)always think it will come about some day. In my fathers  
(8-144)time the Highlands of Scotland were as unsettled as  
(8-144)Ireland now and a great deal worse-Now they are  
(8-144)generally speaking quite tranquil.

(8-144)Lady Scott sends kindest remembrances in which  
(8-144)Anne cordially joins. We wishd you here yesterday to  
(8-144)see about two hundred brats dressd up fantastically with  
(8-144)wooden swords and white shirts over their clothes come  
(8-144)for their little dole of an oaten cake and a penny to  
(8-144)each. You never saw so many happy little faces.<sup>1</sup> Our  
(8-144)best wishes for the new year particularly attend our dear  
(8-144)young ladies Harriet and Sophia and longing to know

1824                                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                                      145

(8-145)how you all are I am dear Miss Edgeworth Always most  
(8-145)affectionately yours                                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-145)ABBOTSFORD 2 Jany 1825 [sic] [1824]

(8-145)My library has been so far finishd that they have been  
(8-145)dancing in it.

[Mrs. Laurence Humphry]

TO HENRY MACKENZIE

(8-145)MY DEAR AND MUCH RESPECTED SIR,-I am afraid you use  
(8-145)your father confessor (since you honour me with that name)  
(8-145)as some penitents in the Catholic [church] are supposed  
(8-145)to do who take especial care in performing their shrift to  
(8-145)confess nothing that is not in one view or other creditable  
(8-145)and praiseworthy. I read Nonnie Doo 1 with the greatest  
(8-145)pleasure, not only from certain recollections peculiar to  
(8-145)the early days when I was so much honoured by your  
(8-145)notice, but also from the simple and sylvan images which

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(8-146)it brings together with so much delicacy. I entirely  
(8-146)agree with you that our Doric dialect is only beautiful  
(8-146)when it is simple. Mr. Galt though a man of very  
(8-146)considerable powers sometimes- Out-Scottifies the Scotch  
(8-146)dialect and though this has a humourous effect in the  
(8-146)old Lady Grippy in the Entail who is a sort of Caledonian  
(8-146)Mrs. Malaprop, yet it is quite out of character in  
(8-146)a Highland Chief like the Laird of Glenfruin in his last  
(8-146)publication.<sup>1</sup>

(8-146)The name of Nonnie Doo has something familiar and  
(8-146)at the same time affecting to my ear because my little  
(8-146)grandson John Hugh Lockhart calls himself and is called  
(8-146)by his intimates Donnyhoo, a soubriquet of nearly the  
(8-146)same sound. The banks of Esk will be always classical

(8-146)in my recollection as well as the Rulliongreen. The rage  
(8-146)of villa building which is about to destroy the delightful  
(8-146)foot path between Roslin and Lasswade and which has  
(8-146)deformed so many scenes of rural sympathy about the  
(8-146)latter village, has yet I believe spared Auchindinny 2 and  
(8-146)I am delighted to think that its glades are yet to survive  
(8-146)in song, preserved by him they had so long the honour  
(8-146)to call in some measure their own.

(8-146)This scrap as Miss Jenkins says, has been a week  
(8-146)waiting for a Kiver from Sir Alexr. Don, but [he] has been  
(8-146)faithless as a knight and M.P. so I will delay my thanks  
(8-146)no longer lest I should seem unworthy of your kindness.  
(8-146)Our united respects and best wishes for the year 1824  
(8-146)wait on Mrs. and Miss McKenzie and all your family.  
(8-146)I am always my dear Sir, Your truly honoured & obliged  
(8-146)humble Servant, WALTER SCOTT

(8-146)ABBOTSFORD a January [1824]  
[Lady Dobbie]

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TO JAMES MONTGOMERY 1  
ABBOTSFORD, NEAR MELROSE, Jan. 4, 1824

(8-147)I AM favoured with your letter, and should be most  
(8-147)happy to do what would be agreeable to Mr. Montgomery,  
(8-147)but a veteran in literature, like a veteran in  
(8-147)arms, loses the alacrity with which young men start to the  
(8-147)task ; and I have been so long out of the habit of writing  
(8-147)poetry that my Pegasus has become very restive. Besides  
(8-147)at my best, I was never good at writing occasional verses.

[Life of James Montgomery]

(8-147)I assure you I am a sincere friend to the cause which  
(8-147)you have so effectually patronised ; and in building my  
(8-147)house at this place (Abbotsford) I have taken particular care,  
(8-147)by the construction of the vents, that no such cruelty shall be  
(8-147)practised within its precincts. I have made them circular,  
(8-147)about fourteen inches in diameter, and lined them with  
(8-147)a succession of earthen pots, about one and a half inch  
(8-147)thick, (like the common chimney-tops,) which are built  
(8-147)round by the masonry, and form the tunnel for the passage  
(8-147)of the smoke. The advantage is that the interior being  
(8-147)entirely smooth and presenting no inequality or angle  
(8-147)where soot could be deposited, there is, in fact, very little  
(8-147)formed ; and that which may adhere is removed by the  
(8-147)use of a simple machine.

[The Chimney-Sweeper's Friend]

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1824

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-148)MY DEAR SIR,-Yesterday I had the great pleasure in  
(8-148)placing in my provisional library the most splendid present  
(8-148)as I in sincerity believe which ever an author received  
(8-148)from a bookseller, in the shape of the inimitable Variorums.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-148)Who knows what new ideas the Classics may suggest for  
(8-148)I am determined to shake off the rust which years has  
(8-148)contracted and to read at least some of the most capital  
(8-148)of the ancients before I die. Believe me my dear and old  
(8-148)friend I set a more especial value on this work as coming  
(8-148)from you and as being a pledge that the long and  
(8-148)confidential intercourse betwixt us has been agreeable and  
(8-148)advantageous to both.

(8-148)I come to town on Monday and will take an early  
(8-148)opportunity of seeing how the New Year comes on with

(8-148)you. That it may begin with the prospect of renovated  
(8-148)health and strength is the sincere wish of Dear Constable  
(8-148)Yours always truly

(8-148)WALTER SCOTT

(8-148)ABBOTSFORD 6 January [1824]

(8-148)Lady Scott joins in sending the best compliments of the  
(8-148)Season to Mrs. Constable & family.

(8-148)private.  
[Stevenson]

TO ALEXANDER YOUNG, W.S., QUEEN STREET

(8-148)MY DEAR SIR,-Our friend Sir Henry is naturally  
(8-148)anxious about the report and I am sure I am particularly  
(8-148)desirous that it should be as full as our inspection &  
(8-148)observation warrant. But we have a duty to observe to the

1824	SIR WALTER SCOTT	149
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(8-149)Society 1 and public and most of all to ourselves and I  
(8-149)think it is a matter that should be gone into with some  
(8-149)deliberation. Cranstoun is entirely of the same opinion  
(8-149)-so is Lord Succoth-and it is in their names as in my  
(8-149)own that I wish you would have the kindness to convoke  
(8-149)a meeting of the Committee any convenient time which  
(8-149)we would make a point of attending. We could then  
(8-149)make notes of what we can report on our own testimony  
(8-149)leaving it to Sir Henry to explain his method by which in  
(8-149)my opinion he has succeeded to an unexpected & surprizing  
(8-149)extent with all those details which could not be  
(8-149)known to us on a few hours inspection at that season  
(8-149)of [the year].

(8-149)We are all concernd and Sir Henry not the least that  
(8-149)we should not go a step beyond " Harry Hotspurs Wife "

(8-149)" Who could not utter what she did not know."2

(8-149)This delay is no depreciation to Sir Henrys system. On  
(8-149)the contrary it shows an anxious regard on our part to do  
(8-149)it justice. Some delay is doubtless caused. But how can

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1824

(8-150)that be avoided considering the occupations of the  
(8-150)individuals who compose the Committee.

(8-150)I will be happy to show you the Memoranda I took on  
(8-150)the spot and I have little doubt on comparing these with  
(8-150)the notes or recollections of others we can then make a  
(8-150)sketch of the report and send it to Lord Belhaven and our  
(8-150)other brethren of the Committee for their consideration  
(8-150)& remarks and I am sure from the result of the whole  
(8-150)we will then [be] able to draw up a full report very  
(8-150)honourable for Sir Henry. I, for one, could not have  
(8-150)conceived such an advantageous change wrought on the  
(8-150)face of nature.

(8-150)Still the more curious and important the discovery of  
(8-150)such a process the more it is incumbent on us to be  
(8-150)cautious in our expressions to the public. Almost all  
(8-150)improvements of a novel & sweeping description have  
(8-150)been impeded by being brought before the public with  
(8-150)imperfect explanation or exaggerated praise. Mens  
(8-150)fancies are excited-they make trial-fail entirely or  
(8-150)are disgusted by the expence at which they succeed-And  
(8-150)then a valuable improvement falls into contempt from the  
(8-150)haste with which it has been brought forth before the

(8-150)public.

(8-150)I am sure you will agree in the substance of what I

(8-150)propose or at least give me full credit for my motives.

(8-150)Believe me always Yours truly W SCOTT

(8-150)CASTLE STREET Wednesday [14th January 1824]

(8-150)I will send the scroll to Cranstoun. I have written to

(8-150)Sir Henry.

[Herries]

TO ROBERT CADELL

(8-150)DEAR SIR,-I only received your note today at four.

(8-150)I will call on you tomorrow when I leave the Court which

(8-150)is better than giving you the trouble to come here-I am

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(8-151)truly concernd for the state of my old & valued friends

(8-151)health which I fear is very precarious. Yours truly

(8-151)W SCOTT

(8-151)Thursday evening [docketed 15 Jany 1824]

(8-151)Pray let one of your young people pack up the set of my

(8-151)works etc now sent very carefully addressing it to Mr.

(8-151)Oehlenschlager Copenhagen-Care of Mr. Feldborg &

(8-151)send it to Laings shop this morning.

(8-151)private

[Stevenson]

TO ADAM OEHLenschLAGER 1

(8-151)EDINBURGH 16 January [PM. 1824](2)

(8-151)MY DEAR SIR,-I have long waited some private  
(8-151)opportunity to transfer for your kind acceptance a copy  
(8-151)of my poetical attempts and a number of volumes for  
(8-151)which the public have been pleased without authority  
(8-151)or reason that I know of to hold me responsible. In  
(8-151)making you so very trifling an acknowledgement for a  
(8-151)much more interesting act of kindness on your part [sic]  
(8-151)But you know Glaucus took in good part Diomedes offer  
(8-151)of his brazen armour and accepted [it] in exchange for  
(8-151)his own golden mail.<sup>3</sup>

(8-151)I have to regret much that I do not sufficiently understand  
(8-151)the Danish to read your beautiful poetry in your  
(8-151)own northern language although I am comforted by  
(8-151)thinking I cannot lose much considering that the German  
(8-151)is as natural to you as the Danish so that my ignorance  
(8-151)is only attended with irremediable inconvenience in the

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(8-152)few instances in which you have confin'd yourself to your  
(8-152)vernacular language exclusively.

(8-152)The Insel-Felsenburgh 1 reachd me about three weeks  
(8-152)since when I was at Abbotsford keeping Jol in the old  
(8-152)fashion with beef and ale and dance and song. I had  
(8-152)not an opportunity to proceed in your commission untill  
(8-152)I saw Mr. Gillies upon our return to this city a day or two  
(8-152)since. I am happy to say he willingly undertakes the  
(8-152)task of translating which the beautiful distinctness of the  
(8-152)Manuscript renders a comparatively easy one. At the  
(8-152)same time Mr. Gillies is not possessed of very good health  
(8-152)and his progress may perhaps be slower than one could



(8-152)wish. I am certain there will be nothing left undone either  
(8-152)on his part or mine to render the speculation advantageous.  
(8-152)Still the result must ultimately depend on the  
(8-152)taste of the British public which like the public elsewhere  
(8-152)is so capricious as to afford no sure ground for augury.  
(8-152)So far as I have myself proceeded in the manuscript (for  
(8-152)I read german slowly and your works with deliberation)  
(8-152)it has amused and interested me very much and I should  
(8-152)have no hesitation to anticipate its success were it not  
(8-152)for the risque that John Bull may not understand the  
(8-152)merit of some of the portraits which though perfectly  
(8-152>true to general nature are in the finishing peculiar to  
(8-152)Germany. Professor Schwefeldumf 2 for example is a  
(8-152)sort of person who does not exist in England though to  
(8-152)all who know the state of continental universities he must  
(8-152)appear admirably drawn. I only point out this as a  
(8-152)possible obstruction to the success of the work but we will  
(8-152)do all which we can.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-153)The following details are not very amusing but I wish  
(8-153)you to consider them because they may lead to give you  
(8-153)an accurate idea of what patrimonial 1 advantage may  
(8-153)reasonably be expected from the undertaking.

(8-153)I have spoken to the repectable House of Constable &  
(8-153)Company about the commercial state of the speculation  
(8-153)and I find they are willing to undertake an experimental  
(8-153)edition of the work extending to 750 copies. Upon this  
(8-153)they will be ready according to the custom of the trade  
(8-153)to allow the author what they call half profits which  
(8-153)from the mode in which they are stated amounts usually  
(8-153)to about one sixth part of the gross returns-for example  
(8-153)supposing the book to be sold for 12 shillings the author  
(8-153)will have in name of his half profits about 112 or 120.

(8-153)If this edition goes briskly off the author will have the  
(8-153)same interest in all subsequent editions which the  
(8-153)booksellers will in that case be willing to purchase for  
(8-153)a handsome sum or to pay them periodically as they  
(8-153)arise-Respecting the term of paying these profits it is  
(8-153)generally deferred until the sale of the work is in some  
(8-153)degree advanced-at any rate they would never advance  
(8-153)money till the work is in the hands of the printer so that  
(8-153)it will be out of my power to remit you anything on their  
(8-153)account until Mr. Gillies' labours are terminated when  
(8-153)I will endeavour all in my power to make the payments  
(8-153)meet your convenience.

(8-153)I am much afraid that in reading these commercial  
(8-153)details you will entertain a much meaner opinion of our  
(8-153)patrons the British Booksellers than you have hitherto  
(8-153)entertained. But you are to consider that they run all  
(8-153)risk of expense of publication bad debts and so forth  
(8-153)and they must have considerable profits to enable them  
(8-153)to front such expenses. In fact I have always found  
(8-153)that allowing the bookseller a handsome profit is the sure  
(8-153)way to do justice to the work-for I have known instances

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(8-154)when they have been dealt rather sharply with that they  
(8-154)have endeavoured to reimburse themselves by measures  
(8-154)which injured the sale of the work and of course hurt the  
(8-154)author's literary character upon future occasions-You  
(8-154)may easily see from the above details that the work  
(8-154)if successful must produce a great deal more than the  
(8-154)sum you mention-and if unsuccessful an event which all  
(8-154)who have to do with the public must account at least  
(8-154)possible you would not I am sure wish the bookseller  
(8-154)to be a loser. I will be happy to hear your own wishes  
(8-154)and opinions upon what I have just stated and am with

(8-154)sincere respect and regard Dear Sir Your much obliged  
(8-154)humble Servt WALTER SCOTT

(8-154)A Monsr. Monsieur Oelenschlager etc etc  
(8-154)Copenhagen Denmark.

(8-154)Postscript.-Mr. Feldborg has goodnaturedly undertaken  
(8-154)charge of the books.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO [A. ANDERSEN FELDBORG]

(8-154)MR. CADELL says, no German work has ever stood the  
(8-154)expense of translating, and we know how very small that  
(8-154)is. In short, I had the mortification to see that he is not  
(8-154)in humour with the undertaking. I wish you would look  
(8-154)into Constable's shop, and talk with Cadell on the  
(8-154)subject. He will tell you that I offered to do anything in  
(8-154)my power to make the British public acquainted with Mr.  
(8-154)Oehlenschlager's merit, and I will assure you that the  
(8-154)matter shall not miscarry for lack of zeal on my part.

[after 16 January 1824]1 [Unsigned]  
[Howitt's Literature and Romance of Northern Europe]

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TO [UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT]1

(8-155)DEAR SIR,-I inclose some testimonials.

(8-155)I acknowlege myself anxious to get the opinion of the  
(8-155)Committee about leaving out the power of making coal  
(8-155)gas. It appears to me that in tenaciously refusing to make  
(8-155)this concession we should incur a certain expence and a

(8-155)great delay in order to attain a faculty of which it is  
(8-155)probable we may never avail ourselves and which should  
(8-155)it ever be desireable may be obtained as easily or more so  
(8-155)by openly setting ourselves forwards as an opposition  
(8-155)Coal-Gas Company.

(8-155)Supposing that our friends agree to the restriction I  
(8-155)think it may stand thus " for the purpose of making us a  
(8-155)Company to manufacture Gas from Oil or from any other  
(8-155)substance Coals always excepted." If this does not entirely  
(8-155)satisfy the Coal Gas folks I would even go thus far for  
(8-155)accomodation " Coal or any substance of which Coal  
(8-155)shall bona fide form the principal component part being  
(8-155)always excepted." But I should not like to extend the  
(8-155)excluding clause unless it was found necessary.

(8-155)I am not so sanguine as I was respecting the bridge I  
(8-155)fear it will be attended with great delay.

(8-155)We might perhaps erect one little foot bridge on such a  
(8-155)plan as may admit of its being added to in case the plan  
(8-155)be resumed at any future time.

(8-155)I intend to be home on Wednesday night meantime I  
(8-155)am Your obedient Servant                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-155)CASTLE STREET Friday [late January    ] 1824.

(8-155)An excellent architect from Liverpool 2 has recommended

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(8-156)strongly to the committee of Writers to the Signet  
(8-156)to prepare to light the hospital erected by Watson's fund  
(8-156)with oil gas by making arrangements for that purpose in  
(8-156)the building-Herriots-the Merchant Maidens-Watsons

(8-156)etc will probably follow the example in that case we may  
(8-156)consider whether works on the South side of the Town will  
(8-156)not be absolutely necessary unless we let the furnishing  
(8-156)fall into other hands.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-156)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I am rejoiced to find you are  
(8-156)getting relief and trust that with attention it will be  
(8-156)permanent. I send the box containing the papers belonging  
(8-156)to Lord Kinneder.<sup>1</sup> The key was sent to Abbotsford and  
(8-156)I will bring it in the first time I go there. The want of it  
(8-156)prevented my sending the Box directly. But if you are in  
(8-156)a hurry a blacksmith will soon make the box patent-

(8-156)I intend to call at Parkplace tomorrow when dismissed  
(8-156)from the Court. Yours in the meantime with best wishes

(8-156)CASTLE STREET Monday [after 16 Jan. 1824].      W. S.

(8-156)With a Box  
[Stevenson]

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      157

TO MISS CLEPHANE

(8-157)EDINBURGH 23 January 1824

(8-157)MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-Never do yourself or your  
(8-157)friends especially the present writer hereof, the great  
(8-157)injustice of supposing yourself forgotten. I am to be sure  
(8-157)an ungracious wretch, so far as correspondence is  
(8-157)concerned, for the forenoon has its occupations, and to let

(8-157)you into an unpleasant secret, my eyes do not by any  
(8-157)means serve me to write by candlelight in the way I was  
(8-157)while once I went. On such occasions, my hand, never  
(8-157)over-distinct, slides over the paper like a cat shod with  
(8-157)walnut-shells over the ice, and commits all sorts of  
(8-157)irregularities. Then to take my just praise, no person is  
(8-157)more regular in their correspondence when it is necessary  
(8-157)to do the needful-as for example-yours received and  
(8-157)note the contents.<sup>2</sup> I have advised our friend Sir William  
(8-157)Forbes & Co. to procure from the Bank of England the  
(8-157)needful powers for selling your stock in 3 per cent Consols.  
(8-157)They will transmit you in course the power of Attorney  
(8-157)which you will please sign as directed, and return to them  
(8-157)that the sale may be completed.

(8-157)Seriously I think you are quite right to realize the profit

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(8-158)occurring on your purchase which must be considerable.  
(8-158)Such is the change of times, however, that Bankers are  
(8-158)unwilling to retain money in their hands even at 3 per  
(8-158)cent, but Sir William's folks have agreed that the price of  
(8-158)your stock shall remain with them till Whitsunday and  
(8-158)I have little doubt that against that term Mr. John  
(8-158)Gibson (poor Donaldson's successor) will be able to find  
(8-158)some heritable security for laying it out at four per cent,  
(8-158)which will increase your income as the sale will add to  
(8-158)your capital. Therefore you will return the power of sale  
(8-158)when you receive it from Sir William's house properly  
(8-158)executed and direct them to hold the proceeds and to  
(8-158)send you a receipt for the amounts so soon as it reaches  
(8-158)their hands. If you feel at all puzzled about this, send  
(8-158)the power to me, and I will arrange it for you. But it will  
(8-158)save time to write them directly yourself, besides the  
(8-158)chance of my being at Abbotsford, which might occasion

(8-158)delay. Not that I think there is any danger 1 of stocks  
(8-158)falling unless from unforeseen causes.

(8-158)We have been really feeling all l'embarras des richesses,  
(8-158)for after howling like dogs in the highway for dearth of  
(8-158)bread and scarcity of money, we are now visited with  
(8-158)repletion of both, and are to be ruined with the cheapness  
(8-158)of food and the plenty of money. However a full sorrow  
(8-158)is an endurable sorrow, so we will hope for the best.

(8-158)I am truly anxious about Lord Compton's health of  
(8-158)which, like you, I have heard but poor accounts, but as  
(8-158)he is naturally thin his looks may make strangers think  
(8-158)him worse than he is. I think with you that a northern  
(8-158)summer and a southern winter are best fitting for his  
(8-158)complaints.

(8-158)I have some domestic cause of anxiety at present-  
(8-158)Sophia's confinement being immediately expected. Her  
(8-158)little boy was threatened with bad health, but has rallied  
(8-158)again, and is getting stout which is a great mercy, for his  
(8-158)parents are much wrapd up in him, and indeed he is so

(8-159)quick witted and clever that he is a very engaging child.  
(8-159)I always tremble however when I see the intellect get  
(8-159)greatly the start of bodily strength. It is like a tree  
(8-159)blossoming when it should grow to strength.

(8-159)I heartily sympathise with dear Mrs. Clephane's  
(8-159)rheumatism, not that I have had any myself but my wife  
(8-159)has been a good deal annoyed by them, with a smart  
(8-159)touch of asthma by way of variety. I wish I were with  
(8-159)you to display my excellent qualities as a pair of yarn-  
(8-159)winders 1 -you never knew any substitute for these

(8-159)conveniences which make a better figure than my ten fingers.  
(8-159)I hope the cat who is usually very active on such occasions  
(8-159)behaves herself well-

(8-159)We were at Abbotsford during the Xmas holidays, and  
(8-159)for us sober folks unusually gay, for we had a dance of  
(8-159)neighbours which began without music, and ended at 5  
(8-159)in the morning without light-the whole stock of gas being  
(8-159)burned out just as the company broke up. The ball-room  
(8-159)was a very nice library with which I have treated myself.  
(8-159)You will hardly know my premises when you see them  
(8-159)again, and I begin to think I have flung away a good deal  
(8-159)of money which might have been as well saved. But  
(8-159)having all my life had certain visions respecting a house,  
(8-159)I could not resist the temptation of realizing them, so now  
(8-159)like Christabelle's phantom guest the place is

(8-159)" A thing to dream of-not to tell."

(8-159)My young hussar promises to turn out a good officer :  
(8-159)he is very fond of mathematics and the higher branches  
(8-159)of his profession, which he is now studying at the Royal  
(8-159)Military Academy as one of the Senior Students. It is  
(8-159)said to be a good introduction to employment on the  
(8-159)Staff. Charles goes to enter at Oxford (Brazen Nose)  
(8-159)this term, but does not go there for residence till October.  
(8-159)Anne is quite well, and this I think is a full account of  
(8-159)my family.

(8-160)No public news-except the more last words of Mr.  
(8-160)Thurtell,<sup>1</sup> whose tale seems to interest the public as long  
(8-160)as that of Waterloo, showing that a bloody murder will  
(8-160)do the business of the newspapers when a bloody battle  
(8-160)is not to be heard. We are told a lady fell in love with



(8-160)Thurtell at the bar, as some one did with Lord Kilmarnock  
(8-160)in 1745-I refer you to the song in the Beggar's Opera  
(8-160)for solution of this frolic of Cupid.

(8-160)" If any wench Venus's girdle wear etc."

(8-160)If you would have a still more soothing strain

(8-160)" Did you never hear of Captain Parry  
(8-160)Did you never hear of the fair Miss Brown  
(8-160)He was all for love but he cared not to marry  
(8-160)And their loves are the bravest news in town."

(8-160)What would I give for an hour of your mother and you  
(8-160)amidst all this bald unprofitable chat. My kindest and  
(8-160)best respects attend Mrs. Maclean Clephane. O for an  
(8-160)hour of Dundee-which brings me the length of telling  
(8-160)you that I have seen a most beautiful drawing of Clavers

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      161

(8-161)from an original picture-exactly similar to the bad  
(8-161)picture which I have 1 -but quite the character of some  
(8-161)beautiful youth who died for love-save that the hair is  
(8-161)dark he might be the flaxen haired youth-I have scarce  
(8-161)left room to say that I am always Yours with sincere  
(8-161)affection and regard.                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-161)I must not forget my love to Williamina who I expect to  
(8-161)see a prodigy of wit and beauty.

[Northampton and Abbotsford Copies]

TO MRS. CARPENTER

(8-161)EDINBURGH Febry 1st 1824

(8-161)DEAR MRS. CARPENTER,-Walter will deliver to you  
(8-161)the deed executed by the two Lockharts himself & Anne.  
(8-161)I was willing to wait till she came of age & till my family  
(8-161)should be assembled together in the same place which  
(8-161)did not take place till this last Christmas. Charles will  
(8-161)unquestionably sign with great pleasure as soon as he  
(8-161)is of age to bind himself: as yet he is only in his 19th  
(8-161)year : but he has quite sense enough to know what  
(8-161)honour & justice require of him towards you & I am sure  
(8-161)that there need not the slightest doubt remain on your  
(8-161)mind or Mr Handleys concerning his acting as the rest  
(8-161)of the family have done. The present very high state of  
(8-161)the funds induce me to submit to your consideration &  
(8-161)that of Mr Handley or any other friends you may chuse  
(8-161)to advise with whether your own income may not be  
(8-161)considerably enlarged & the contingent interest of my  
(8-161)family render'd at the same time more valuable by selling  
(8-161)out of the funds & vesting the price in landed security  
(8-161)which may be done either in England or Scotland for

(8-162)four per cent which would make a very considerable  
(8-162)addition to your immediate income while the capital at  
(8-162)the present high price of stocks would be proportionately  
(8-162)increased. It must be also consider'd that the interest of  
(8-162)borrow'd money is likely to rise so soon as agriculture  
(8-162)gets out of its present depression : of these there are  
(8-162)immediate symptoms at present & then your revenue  
(8-162)would be advanced in proportion. If you think favorably  
(8-162)about this Mr Barber or Mr Handley will afford you  
(8-162)fuller information than I can do on the subject & cause  
(8-162)suitable security to be enquired after : if you prefer the  
(8-162)money remaining in the funds it would be the last of my  
(8-162)wishes to urge any alteration. Your own pleasure or your

(8-162)own advantage is the first consideration in the matter.  
(8-162)We have been distressed with Sophias loss of her baby &  
(8-162)the shock which that incident has given to her recovery :  
(8-162)but she is doing well now-better than for some days past.  
(8-162)Walter has return'd to his college at Sandhurst & Charles  
(8-162)is I suppose by this time a Gentleman Commoner of  
(8-162)Brazen Nose College in Oxford each in their own way in  
(8-162)Presence 1 of knowledge. My improvements at Abbotsford  
(8-162)are now nearly finish'd & Charlotte & I sincerely hope  
(8-162)you will come down this summer with Miss Hooke and  
(8-162)occupy your old corner in the parlour. Our rooms for  
(8-162)guests are considerably more in number than when you  
(8-162)were last with us & I need not assure you that the welcome  
(8-162)will be the same as from your own family. Do not say  
(8-162)no to this request but arrange your summer so as to  
(8-162)permit you to be with us in July about the middle of  
(8-162)which month our courts leave me at my own disposal &  
(8-162)we betake ourselves to Abbotsford of course. Lady Scott  
(8-162)& Anne join in kindest & best compliments & I always am  
(8-162)with much respect & regard Dear Mrs Carpenter Most  
(8-162)affectionately yours  
WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      163

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH, EDGEWORTHSTOWN, IRELAND  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 3d Feb. 1824

(8-163)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,-I answer your kind letter  
(8-163)immediately, because I am sure your sisters and you will  
(8-163)interest yourselves [sic] in Sophia's state of health. My  
(8-163)news are not of the best-but  
  
(8-163)" Yet not so ill, but may be well reported."

(8-163)On Saturday, 31st January, she had a daughter, but the  
(8-163)poor little stranger left us on the Monday following ; and  
(8-163)though Sophia is very patient in her temper, yet her  
(8-163)recovery is naturally retarded, and I am sorry to say she  
(8-163)has been attacked in her weak state by those spasms which  
(8-163)seem a hereditary disorder in my family,-slightly, however,  
(8-163)in comparison of the former occasion ; and for the  
(8-163)last two or three days she has been so much recovered as  
(8-163)to take a grain or two of calomel, which is specific in the  
(8-163)complaint. I have no doubt now, humanly speaking,  
(8-163)that her recovery will proceed favourably. I saw her for  
(8-163)a quarter of an hour yesterday, which was the first  
(8-163)permanent visit I have been permitted to make her. So you  
(8-163)may imagine we have been anxious enough, living, as is  
(8-163)our clannish fashion, very much for and with each other.

(8-163)Anent the matter of the correspondence I acknowledge  
(8-163)like Sancho that I have gone out for wool and come home  
(8-163)shorn. Upon my life I never knew where the letter  
(8-163)came from that I forwarded to you, only I found it among  
(8-163)my papers on my writing table which are generally in the  
(8-163)most deplorable confusion. How or when it got stuffed  
(8-163)there. Lord only knows.

(8-163)Your American friend, the good-wife of Charlie's Hope,<sup>1</sup>

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(8-164)seems disposed, as we say, " to sin her mercies." She  
(8-164)quarrels with books that amuse her, because she does not  
(8-164)know the author ; and she gives up chicken-pie for the  
(8-164)opposite reason, that she knows too much about the birds'  
(8-164)pedigree. On the last point I share her prejudices, and  
(8-164)never could eat the flesh of any creature I had known  
(8-164)while alive. I had once a noble yoke of oxen, which,

(8-165)with the usual agricultural gratitude, we killed for the  
(8-165)table ; they said it was the finest beef in the four counties,  
(8-165)but I could never taste Gog and Magog, whom I used to  
(8-165)admire in the plough. Moreover, when I was an officer  
(8-165)of yeomanry, and used to dress my own charger, I formed  
(8-165)an acquaintance with a flock of white turkeys, by throwing  
(8-165)them a handful of oats now and then when I came from  
(8-165)the stable :-I saw their numbers diminish with real pain,  
(8-165)and never attempted to eat any of them without being  
(8-165)sick. And yet I have as much of the rugged and tough  
(8-165)about me as is necessary to carry me through all sorts of  
(8-165)duty without much sentimental compunction.

(8-165)As to the ingenious system of double authorship, which  
(8-165)the Americans have devised for the Waverley novels, I  
(8-165)think it in one point of view extremely likely. For the  
(8-165)unhappy man, whom they have thought fit to bring on  
(8-165)the carpet, has been shut up in a madhouse for many  
(8-165)years ; and it seems probable that no brain but a  
(8-165)madman's could have invented so much stuff, and no  
(8-165)leisure but that of a prisoner could have afforded time  
(8-165)to write it all. Besides it seems very much the part of a  
(8-165)madman to bribe another person not to own but to deny  
(8-165)his own productions. I have told every human being  
(8-165)that has the slightest title to ask the question that I have  
(8-165)nothing to do with these novels, and I really hardly see  
(8-165)why any person should have bribed me for doing so, unless  
(8-165)upon the principle on which the Distillers in this country  
(8-165)maintain a monopoly by buying off every individual who  
(8-165)proposes to set up a distillery. But on the other hand  
(8-165)that I should have been an associate in such a firm, or had  
(8-165)I even been suspected of such dishonourable meanness,  
(8-165)I should very soon have forfeited the situation which as  
(8-165)yet I have the good fortune to hold in Society. So

(8-165)that if this poor man be the author of these works, I can  
(8-165)assure your kind friend that I neither would, could, nor  
(8-165)durst have the slightest communication with him on  
(8-165)that or any other subject. In fact, I have never heard of

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1824

(8-166)him twice for twenty years or more. As for honest Mrs  
(8-166)Grant, I cannot conceive why the deuce I should have  
(8-166)selected her for a mother-confessor ; if it had been  
(8-166)yourself, or Joanna, there might have been some  
(8-166)probability in the report; but good Mrs Grant is so very  
(8-166)caerulean, and surrounded by so many fetch-and-carry  
(8-166)mistresses and misses, and the maintainer of such an  
(8-166)unmerciful correspondence, that though I would do her  
(8-166)any kindness in my power, yet I should be afraid to be very  
(8-166)intimate with a woman whose tongue and pen are rather  
(8-166)overpowering. She is an excellent person notwithstanding.  
(8-166)Pray, make my respects to your correspondent,  
(8-166)and tell her I am very sorry I cannot tell her who the  
(8-166)author of Waverley is ; but I hope she will do me the  
(8-166)justice not to ascribe any dishonourable transactions to  
(8-166)me, either in that matter or any other, until she hears  
(8-166)that they are likely to correspond with any part of my  
(8-166)known character, which, having been now a lion of good  
(8-166)reputation on my own deserts for twenty years and  
(8-166)upwards, ought to be indifferently well known in Scotland.  
(8-166)She seems to be a very amiable person ; and though I  
(8-166)shall never see Charlie's Hope, or eat her chicken-pies,  
(8-166)I am sure I wish health to wait on the one, and good  
(8-166)digestion on the other. They are funny people the  
(8-166)Americans : I saw a paper in which they said my father  
(8-166)was a tailor. If he had been an honest tailor, I should not  
(8-166)have been ashamed of the circumstance ; but he was what  
(8-166)may be thought as great a phenomenon, for he was an honest  
(8-166)lawyer, a cadet of a good family, whose predecessors only

(8-166)dealt in pinking and slashing doublets, not in making them.

(8-166)Here is a long letter, and all about trash. But what

(8-166)can you expect      Judges are mumbling and grumbling

(8-166)above me-lawyers are squabbling and babbling around

(8-166)me. The minutes I give to my letter are stolen from

(8-166)Themis. I hope to get to Abbotsford very soon, though

(8-166)only for two or three days, until 12th March, when we go

(8-166)there for some time.

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-167)Mrs Spice seems to be recovering from her distemper,

(8-167)which makes a curious case, providing the recovery is

(8-167)complete. Little Walter came down at Xmas and speedily

(8-167)assembled three more terriers. One day the whole got

(8-167)off after a hare, and made me remember the basket beagles

(8-167)that Lord Morton use to keep in my youth ; for the whole

(8-167)pack opened like hounds, and would have stuck to the

(8-167)chase till they had killed the hare, which would have

(8-167)been like being pricked to death with pins, if we had not

(8-167)licked them off so soon as we could for laughing. This is

(8-167)a dull joke on paper , but imagine the presumption of

(8-167)so many long-backed, short-legged creatures pursuing an

(8-167)animal so very fleet. You will allow it is something

(8-167)ridiculous. I am sure Count O'Halloran would have

(8-167)laughed, and Colonel Heathcock would have been

(8-167)scandalized.<sup>1</sup> Lady Scott sends her best and kindest

(8-167)remembrances, in which she is joined by Anne and Sophia

(8-167)(poor body). My fair friends, Harriet and Sophia, have

(8-167)a large interest in this greeting, and Lockhart throws

(8-167)himself in with tidings that Sophia continues to mend.-

(8-167)Always, my dear Miss Edgeworth, most faithfully yours,

(8-167)WALTER SCOTT

[Butler and Lockhart]

TO DANIEL TERRY

[Extract]

(8-167)EDINBURGH, 5th February 1824

(8-167)... IF you have seen little Russell he will tell you how  
(8-167)our Christmas gambols came off gaily, and how they  
(8-167)danced in the new library till moonlight and starlight and  
(8-167)gaslight went out. The entrance hall with its blazonry,  
(8-167)carved oak panels, and huge freestone chimney-pieces,<sup>2</sup>  
(8-167)with such pieces of old armour as can be handsomely

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(8-168)stow'd there, will be quite baronial. The outer court,  
(8-168)with its screen and carved work, looks very antique.

(8-168)The command of time which your absence from the  
(8-168)Haymarket [allows] may be advantageously disposed of  
(8-168)here ; indeed as you come down with a new halo of  
(8-168)London fame, I think it might be very successful, for  
(8-168)theatrical attraction always depends more on popularity  
(8-168)than on real merit. Besides, you have now several parts  
(8-168)of your own, which always infers novelty, and with a little  
(8-168)help from friends and James Ballantyne's blarney, I have  
(8-168)little doubt of the campaign, and I will be personally  
(8-168)responsible for a good benefit. I speak this confidently,  
(8-168)because circumstances have forced me into wider connections  
(8-168)of every kind than perhaps I could have wished, and  
(8-168)a friend like you should take the full benefit. ...

(8-168)My present labours 1 -but tell it not to one mortal ear  
(8-168)-comprehend two narratives in about two volumes each;  
(8-168)they may perhaps intrude on vol. 3rd. I intend you shall



(8-168)have this, which I think will be highly dramatic, as soon  
(8-168)as printed, and as nothing can come out till the other vols.  
(8-168)are both written and printed, you will have ample time to  
(8-168)dramatize it before any intruder can possibly interfere.

(8-168)I am very much pleased to hear of your theatrical  
(8-168)history, which I think is capable of being rendered much  
(8-168)more agreeable than in any shape it has yet taken. To  
(8-168)guide you in a trifling point about my own theatrical  
(8-168)collection, please note that I have got Mrs. G. A. Bellamy  
(8-168)and Mrs. Sumbel Wells.<sup>2</sup> If you are anxious to trace the

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-169)root of Sir Anthony Absolute, whose humour is well  
(8-169)maintained in Percy Mallory, pray look into Cowley's old  
(8-169)comedy of the Guardian, afterwards altered into the Cutter  
(8-169)of Coleman Street, where you find the first sketch of the  
(8-169)knight in Truman Senior. I am morally certain Sheridan  
(8-169)had read this piece and taken the hint. I am truly glad  
(8-169)that poor Theodore's <sup>1</sup> affairs are looking up ; it would  
(8-169)be terrible to think he should be deserted, but I hope  
(8-169)he will look about him and push the matter to a settlement,  
(8-169)for should he not get a quietus now, it may leave  
(8-169)him open to oppression when the Whigs come in, and I  
(8-169)know these worthy gentlemen so well as to believe they  
(8-169)would not neglect to use them. A thousand kind compliments

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(8-170)to Mrs. Terry and nursery, not forgetting Walter.  
(8-170)If I live to see him fit to go out in the world, it shall go  
(8-170)hard but I lend a hand to the launch ; the Engineer  
(8-170)Department of the East India Company offers great  
(8-170)advantages for young people who have a turn for drawing  
(8-170)and mathematics. . . .-Yours always,

(8-170)WALTER SCOTT

[Familiar Letters]

TO HUGH SCOTT OF HARDEN

(8-170)MY DEAR SIR,-I answer your letter immediatly because  
(8-170)it apprizes me whereabouts I am to send some intelligence  
(8-170)about my Sophia which I know will be interesting to Mrs.  
(8-170)Scott & your family. About ten days since she had a  
(8-170)baby under favourable circumstances of every kind. But  
(8-170)un[ha]ppily the child died on the second day afterwards  
(8-170)and though poor Sophia took this dispensation with her  
(8-170)natural patience & mildness yet so great a disappointment  
(8-170)natural[ly] retarded her recovery. God be thanked it is  
(8-170)now going on very favourably but I own I would with  
(8-170)pleasure have seen little Johnie Hugh your godson backed  
(8-170)by a cautioner for he is a delicate child though a very  
(8-170)engaging one & his father & mother are more wrap[p]d  
(8-170)up in him than perhaps we should be in any thing merely  
(8-170)human.

(8-170)I spoke to the Advocate about the title-his official duty  
(8-170)places him in the situation of contradictor on these  
(8-170)occasions but of course if he is convinced in his own mind  
(8-170)his opposition will be matter of form only. Sir William  
(8-170)Forbes's claim to the title of Lord Pitsligo stands on the  
(8-170)same footing with this much more doubtful addition that  
(8-170)it goes to one set of heirs male & their heirs then to another  
(8-170)set of heirs male and per expressum to their heirs male which  
(8-170)certain[ly] in a quaestio voluntatis may be held to regulate  
(8-170)the ambiguous expression of heirs in the first destination

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-171)but I made his Lordship observe that there was no such

(8-171)subsequent clause. I will cause Mr. Thomson give his  
(8-171)Lordship a state of the claim and I will attempt at least  
(8-171)to learn his opinion on the subject which however it is  
(8-171)very possible to suppose he may not chuse to express to  
(8-171)me. I will see Mr. Thompson today if possible and push  
(8-171)him about the freehold qualifications. I was not aware  
(8-171)you had looked to me to do so but will not neglect it now.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-171)I presume he will proceed in terms of the Solicitors  
(8-171)opinion.

(8-171)I am heartily glad to hear William is getting well and  
(8-171)that Henry is gay at Berlin. Walter was with us during  
(8-171)the holidays & for a week afterwards : he went back to  
(8-171)Sandhurst a week since and is studying hard and I hope  
(8-171)with good success-his heart seems to be fairly in his

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(8-172)profession. Charles has entered at Brazen Nose but does not  
(8-172)go for residence till October. Mr. Williams flatters me  
(8-172)that he may get honours if he continues to bend his  
(8-172)attention to his studies.

(8-172)We had a very merry dance in the first week of the New  
(8-172)Year which lasted till they burnt out all my oil gas which  
(8-172)left them in the lurch at six next morning when they  
(8-172)betook themselves to candles. We wished much for our  
(8-172)Meriton friends upon such a notable occasion.

(8-172)I have I think very little chance of being in London this  
(8-172)spring. I only spend money there and I want to finish  
(8-172)Abbotsford with painting &c which will need both cash  
(8-172)& superintendence.

(8-172)We have lost an old acquaintance the widow of my late  
(8-172)Uncle Thomas who has not long survived her helpmate

(8-172)though much younger than he was.

(8-172)I cannot help thinking from what comes to my ears that  
(8-172)Sir Jo: Marjoribanks 2 is very queer just now. He has got  
(8-172)his head full of some assault & battery business that  
(8-172)happend long since at Coldstream and is quite outrageous  
(8-172)at the crown council for not indicting some people whom  
(8-172)he charges with perjury. If you continue to look Berwickward  
(8-172)I think you should put the matter on some footing  
(8-172)with the Government people while you are in town in case  
(8-172)of another march being stolen upon you.

(8-172)Lady Scott & Anne send kindest compliments to Mrs.  
(8-172)Scott the young ladies & William. I am always Dear Sir  
(8-172)Most affectionately yours                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-172)EDINR. 6 february 1824

(8-172)Till I got your letter I was uncertain if you were in town  
(8-172)or at Brighton. I beg my most respectful duty to his

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      173

(8-173)Majesty 1 and recommend my own regime to his royal  
(8-173)consideration Vizt. to rise at seven-dine at five go to bed  
(8-173)at eleven & be if possible four hours at least in the open  
(8-173)air every day-I am convinced this [is] the way to hold  
(8-173)life joind to moderation in eating & drinking which it is  
(8-173)not necessary to carry to rigours.

[Polwarth]

TO THOMAS SHORTREED, WRITER, JEDBURGH

(8-173)MY DEAR MR THOS,-As the written letter just received  
(8-173)from Governor Elphinstone 2 seems to sound favourably

(8-173)for Roberts prospects I send it to you without loss of time.

(8-173)I hope you are getting stout again. Kind Compliments to

(8-173)Mr & Mrs Shortreed and family. Yours &c in haste

(8-173)W. SCOTT

(8-173)EDINR. 8th february [PM. 1824]

[Walpole Collection-Original]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(8-173)MY DEAR MRS. BAILLIE To hear is to obey-and the

(8-173)enclosed line will show that the Siddons are agreeable to

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(8-174)act Miss Hemans drama 1 -When you tell the tale say

(8-174)nothing about me, for on no earthly consideration would

(8-174)I like it to be known that I interfered in theatrical matters,

(8-174)it brings such a torrent of applications which it is

(8-174)impossible to grant and often very painful to refuse.

(8-174)Everybody thinks they can write blank verse and that a play

(8-174)is only blank verse and a word of yours to Mrs Siddons

(8-174)&c &c. And I had one rogue (to be sure he went mad

(8-174)afterwards poor fellow) who came to bully me in my own

(8-174)house untill he had almost made the mist of twenty years

(8-174)as Ossian says roll backwards from my spirit in which

(8-174)case he might have come by an excellent good beating.

(8-174)I have great pleasure however in serving Miss Heman[s]

(8-174)both on account of her own merit and because of your

(8-174)patronage. I trust the piece will succeed but there is no

(8-174)promising for Saunders is meanly jealous of being thought

(8-174)less critical than John Bull and may perhaps despise to be

(8-174)pleased with what was less fortunate in London. I wish

(8-174)Miss H. had been on the spot to make any alterations &c

(8-174)which the players are always demanding. I will read  
(8-174)the drama more carefully over than I have yet done and  
(8-174)tell you if any thing occurs.

(8-174)I need hardly apologize for being late in telling  
(8-174)you for the terror of the cramp attacking poor Sophia  
(8-174)in her weak state kept us very feverish but thank God it  
(8-174)did little more than menace her and the symptoms  
(8-174)having now given way to the specific Calomel give us  
(8-174)every assurance of a favourable recovery. Her husband  
(8-174)talks of going to town in which case I will give him an

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-175)introduction to you. You will like him very much if you  
(8-175)can make him lay aside a reserve which is unpleasant to  
(8-175)new acquaintances, in his own house and with his own  
(8-175)family he is one of the pleasantest persons possible. When  
(8-175)this migration takes place I intend to take Sophia to  
(8-175)Abbotsford and

(8-175)Till she be fat as a Noraway seal  
(8-175)I'll feed her on bannocks of barleymeal.

(8-175)Betwixt indolence of her own and Lockharts extreme  
(8-175)anxiety and indulgence she has forgone the custom of her  
(8-175)exercise to which please God we will bring her back by  
(8-175)degrees.

(8-175)Little Charles is come down just entered at Brazen Nose  
(8-175)where however he does not go to reside till October. We  
(8-175)must see that he fills up the space between to good  
(8-175)advantage. He had always quickness enough to learn  
(8-175)and seems now really to have caught the

(8-175)--fever of renown

(8-175)Sprung from the strong contagion of the gown- 1

(8-175)My best compliments attend Mrs Baillie and Mrs  
(8-175)Agnes. I am sorry for Mr Crabbes complaint under  
(8-175)which he sufferd I recollect when he was here in 1821.(2)  
(8-175)Did you ever make out how he liked his Scottish Tour-he  
(8-175)is not you know very out-spoken and I was often afraid  
(8-175)that he was a little bord by the bustle around him. At  
(8-175)another time I would have made a point of attending  
(8-175)more to his comforts but what was to be done amid piping  
(8-175)and drumming and pageants and provosts and baillis [sic]  
(8-175)and wild highlandmen by the score. The time would  
(8-175)have been more propitious to a younger poet. The  
(8-175)fertility you mention is wonderful but surely he must

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(8-176)correct a great deal to bring his verses into the terse and  
(8-176)pointed state in which he gives them to the public.

(8-176)To come back to Miss Heman[s] I am afraid I cannot  
(8-176)flatter myself with much interest that can avail her. I go  
(8-176)so little out and mix so seldom either with the gay or the  
(8-176)literary world here that I am reduced like Gil Blas much  
(8-176)to the company of my brethren Clerks and men of business  
(8-176)a seclusion which I cannot say I regret greatly. But any  
(8-176)thing within my power shall not be left undone. I hope  
(8-176)you will make my apology to Miss Heman[s] for the delay  
(8-176)which has taken place for which circumstances must  
(8-176)apologise. If any thing should occur essential to be  
(8-176)known to the authoress I will write immediatly. I should  
(8-176)imagine the play may be produced about the middle of  
(8-176)March or rather earlier before our Courts rise-Always  
(8-176)yours my dear friend

WALTER SCOTT

(8-176)9th february EDINBURGH [1824]

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-176)MY DEAR SIR,-I beg you to return my best compliments  
(8-176)and thanks to the Proprietors of the Packet which  
(8-176)bears my name for the very handsome drawing of my  
(8-176)God-daughter with which they have honoured me.1 In  
(8-176)return for this and other marks of their esteem I can only  
(8-176)express my hope that a name which has had more good  
(8-176)fortune than it ever deserved in literature, may continue  
(8-176)to be equally lucky in Commerce. The drawing shall  
(8-176)have a distinguishd place at Abbotsford and with best  
(8-176)wishes for the continued progress of your recovery I am  
(8-176)always with much regard Dear Sir Yours very sincerely

(8-176)ABBOTSFORD 11th. february [1824]      WALTER SCOTT

[Stevenson]

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TO JOANNA BAILLIE

(8-177)MY DEAREST FRIEND-I hasten to answer your kind  
(8-177)enquiries about Sophia. You would learn from my last  
(8-177)that She was in a fair way of recovery and I am happy to  
(8-177)say she continues so well that we have no longer any  
(8-177)apprehensions on her account. She will soon get into  
(8-177)her sitting room again and of course have good rest at nights  
(8-177)and gather strength gradually. I have been telling [her]  
(8-177)that her face which was last week the size of sixpence has  
(8-177)in three or four days attained the diameter of a shilling  
(8-177)and will soon attain its natural and most extensive  
(8-177)circumference of half a crown. If we live till 12 of next month  
(8-177)we will all get to Abbotsford and between the black



(8-177)Doctor and the Red Nurse (pony and cow videlicet) I  
(8-177)trust she will be soon well again. As for little Johnie I  
(8-177)have no serious apprehension being quite of your mind  
(8-177)that his knowingness is only a proof that he is much with  
(8-177)grown-up people : the child is active enough and I hope  
(8-177)will do well-but an only child is like a blot at  
(8-177)backgammon and Fate is apt to hit it.

(8-177)I am particularly entertained with your answer to  
(8-177)Montgomery because it happened to be precisely the same  
(8-177)with mine.<sup>1</sup> He applied to me for a sonnet or an elegy  
(8-177)instead of which I sent him an account of a manner of  
(8-177)constructing chimneys so as scarcely to contract soot and  
(8-177)2dly of a very simple and effectual machine for sweeping  
(8-177)away what soot does adhere. In all the new part of  
(8-177)Abbotsford I have lined the chimney vents with a  
(8-177)succession of cones made of the same stuff with common  
(8-177)flower pots about one and half inch thick and 18 inches  
(8-177)or two feet high placed one above another and the vent

(8-178)built round them so that the smoke passing up these  
(8-178)round earthen tubes finds neither corner nor roughness  
(8-178)on which to deposit the soot and in fact there is very little  
(8-178)collected. What sweeping is required is most easily  
(8-178)performed by a brush like what housemaids call a pope's-  
(8-178)head the handle of which consists of a succession of pipes  
(8-178)one slipping on the top of another like the joints of a  
(8-178)fishing rod so that the maid first sweeps the lower part of  
(8-178)the vent then adds another pipe and sweeps a little higher  
(8-178)and so on. I have found this quite effectual but the  
(8-178)lining of the chimneys makes the accumulation of soot  
(8-178)very trifling in comparison with the common case.  
(8-178)Montgomery thanked me but I think he would rather have  
(8-178)had a sonnet, which puts me in mind of Mr Puns intended

(8-178)comedy of the reformed housebreaker in which he-was  
(8-178)to put burglary in so ridiculous a point of view that bolts  
(8-178)and bars were likely to become useless by the end of [the]  
(8-178)season.<sup>1</sup> Verily I have no idea of writing verse on a grave  
(8-178)subject of utility any more than of going to church in a  
(8-178)Cinque-pace.<sup>2</sup> Lottery tickets and Japan Blacking may  
(8-178)indeed be exceptions to this general rule.

(8-178)I am quite delighted at our two cool Scots answering  
(8-178)in exactly the same manner. But I am afraid your Sooty  
(8-178)men (who are still in regular discharge of their duty) and  
(8-178)my pope's-head and lined vents will not suit the  
(8-178)Committee who seem more anxious for poetry than for  
(8-178)common sense. For my part when I write on such  
(8-178)subjects I intend it shall be a grand historico-philosophico-  
(8-178)poem upon Oil Gas, having been made president of the  
(8-178)Oil-gas Company of this city, the whale fishery might be  
(8-178)introduced and something pretty said about palm-oil  
(8-178)which we think is apt to be popular among our lawyers.

(8-178)I am very sorry for poor Richardson so much attachd

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-179)to his wife and suffering so much in her suffering.<sup>1</sup> I hope  
(8-179)Tom Campbell gets on pretty well and wish he would do  
(8-179)something to sustain his deserved reputation.

(8-179)I wrote with Mrs Siddons consent to give Mrs Hemans  
(8-179)tragedy a trial. I hope that her expectations are not very  
(8-179)high for I do not think our ordinary theatrical audience  
(8-179)is either more judicious or less fastidious than those of  
(8-179)England. One hears little of poetry on the stage-it is  
(8-179)situation passion and rapidity of action which seem to be  
(8-179)the principal requisites for ensuring the success of a  
(8-179)modern drama. But I trust by dint of a special jury the

(8-179)piece may have a decent success-certainly I should not  
(8-179)hope for much more. I must see they bring it out before  
(8-179)12 March if possible as we go to the country that day.  
(8-179)I have not seen Mrs. Sidd: or her brother Will Murray  
(8-179)since their obliging answer for one of my colleagues is  
(8-179)laid up with gout and this gives me long seats in the Court,  
(8-179)of which you have reaped the fruits in this long epistle from  
(8-179)the Clerks table and amid the bustle of pleaders attorneys  
(8-179)and so forth. I will get a frank however if possible for  
(8-179)the matter is assuredly not worth a shilling postage.

(8-179)My kindest remembrances attend Mrs Baillie and Mrs  
(8-179)Agnes-Always yours with sincere respect and affection

(8-179)EDINR. 12th feby. 1824. WALTER SCOTT  
[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

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TO SIR ADAM FERGUSSON, K.K.R.

[15th February, 1824]

(8-180)DEAR ADAM,-The Chief Commis 1 has just had the  
(8-180)delightful intelligence that Sir Frederick is Governor of  
(8-180)the Ionian islands and our friend being one of those rare  
(8-180)kind hearts who think of their friends in the first moment  
(8-180)of their own prosperity has most kindly offerd to bespeak  
(8-180)a place on his Staff for Walter when he has passd his  
(8-180)examinations at College which will be a great Godsend.

(8-180)We are here like the Jews eating the Passover with our  
(8-180)loins girded and our staves in hand ready for our return  
(8-180)which I suppose will be on Wednesday

[The remainder of the MS. has been cut out.]

[Bayley]

TO DANIEL TERRY, LONDON

(8-180)ABBOTSFORD, Feb. 18, 1824

(8-180)MY DEAR TERRY,-Your very kind letter 2 reached me  
(8-180)here, so that I was enabled to send you immediately an

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-181)accurate sketch of the windows and chimney-sides of the  
(8-181)drawing-room to measurement. I should like the mirrors  
(8-181)handsome and the frames plain ; the colour of the  
(8-181)hangings is green, with rich Chinese figures. On the  
(8-181)side of the window I intend to have exactly beneath the  
(8-181)glass a plain white side-table of the purest marble, on  
(8-181)which to place Chantrey's bust. A truncated pillar of  
(8-181)the same marble will be its support ; and I think that,  
(8-181)besides the mirror above, there will be a plate of mirror  
(8-181)below the table : these memoranda will enable Baldock  
(8-181)to say at what price those points can be handsomely  
(8-181)accomplished. I have not yet spoken about the marble  
(8-181)table ; perhaps they may be all got in London. I shall  
(8-181)be willing to give a handsome but not an extravagant  
(8-181)price. I am much obliged to Mr. Baldock for his  
(8-181)confidence about the screen. But what says Poor Richard 1  
(8-181)" Those who want money when they come to buy, are  
(8-181)apt to want money when they come to pay." Again  
(8-181)Poor Dick observes,

(8-181)" That in many you find the true gentleman's fate ;  
(8-181)Ere his house is complete, he has sold his estate."

(8-181)So we will adjourn consideration of the screen till other

(8-181)times; let us first have the needful got and paid for. The

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(8-182)stuff for the windows in the drawing-room is the crimson  
(8-182)damask silk we bought last year. I enclose a scrap of it  
(8-182)that the fringe may be made to match. I propose they  
(8-182)should be hung with large handsome brass rings upon a  
(8-182)brass cylinder, and I believe it would be best to have  
(8-182)these articles from London-I mean the rings and  
(8-182)cylinders; but I dislike much complication in the mode of  
(8-182)drawing them separate, as it is eternally going wrong ;  
(8-182)those which divide in the middle, drawing back on each  
(8-182)side like the curtains of an old-fashioned bed, and when  
(8-182)drawn back are secured by a loop and tassel, are, I think,  
(8-182)the handsomest, and can easily be made on the spot;  
(8-182)the fringe should be silk, of course. I think the curtains  
(8-182)of the library, considering the purpose of the room,  
(8-182)require no fringe at all. We have, I believe, settled that  
(8-182)they shall not be drawn in a line across the recess, as in  
(8-182)the drawing-room, but shall circle along the inside of the  
(8-182)windows. I refer myself to Mr Atkinson about the  
(8-182)fringe, but I think a little mixture of gold would look  
(8-182)handsome with the crimson silk. As for the library, a  
(8-182)yellow fringe, if any. I send a draught of the windows  
(8-182)enclosed ; the architraves are not yet up in the library,  
(8-182)but they are accurately computed from the drawings of  
(8-182)my kind friend Mr Atkinson. There is plenty of time to  
(8-182)think about these matters, for of course the rooms must  
(8-182)be painted before they are put up. I saw the presses  
(8-182)yesterday ; they are very handsome, and remind me of  
(8-182)the awful job of arranging my books. About July,  
(8-182)Abbotsford will, I think, be finished, when I shall, like  
(8-182)the old Duke of Queensberry who built Drumlanrig, fold  
(8-182)up the accounts in a sealed parcel, with a label bidding  
(8-182)" the deil pike out the een of any of my successors that

(8-182)shall open it." I beg kind love to Mrs Terry, Walter the  
(8-182)Great, and Missy. Delicious weather here, and birds  
(8-182)singing St Valentine's matins as if it were April-Yours  
(8-182)ever, WALTER SCOTT

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(8-183)P.S.-Pride will have a fall-I have a whelp of one of  
(8-183)Dandle Dinmont's Pepper and Mustard terriers, which  
(8-183)no sooner began to follow me into the house than Ourisque  
(8-183)fell foul. The Liddesdale devil cocked its nose, and went  
(8-183)up to the scratch like a tigress, downed Ourie, and served  
(8-183)her out completely ; since which Ourie has been so low  
(8-183)that it seems going into an atrophy, and Ginger takes all  
(8-183)manner of precedence, as the best place by the fire, and  
(8-183)so on, to Lady Scott's great discomfiture.-Single letters  
(8-183)by post : double to Croker-with a card enclosed, asking  
(8-183)a frank to me.

[Lockhart]

TO COLIN MACKENZIE

(8-183)MY DEAR COLIN,-The inclosed is of such importance  
(8-183)that I forward it immediatly for no Deus ex machina ever  
(8-183)came more apropos to our Academy.<sup>1</sup> I only wish it were  
(8-183)better worth Williams's while but I have no doubt that  
(8-183)his acknowleged scholarship and power of communicating  
(8-183)information will at once render the Academy respectable  
(8-183)and his own situation valuable. Having been three years  
(8-183)in correspondence with Mr. W. I can bear witness to the  
(8-183)careful and regular attention which he bestows on his  
(8-183)pupils to his attention to their peculiar bent and the

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(8-184)dexterity with which he renders learning lively. Charles  
(8-184)who was idle conceited and impracticable while at home  
(8-184)is now a steady hard reading Student & passionately fond  
(8-184)of his teacher. Morritts nephew whom he tutord while at  
(8-184)Winchester was a crack scholar-so is Surtees who will  
(8-184)take honours at Oxford and who has often spoken to me  
(8-184)about Williams merits.<sup>1</sup> I have no doubt that his  
(8-184)recommendations will be of the first order but I reckon more  
(8-184)upon [having] seen his pupils all of whom shewd a love  
(8-184)for and interest in learning which argued the greatest  
(8-184)skill on the part of the Teacher. I never saw Williams  
(8-184)myself nor have I the least interest in him excepting what  
(8-184)arises out of & bears upon his skill as a teacher-I mean  
(8-184)gratitude for my sons proficiency. I had letters from  
(8-184)Williams during the first quarter describing in the  
(8-184)frankest manner Charless merits & his faults with an  
(8-184)accuracy which I who had known him all his life could  
(8-184)scarce have equald.

(8-184)Of course this is a matter that cannot be hurried but  
(8-184)yet we cannot have better bread than is made of wheat  
(8-184)and I should [like] to have Mr. Williams claims considerd

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-185)soon after his certificates are brought forward for a man  
(8-185)of proved talents & scholarship in the prime of life an  
(8-185)enthusiast in his profession though possessd of a private  
(8-185)independence which makes him completely respectable  
(8-185)seems to be the very man we want.<sup>1</sup> Of course you will  
(8-185)communicate with our brethren-I have [so] much to do  
(8-185)here that I will take a ride on Hamilton till Monday as he  
(8-185)writes me he is able to work. Yours truly  
(8-185)ABBOTSFORD 18 feby. [1824]

WALTER SCOTT

[Edinburgh Academy]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-185)DEAR WALTER,-I have been making such arrangements  
(8-185)for your future employment as if successful cannot  
(8-185)I think fail to give you much pleasure. Ld. Chief  
(8-185)Commissioner has volunteerd to apply to his son Sir Frederick  
(8-185)for a place for you upon his staff which as he is to be  
(8-185)Governor of the Ionian islands in room of Sir Thomas  
(8-185)Maitland 2 just dead cannot fail to be an advantageous and  
(8-185)agreeable situation as well as highly respectable. Lord

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(8-186)Commissioner also proposes that the appointment should  
(8-186)take place at a period sufficiently distant to permit  
(8-186)you to pass your examination at College. In the meantime  
(8-186)if you correspond with Greenwood and keep a good  
(8-186)look out I have little doubt to get you either a troop or a  
(8-186)company so that you will have the rank of Captain. You  
(8-186)will then my dear have to make your own battle with an  
(8-186)occasional •'50,, to buy a charger or aid a shift of quarters.  
(8-186)Of course I make your foot company if it should be one  
(8-186)equal to a troop in pay.1 Charles must for some years  
(8-186)cost me a round sum of money yearly.

(8-186)I miss a German book bearing my own name on the  
(8-186)title page 2 which lay on the side table in the dining room.  
(8-186)I hope you have got it as I should like ill to lose it.

(8-186)Charles is with us now and is doing very well. Sophia  
(8-186)continues to recover comfortably but we have left Anne  
(8-186)to take care of her. Fine soft weather here birds singing  
(8-186)and flowers springing-I will be here till Monday. Write  
(8-186)so soon as this reaches and address to Edinburgh. I am  
(8-186)always Dear Walter yours most affectionately



(8-186)WALTER SCOTT

(8-186)ABBOTSFORD 18 february [PM. 1824]

(8-186)M[r] Maturin threatens a descent upon Scotland in  
(8-186)Spring.

(8-186)Addressed : Lieut Walter Scott  
(8-186)Kings Hussars/R. Militry College  
(8-186)Bagshot/London

[Law]

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TO MARIA EDGEWORTH, EDGEWORTHSTOWN

(8-187)EDINBURGH, February 24, 1824  
(8-187)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH I do not delay a moment  
(8-187)to send my warmest and best congratulations upon the  
(8-187)very happy event which is about to take place in your  
(8-187)family and to assure that you do me but common justice  
(8-187)in supposing that I take the warmest interest in whatever  
(8-187)concerns my young friends-All Abbotsford to an acre  
(8-187)of Poyais I that she will make an excellent wife ; and most  
(8-187)truly happy am I to think that she has such an admirable  
(8-187)prospect of matrimonial happiness, although at the  
(8-187)expense of thwarting the maxim, and showing that

(8-187)The course of true love sometimes may run smooth.

(8-187)It will make a pretty vista as I hope and trust for you  
(8-187)my good friend to look forwards with an increase of  
(8-187)interest to futurity. Lady Scott Anne and Sophia send  
(8-187)their sincere and hearty congratulations upon this joyful

(8-187)occasion. I hope to hear her sing the petticoat of red  
(8-187)some day in her own house.<sup>2</sup> I should be apt to pity

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(8-188)you a little amid all your happiness if you had not besides  
(8-188)other young companions whose merits are only known to  
(8-188)me by report my young friend Miss Harriet, to prevent  
(8-188)your feeling so much as you would otherwise, the blank  
(8-188)which this event might occasion in your domestic society.

(8-188)Sophia, I hope, will be soon able to make her own  
(8-188)gratulations. She is recovering very well, and overjoyed  
(8-188)to hear such good news from your quarter. I have been  
(8-188)on a short trip to Abbotsford to set painters &c to work  
(8-188)to complete what Slender would call " mine own great  
(8-188)chamber " and on my return I was quite delighted to see  
(8-188)the change on my daughter. Little Johnnie Hugh is  
(8-188)likewise much better but will require nursing and care  
(8-188)for some years at least. Yet I have often known such  
(8-188)hothouse plants bear the open air as well as those that  
(8-188)were reared on the open moor.

(8-188)I am not at all surprized at what you say of the Yankees.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-188)They are a people possessd of very considerable energy  
(8-188)quickened and brought into eager action by an honourable  
(8-188)love of their country and pride in their institutions  
(8-188)but they are as yet rude in their ideas of social intercourse,  
(8-188)and totally ignorant speaking generally of all the art of  
(8-188)good-breeding which consists chiefly in a postponement  
(8-188)of ones own petty wishes or comforts to those of others.  
(8-188)By rude questions free and unfeeling observations an  
(8-188)absolute disrespect to other people's feelings and a ready  
(8-188)indulgence of their own they make one feverish in their  
(8-188)company though perhaps you may be ashamed to confess

(8-189)the reason. But this will wear off and is wearing away.  
(8-189)Men when they have once got benches, will soon fall into  
(8-189)the use of cushions. They are advancing in the arts and  
(8-189)in literature and they will not be long deficient in the  
(8-189)petite morale especially as they have like ourselves the rage  
(8-189)for travelling. I have seen a new work-the Pilot 1 -by the  
(8-189)author of the Spy and Pioneer.-The heroe is the celebrated  
(8-189)Paul Jones who I well remember advancing above the  
(8-189)island [of Inchkeith] with three small vessells to lay  
(8-189)Leith under contribution. I remember my mother being  
(8-189)alarmed with the drum which she had heard all her life  
(8-189)at eight o'clock conceiving it to be the pirates who had  
(8-189)landed.-I never saw such a change as betwixt that time  
(8-189)and 1797 in the military state of a city. Then Edinburgh  
(8-189)had scarce three companies of men under arms and  
(8-189)latterly she furnished 5000 with complete appointments  
(8-189)of cavalry artillery and infantry enough to have eat Paul  
(8-189)Jones and his whole equipage.-Nay, the very square in

(8-190)which my father's house 1 stands could even then have  
(8-190)furnished a body of armed men sufficient to have headed  
(8-190)back as large a party as he could well have landed.-  
(8-190)However the novel is a very clever one and the sea-scenes  
(8-190)and characters in particular are admirably drawn and  
(8-190)I advise you to read it as soon as possible.

(8-190)I have little news to send from Abbotsford. Spice is  
(8-190)much better though still asthmatic. She is extremely  
(8-190)active and in high spirits though the most miserable thin  
(8-190)long backed creature I ever saw. She is extremely like the  
(8-190)shadow of a dog on the wall such a sketch as a child  
(8-190)makes in its first attempts at drawing a monster with

(8-190)a large head four feet and a most portentous longitude of  
(8-190)back. There was great propriety in Miss Harriet's dream  
(8-190)after all for if ever a dog needed six legs poor Spice  
(8-190)certainly requires a pair of additional supporters. She is  
(8-190)now following me a little though the duty of body guard  
(8-190)has devolved for the present on a cousin of hers a fierce  
(8-190)game devil, that goes at everything and has cowed  
(8-190)Ourisk's courage in a most extraordinary degree to Lady  
(8-190)Scott's great vexation.

(8-190)Here is a tale of dogs, and dreams, and former days  
(8-190)but the only pleasure in writing is to write whatever  
(8-190)comes readiest to the pen.

(8-190)My wife and Anne send kindest compliments of  
(8-190)congratulation as also Charles who has come down to spend  
(8-190)four or five months with us just entered at Brazen Nose-  
(8-190)on fire to be a scholar of classical distinction and studying  
(8-190)-I hope the humour will last-like a very dragon.  
(8-190)Always my dear Miss Edgeworth with best love to the  
(8-190)Bride and to dear Harriet very much yours,

(8-190)WALTER SCOTT  
[Butler]

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      191

TO JOHN WALKER, 65 REGIMENT, DUMBARTON  
CASTLE, DUNBARTON

(8-191)SIR,-I should some time since have thanked you for  
(8-191)your letter and for your enquiry. Your elegant work I  
(8-191)reached my family in safety and was highly acceptable.  
(8-191)If I have not yet got out of the obliging author's debt I  
(8-191)beg he will cause someone [to] call with a receipt for my  
(8-191)subscription.

(8-191)I do not know anything of Mr. James's poems,<sup>2</sup> nor did  
(8-191)I ever think of undertaking the charge of such a publication.  
(8-191)To the best of my recollection I never heard of the  
(8-191)gentleman's name or saw any of his compositions. Very  
(8-191)frequently manuscripts have been sent to me which I  
(8-191)really have no leisure either to read or criticize a task  
(8-191)which I am generally desirous of evading if possible.-But  
(8-191)I never remember those you mention coming to me in  
(8-191)such a way. My memory is not however so good as it was  
(8-191)and I may have had such papers sent to me without my  
(8-191)being unable [sic] to remember the circumstance. If I  
(8-191)know the form or appearance or subject of the poems  
(8-191)I will make search for it and return them to the party  
(8-191)whom they may concern.

(8-191)I received with safety the specimens you sent me of a  
(8-191)new literary attempt, of which I can only venture to say  
(8-191)that I think the publication can be attended with no  
(8-191)discredit to you and that if you can get a bookseller to  
(8-191)stand betwixt you and risque and divide the profits,  
(8-191)which is their usual bargain. But from experience of the  
(8-191)uncertainty of the publick taste and considering your  
(8-191)honourable views of publishing for the assistance of others  
(8-191)I would sincerely advise you to incur no pecuniary  
(8-191)risque.

(8-191)I have had some family distress lately, my married

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(8-192)daughter having had a bad confinement which must allow  
(8-192)for the long silence of, Sir Your obedient Servant

(8-192)CASTLE STREET 2 March [1824]

WALTER SCOTT

[Tregaskis]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

(8-192)ABBOTSFORD March and 1824  
(8-192)MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-I have the pleasure to say  
(8-192)that I can if you approve, dispose of your money at  
(8-192)Whitsunday (•'2,40 0 or thereabouts) in very good hands and  
(8-192)what I know to be quite equal to the best heritable  
(8-192)security. The security is the assignation to one or two  
(8-192)bonds granted by my cousin Scott younger of Reaburn,1  
(8-192)with the cautionry of his father-in-law Mr. Horseburgh  
(8-192)of Horseburgh in Peeblesshire, who is a very saving man  
(8-192)worth •'4000 a year of unentailed property, and not  
(8-192)spending, I suppose above a fourth of his income-  
(8-192)Horseburgh pays the interest as regularly as the bank,  
(8-192)and on conversing with his agent, who is an honest man

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(8-193)and an acquaintance of mine, (having been my ward) I  
(8-193)have no hesitation to recommend the transaction as a  
(8-193)perfectly safe one, though for greater care I will see that  
(8-193)John Gibson looks over all the necessary deeds that we  
(8-193)may make the tackle fast. You will have interest at four  
(8-193)per cent regularly paid, and if money rises in value as it  
(8-193)will probably do in the course of a year or two, the debtors  
(8-193)must either advance the interest to the rate then current,  
(8-193)or pay up the bond.

(8-193)William Scott is heir to a considerable estate, but as it  
(8-193)is encumbered with a tough old fox-hunting father, I do  
(8-193)not look to him particularly, but to old Horseburgh, who  
(8-193)is in the Cheapside sense a very good man. Let me know  
(8-193)what you think of all this.

(8-193)You are quite right about my unhallowed comparison  
(8-193)between Lord Kilmarnock's inamoretta and Thurtell's 1  
(8-193)-the former was certainly mad in white sattin, and the  
(8-193)other not in white linen,<sup>2</sup> but linen of the dirtiest  
(8-193)complexion. Still, notoriety is a fine thing, even when one  
(8-193)is notorious only as a villain. Think of a Miss stretching  
(8-193)her memory so far as to recollect she had danced with Jack  
(8-193)Thurtle when he was an officer of marines, on board of  
(8-193)Admiral Otway's 3 Flagship at Leith. The only chance of the  
(8-193)man living in her memory was his becoming a murderer.

(8-193)I am very happy to hear that Mrs. Clephane's factor  
(8-193)continues to act well. I hope she will not spoil him as  
(8-193)ladies do gentlemen by too much confidence and  
(8-193)indulgence. Laidlaw will be happy to hear that he does  
(8-193)credit to his recommendation. By too much indulgence  
(8-193)I particularly mean the suffering accompts to get ahead.  
(8-193)There is no such bar as settling them regularly excluding  
(8-193)the certain inconvenience that arises from their smacking  
(8-193)of age. Besides sums of money are always apt without

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(8-194)gross dishonesty to melt into the hands of factors who  
(8-194)perhaps use a few pounds at first in advance of their own  
(8-194)salary, and end by getting into deep and serious arrearage.

(8-194)Sophia has had rather a distressing time of it, but is  
(8-194)now much better, indeed quite well, excepting weakness.  
(8-194)I am very sorry for the loss of her infant, because I would  
(8-194)willingly have had a cautioner for poor Johnnie Hugh.  
(8-194)He is not strong, on the contrary very delicate and the  
(8-194)parents are so much wrapt up in him, that it makes me  
(8-194)tremble when I look at the poor little fellow. He is so  
(8-194)very smart and clever, and at the same time holds his  
(8-194)existence apparently by so frail a tenure, that one is

(8-194)inclined to think of the alarming adage of Gloster :-

(8-194)" So wise and young they say never lives long."1

(8-194)It is, however wrong to anticipate evil, and I have seen  
(8-194)so many instances of wise young children growing up into  
(8-194)buirdly hussies and stark young fellows, with no more wit  
(8-194)than is necessary to keep them out of fire and water that  
(8-194)I will e'en harden myself on the subject, and croak no  
(8-194)more about the matter.

(8-194)I think it more likely that the defunct gamekeeper and  
(8-194)his dog have fallen under unjust suspicion in the matter of  
(8-194)poor Puss. It is the instinct, both of dogs and cats, but  
(8-194)particularly of the last, when in the extremity of age, and  
(8-194)sensible of the approaches of death, to seek some secret  
(8-194)place to die in, and thus the remains of these creatures  
(8-194)are seldom seen, unless of such as have been killed by  
(8-194)accident or violence. I have known many instances of  
(8-194)this, but one I witnessed was so singular, that, even now,  
(8-194)I cannot think how the creature managed. It was an  
(8-194)old cat which belonged to a bachelor uncle of mine, and  
(8-194)was almost of course a great favourite. We found it on  
(8-194)the garden walk apparently in a fit. It had been very  
(8-194)ill and had not eaten on the preceding day. My uncle  
(8-194)concluded it was dying, and we lifted it off the walk, and

(8-195)the sun being intensely hot, we stuck some boughs of  
(8-195)briar round it by way of arbour-While we walked two  
(8-195)turns, it escaped from under the arbour, and by no  
(8-195)inquiries could we ever hear any word of it again.  
(8-195)Doubtless it had crept into the wooded bank of the river  
(8-195)which was at hand in order to die unobserved-a singular  
(8-195)provision of nature.



(8-195)I am made happy by your good news from Rome.  
(8-195)What a pity so good and valuable a man as Lord Compton  
(8-195)should have such delicate health. Morrit is unfortunate  
(8-195)in having always cause of anxiety about the health of those  
(8-195)he loves. That we may do as they do at Rome, (though  
(8-195)without the apology of being there) we are to have a  
(8-195)Fancy Ball next Thursday. I am told there are to be  
(8-195)thirty Queen Marys. Having a suit of court mourning  
(8-195)which will pass muster without being much out of the  
(8-195)ordinary way, I will be there to see what they make of it.  
(8-195)I fear we want wit and impudence to get over such  
(8-195)ground handsomely.

(8-195)Lord bless your old Aunt for bringing you down to the  
(8-195)lowlands. I hope when Mrs. Clephane, Williamina, and  
(8-195)you come within the magnetism of Auld lang syne it  
(8-195)will draw you on to Abbotsford.

(8-195)Ouriske or Whisk is in great preservation but hauden  
(8-195)down by a very fierce terrier of mine of the Pepper and  
(8-195)Mustard breed, (hence called Ginger) which flies at it  
(8-195)whenever it opens its mouth and Ouriske's highland  
(8-195)spirit being cowed by a luxurious effeminacy of life and  
(8-195)diet she makes no play for the honour of her native  
(8-195)Kintail. Mrs. Maclean Clephane will not like to hear  
(8-195)this, but its very true for all that.

(8-195)Do you know I have two great faults as a correspondent,  
(8-195)one that I never know how to begin a letter-the other  
(8-195)still more formidable, that when I write to those I like  
(8-195)I can never end untill the paper ends it for me. Like a  
(8-195)stone set on [an] incline,<sup>1</sup> I cannot stop till I reach the

(8-196)bottom of the hill. We had Walter with us for the Christmas  
(8-196)holidays, not full of strange oaths, thank God, but  
(8-196)certainly bearded like the pard. He is studying at the Royal  
(8-196)Military College, and I hope when he passes his examinations  
(8-196)he will get on the staff-It is proposed he shall go  
(8-196)to the Ionian islands, which I should much like. Charles  
(8-196)is entered at Brazn Nose and promises to be a successful  
(8-196)student. All these things I have perhaps told you before,  
(8-196)but as cadgers must speak of pack-saddles, so do Pas and  
(8-196)Mas of their young people. Remember me most kindly  
(8-196)to your Ma and sister and to the Comptons when you  
(8-196)write. I am very curious to know how my godson turns  
(8-196)out, if as lovely as the others I shall be contented, for in  
(8-196)my life I never saw such beautiful children.

(8-196)When you write address Abbotsford, as we go there on  
(8-196)the 11th current. Always my dear Miss Clephane, Your  
(8-196)sincere and affectionate friend.                      WALTER SCOTT

[Northampton and Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(8-196)CASTLE STREET, EDINBURGH, March 4th, 1824

(8-196)MY DEAREST LADY,-We have an old phrase in Scotland  
(8-196)about taking the first word of flyting (scolding) that is  
(8-196)to say being the first to complain when we happen to have  
(8-196)given some reason to be complained of. Now I really  
(8-196)think that I can see a little of this policy in your Ladyship's  
(8-196)letter 1 with which I am just favoured. I wrote your

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(8-197)Ladyship a very long letter addressed to Rome and I  
(8-197)had never the pleasure of hearing that it ever reached its

(8-197)destination. Now I would be most unreasonable to wish  
(8-197)you my dear friend to bestow much leisure upon me  
(8-197)and my letters but then you are to consider that you are  
(8-197)not at present stationary but travelling a good deal and  
(8-197)that my letters would be less worth reading even than  
(8-197)at present if they [did] not contain many things that I  
(8-197)should be sorry fell into any hand other than the honoured  
(8-197)ones for which they are intended-So that you must  
(8-197)really have the goodness by a line or two at least for I  
(8-197)do not insist upon long letters to let me know in the first  
(8-197)place how you are and then that you have received my  
(8-197)letter and that I am to continue the same address or use  
(8-197)another one. Remember my dear friend that when

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(8-198)you form the impossible conjecture that I have forgotten  
(8-198)you it may with much more justice occur to me that  
(8-198)there is a great probability arguing from your silence  
(8-198)that you have forgotten me an idea which would not  
(8-198)surprise me though it would certainly give me much  
(8-198)pain-for which reason your Ladyship may be well  
(8-198)assured I will not rashly entertain it. So I hope my  
(8-198)dear friend that this of ours is a sort of commercial treaty  
(8-198)not with respect to bulk but with respect to value for I  
(8-198)will willingly allow one line from your Ladyship to stand  
(8-198)as a full requital for a page of mine-only you must  
(8-198)send one to tell me how you are what you are doing and  
(8-198)that you have received my letter and wish to hear from  
(8-198)me again. Now this is a treaty which only waits for  
(8-198)your Ladyship's ratification to be most faithfully observed  
(8-198)by me since God knows there are few in the world and  
(8-198)these turning daily fewer whose commands I would  
(8-198)be more willing and anxious not only to obey but to  
(8-198)anticipate. And let me hope I have at present in some  
(8-198)degree explained the cause of my late silence as being

(8-198)only the consequence of that on the part of Lady  
(8-198)Abercorn.

(8-198)You may rely upon it I think that the author of the  
(8-198)novels you mention would never enter into any bargain  
(8-198)as to producing a certain number of volumes within a  
(8-198)given time. No creature can be entitled to reckon upon  
(8-198)such a flow of spirits and regular continuation of good  
(8-198)health and I believe an attempt to comply with such a  
(8-198)contract as the newspapers have invented would be a very  
(8-198)dangerous task both to body and mind. The labour  
(8-198)must be great enough as it is and attended with much  
(8-198)tear and wear of constitution and of intellect. Besides  
(8-198)the supposed recompense large as it is would not be  
(8-198)adequate to the author's profits in an ordinary way of  
(8-198)publication. Two odd things have happened in consequence  
(8-198)of the pertinacity with which the public have so  
(8-198)erroneously posted me as the author of these novels-the

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(8-199)first is that I got a letter from America accusing me of  
(8-199)having encouraged that report for a large sum of money 1  
(8-199)in order to conceal the real author whose name it was  
(8-199)supposed would be obnoxious to the public on account  
(8-199)of the infamy of his character this was good enough  
(8-199)but a better incident still is the publication of a German  
(8-199)novel professing to be translated from the English and  
(8-199)bearing my name at full length on the title-page.<sup>2</sup> So  
(8-199)that I must not only bear my own faults and in the  
(8-199)opinion of many those of that unknown gentleman but  
(8-199)also all the devices with which the invention of others  
(8-199)contrives to load either him or myself.

(8-199)Your kind inquiries about my family I can thank God  
(8-199)answer generally speaking in very agreeable terms. Your

(8-199)Ladyship's acquaintance Walter is now again on full pay  
(8-199)and Lieutenant in the 15th Hussars. He has been since  
(8-199)his return from the Continent by the Duke of York's  
(8-199)favour a student in the advanced class of officers who are  
(8-199)allowed to reside at the Royal Military College at  
(8-199)Sandhurst and makes I am informed considerable progress  
(8-199)... in mathematics drawing field surveying and the other  
(8-199)scientific departments of military life-I think it likely  
(8-199)that when he has gone through his examinations in  
(8-199)summer or winter he will be placed on Sir Frederick  
(8-199)Adams staff in the Ionian Islands which is a much  
(8-199)better prospect than hanging about in Home quarters  
(8-199)in English country towns. He was with us about six  
(8-199)weeks at Christmas and is really become a very handsome  
(8-199)young man and well bred withall. My younger son Charles  
(8-199)is now with us-He has entered at Brazenose but does  
(8-199)not go to Oxford to reside until the October term. If  
(8-199)I do not deceive myself and I think I can judge impartially  
(8-199)even on so tender a point he is a young man of high  
(8-199)promise from being very volatile and idle he has since  
(8-199)he resided for three years with a learned clergyman in

(8-200)England become a keen student and a promising scholar  
(8-200)and full of that sort of pride which looks to future  
(8-200)distinction-My daughter [Mrs.] Lockhart has been rather  
(8-200)unfortunate-her eldest child came to this world rather  
(8-200)too early and though a pretty clever and very engaging  
(8-200)infant alarms me a little from the slenderness of its frame!  
(8-200)and a sort of delicacy of health sometimes connected  
(8-200)with premature development of intellect. Sophia was  
(8-200)again confined about two months ago but lost her infant  
(8-200)and has had but a slow and precarious recovery which  
(8-200)indeed is yet far from complete. This is at present the  
(8-200)only shade in our domestic horizon. My black-eyed

(8-200)lassie is dancing away merrily and I believe generally  
(8-200)thought handsome but her hour if it ever comes is not  
(8-200)come yet.

(8-200)You may not have heard of poor Tom's death in whom  
(8-200)one leading fault thoughtlessness blemished so many good  
(8-200)and noble qualities. His eldest daughter is married to  
(8-200)Major Huxley of the 70th regiment a very gentlemanlike  
(8-200)man who was in Britain last year. Tom's widow is  
(8-200)returned here with two younger daughters 1 very good-  
(8-200)looking girls and the younger (about thirteen years old)  
(8-200)very clever and amusing. The elder has refused some  
(8-200)good matches in Canada which her mother seems rather  
(8-200)to regret. The girls though hurried during the great part  
(8-200)of their life along with a marching regiment are so modest  
(8-200)well-bred and accomplished that I was proposing to  
(8-200)advertise His Majesty's 70th regiment as an excellent  
(8-200)boarding-school for young ladies. To be sure their father  
(8-200)and mother both well qualified for the task bestowed  
(8-200)constant pains to improve their understandings and  
(8-200)manners. I must add to complete my account of this  
(8-200)family that the only son Walter whom I have in a certain  
(8-200)degree adopted into my own family is one of the Cadets  
(8-200)for the Engineer service of the East India Company and  
(8-200)as such is following out his studies at the Company's

(8-201)College at Addiscombe where this class of their students  
(8-201)receive instruction. Walter my nephew whose talents  
(8-201)for arithmetic and mathematics are of a most uncommon  
(8-201)kind has fought himself up though much younger than  
(8-201)most of the students to the top of the class gained  
(8-201)mathematical prizes and is promoted to the rank of one of the  
(8-201)officers of the Corps of Cadets. This promises very well  
(8-201)for if he lives and continues to attend to his studies he

(8-201)will get ready promotion if he leaves college with the  
(8-201)report of his superiors in his favour and the Engineer  
(8-201)Department when followed by a man of talent is one of  
(8-201)the best lines in India.

(8-201)As your Ladyship has the advantage of Canning's all-  
(8-201)powerful franks I send a book of my son-in-law Lockhart's  
(8-201)upon Spanish literature 1 which I think you will like. He  
(8-201)is a most unexceptionable friend and husband very  
(8-201)clever very learned and very handsome-addicted to  
(8-201)satire though by which he has made himself enemies.  
(8-201)He has written several things which are I think very  
(8-201)clever.

(8-201)I would with pleasure send you the supposed print  
(8-201)from Lawrence's picture but none such has yet appeared.  
(8-201)Indeed the picture remains unfinished the costume having  
(8-201)never been settled. I don't like a real good picture to  
(8-201)be quite in a modern dress ours being about the most  
(8-201)unpicturesque possible. I might to be sure take the plaid  
(8-201)about me as I sometimes do at public meetings of the  
(8-201)Celtic Society. But I am no Highlander by birth or  
(8-201)connection and to take their dress looks like assuming  
(8-201)their character which I would not do holding that of my  
(8-201)own province more highly. So that this important  
(8-201)matter being undecided the picture is unfinished and  
(8-201)probably will remain so for I have little idea of again  
(8-201)visiting London. Why should I All whom I knew  
(8-201)and loved are dead or dispersed and even in 1821 I felt  
(8-201)it quite an altered world. We are not sensible of these

(8-202)changes in the same degree as they affect the scenes in  
(8-202)which we move for new objects spring up to which we  
(8-202)become attached though not with the same feelings. But the

(8-202)changes made by time are strikingly felt when we return to  
(8-202)a place from which we have been absent for many years.

(8-202)I wish you would come to Scotland when you revisit  
(8-202)Britain. You are fond of travelling and I would hope to  
(8-202)detain you a few days or weeks at Abbotsford which has  
(8-202)grown by degrees from a cottage into a manor-house too  
(8-202)large perhaps for the property. Do dear Lady Abercorn  
(8-202)think of this and I will travel with you and show you the  
(8-202)lions wherever you would like to go.

(8-202)I hasten to close this scrawl which justifies what I have  
(8-202)sometimes thought that I neither know how to begin a  
(8-202)letter or how to end one.

(8-202)Believe me with the greatest respect and affection your  
(8-202)Ladyship's ever obliged and grateful WALTER SCOTT

(8-202)My address will be Abbotsford Melrose N.B. for the  
(8-202)next two months. Mr Canning will I am sure take care  
(8-202)of my letters.

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-202)DEAR JAMES,-I was glad to see your hand after so total  
(8-202)a cessation of correspondence. I thought you would have  
(8-202)written from the great city 1 were it only to say how do you  
(8-202)do The work has gone on the slower for this trip &  
(8-202)must now move at double quick time.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-203)I think your name of Redgauntlet is excellent.<sup>1</sup> One  
(8-203)fault it may have-that of inducing people to think the



(8-203)work is a tale of Chivalry-and disappointment is a bad  
(8-203)thing. Otherwise the name is a great hit-

(8-203)I inclose the bills-I could have wishd that the new  
(8-203)affair had been brought forward as I am exposed to pay  
(8-203)(as I mentioned to you) nearly 2000 or better at  
(8-203)Whitsunday & reckoned on some part of the new volume or  
(8-203)the produce of the 4th of the present for my occasions  
(8-203)which just clears so much debt at four per cent. I can  
(8-203)easily discount bills of yours & Constables for the amount  
(8-203)at 3 or 4 months.

(8-203)I hope Cadells augury will prove true. I never liked  
(8-203)Saint Ronans-this I think better of-

(8-203)I like your whirligig lamp of all things and thank you  
(8-203)for it-I understand it perfectly & am sure while the  
(8-203)sulphuric acid is kept fresh it cannot miss fire.

(8-203)As to your London trip I could have foretold the issue  
(8-203)before you set out. I do not believe Cadell will give  
(8-203)you that advantage in printing which will enable you to  
(8-203)monotype, to take the Encyclopedia would ruin young  
(8-203)Constables printing offices which we cannot expect he  
(8-203)will do unless upon a total crash.

(8-203)I wish you could get & forward to me the newest set  
(8-203)of Debretts Baronetage.<sup>2</sup> I want it for some armorial  
(8-203)drawings. While Cadell is in town I wish he would look  
(8-203)after my sett of Ordnance Maps. I think Constable or  
(8-203)he has a note of them.<sup>3</sup> Yours very truly  
(8-203)WALTER SCOTT

(8-203)ABBOTSFORD Sunday [circa March 1824]  
[Stevenson]

TO MRS. CARPENTER

(8-204)EDINBURGH March 7, 1824

(8-204)DEAR MRS. CARPENTER,-Lady Scott proposes to  
(8-204)write herself to thank you for the very sincere pleasure  
(8-204)your proposed visit to Abbotsford holds out to us but as  
(8-204)the good lady is like those who do not always ride when  
(8-204)they put their boots on & as I am writing to Rose & can  
(8-204)use his cover I anticipate her in begging you will not let  
(8-204)the visit depend on the state in which you happen to find  
(8-204)your spirits but come to us secure of the kindest welcome  
(8-204)we can give whether you feel sad or gay at the time. If  
(8-204)the former feeling should predominate we will not  
(8-204)torment you with trying to make you merry against the  
(8-204)grain but you shall have time & freedom to do exactly  
(8-204)as you please. On business I need hardly repeat that  
(8-204)whatever you determine upon will be quite agreeable to  
(8-204)me. If the increased income from the sale of stock cannot  
(8-204)be rendered equally certain & regular in the payments I  
(8-204)am far from wishing any alteration in the state of the  
(8-204)security. At any rate the matter is not pressing. I do  
(8-204)not quite understand if Sophia has omitted her first name  
(8-204)(Charlotte) in signing the deed or if the engrosser of the  
(8-204)deed has express'd it. If the former is the case she will  
(8-204)of course willingly prefix her initial : she never signs the  
(8-204)two names at full length. If the engrosser of the deed has  
(8-204)made a blunder I should suppose he must engross it again  
(8-204)without putting you to further expence. Certainly her  
(8-204)name is Charlotte Sophia & she generally signs C.  
(8-204)Sophia. In Scotland the engrosser of the deed always  
(8-204)adds the date which I have reason to remember as it was  
(8-204)the very day before Sophias confinement : the young  
(8-204)people will do any thing & everything to make the  
(8-204)conveyance regular. I am sorry you are so much harassed

(8-204)about these matters of formality especially as in my poor  
(8-204)opinion there is a great deal of useless expence & trouble  
(8-204)incurred where there is neither dispute nor the least

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-205)likelihood of any. But I am not an English lawyer  
(8-205)though a Scottish one & therefore speak with profound  
(8-205)reverence 1 of the scruples of the English law. This I know  
(8-205)that if you please you can have the best advice in England  
(8-205)at no expence at all for my friend Sir Samuel Shepherd  
(8-205)(now our Lord Chief Baron) is at present in London &  
the high eminence of his character & situation (he was  
(8-205)long Kings Attorney General) would render his impartiality  
(8-205)indisputable. If you think it would save expence or  
(8-205)make you easy I could introduce Mr Hankey or Mr  
(8-205)Barber or both to him & you might rely upon his giving  
(8-205)them the soundest advice without costing a single farthing.  
(8-205)I believe no man living would be more willing to do me  
(8-205)a kindness or is at the same time [omission] a more upright  
(8-205)character never existed. If you think his advice can be  
(8-205)of any [omission]. The date of the signature was 23d  
(8-205)January & all three signed it together. Present my kind  
(8-205)respects to your cousin & say how much she will oblige  
(8-205)us by coming with you to Abbotsford in July. You will  
(8-205)find Charles who does not go to Oxford till October. I  
(8-205)am always with sincerest regards Dear Mrs Carpenter

[Autograph missing]

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO DR. GABELL, 2 BINFIELD, WINDSOR

[8th March, 1824]

(8-205)I TRUST you will pardon the present intrusion on your

(8-205)patience both from your regard for the Revd Mr John

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(8-206)Williams Lampeter and your well known zeal for the

(8-206)advancement of the great work of public instruction.

(8-206)The Committee of Directors of the new Edinr Academy

(8-206)having taken under their consideration Mr Williams'

(8-206)Testimonials and yours in particular were very much

(8-206)satisfied with the prospect of obtaining the services of

(8-206)such a person as Rector of their new Institution. It was

(8-206)however stated by one gentleman that a rumour was

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-207)in circulation that although a man of great attainments

(8-207)(8-207)he had heard of his not being a man of very equal temper

(8-207)(8-207)and that he had been very unpopular among the Boys at

(8-207)Winchester so much so that although he had the advantage

(8-207)to enjoy your good opinion you had found it necessary to

(8-207)appoint another person in his room-also that he had

(8-207)stood for a fellowship at Baliol and notwithstanding his

(8-207)high erudition and the favour of the Master the other

(8-207)fellows opposed his coming among them on account of

(8-207)the peculiarity of his temper. Lastly that tho' by his

(8-207)great learning there was no doubt of his doing duty to a

(8-207)small number of pupils yet our authority doubted whether

(8-207)from what he had heard of him he was a desireable person

(8-207)for the management of a great school.

(8-207)I am perfectly at a loss Sir to reconcile this information

(8-207)to the many respectable testimonies laid before us and

(8-207)individually I happen to know that if Mr Williams has

(8-207)really a bad temper he is the most successful hypocrite

(8-207)living for my son who was three years under Mr Williams'

(8-207)Tuition and inmate of his house considers him as the  
(8-207)best humoured man living. But as such a rumour has  
(8-207)reached the committee they feel it due to Mr Williams  
(8-207)as well as to themselves to state the circumstances to you  
(8-207)well aware from Dr Gabells high character that upon  
(8-207)such an occasion he would be incapable of preferring  
(8-207)the partiality of friendship to the necessity of doing justice  
(8-207)to such an undertaking as ours. You may perfectly rely  
(8-207)upon the honour of the Gentlemen concerned for whose  
(8-207)prudence and if necessary for whose silence I venture to  
(8-207)offer my own as a pledge.

(8-207)I entreat you Sir to excuse this liberty for which the  
(8-207)cause of Education must be an apology and to believe me  
(8-207)Revd Sir, Yours &c WALTER SCOTT

(8-207)Please to address Sir Walter Scott Bart under cover to  
(8-207)John Russell Esq W.S. George Street Edinr.

[Edinburgh Academy]

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TO LORD MELVILLE

(8-208)MY DEAR LORD,-We hear with great pleasure that your  
(8-208)indisposition is giving way and I hope that the relaxation  
(8-208)of severe weather is felt in London as well as here and  
(8-208)may be serviceable to you.

(8-208)What leads to my present intrusion is the probability  
(8-208)of the Situation of Keeper of the Record of Entails  
(8-208)becoming shortly vacant either by the death or resignation  
(8-208)of my old colleague in office James Ferriar 1 who is scarcely  
(8-208)able now for business. The situation has always been  
(8-208)conferd on one of the Principal Clerks of Session and my

(8-208)predecessor George Home held it till his retirement when  
(8-208)he resigned it in Mr. Ferriars favour. The emoluments may  
(8-208)be from 150,, to 200-As I served such an apprenticeship  
(8-208)for my office as Jacob did for Rachel discharging the  
(8-208)duty without drawing any emoluments for six years I hope  
(8-208)I will not be thought greedy in applying for a situation in  
(8-208)some measure belonging to it and which was held by my  
(8-208)predecessor. Yet I probably would not have troubled  
(8-208)your Lordship but as in the Case of the situation of Kings  
(8-208)Clerk suffered any of my brethren to get the situation but  
(8-208)for the condition of my sister in law Mrs. Thomas Scott  
(8-208)who with two fine girls of daughters is reduced to narrow  
(8-208)circumstances by her husbands death-to be sure they  
(8-208)will [not] know any inconvenience that I can save them  
(8-208)from but the possession of this small office to which your  
(8-208)Lordship may think I have as much pretension as any of  
(8-208)the other Clerks of Session will enable me to do so with

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-209)more ease than otherwise. When you come to Abbotsford  
(8-209)your Lordship will I think be easily satisfied that as a  
(8-209)Builder & Planter my purse cannot be supposed the most  
(8-209)replenishd in Scotland.

(8-209)Of course nothing can be done in this matter at present  
(8-209)but I trust when opportunity occurs your Lordship may  
(8-209)think it not unreasonable to hold me in remembrance  
(8-209)providing it does not interfere with important claims or  
(8-209)engagements. The manner in which your Lordship had  
(8-209)the kindness to consider my wishes before disposing of the  
(8-209)Situation of Kings Clerk induces me to hope I shall not  
(8-209)be held on this occasion altogether an unauthorized  
(8-209)intruder. I have the honor to be very much your Lordships  
(8-209)faithful & obliged humble Servant

(8-209)WALTER SCOTT

(8-209)EDINBURGH 5th March [PM. 1824]

(8-209)Private

(8-209)Right Honble Lord Viscount Melville etc etc etc

(8-209)Admiralty, London.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO LIEUTENANT WALTER SCOTT, KINGS HUSSARS, R. MILITARY  
COLLEGE, SANDHURST, BAGSHOT, LONDON

(8-209)MY DEAR WALTER,-I have your letter which I must  
(8-209)say I have been expecting for some time. Something  
(8-209)however has happend last week which I can only hint  
(8-209)to you in a mystical sort of way. You must know Sir  
(8-209)Adam and Lady Fergusson brought their niece Miss  
(8-209)Jobson 1 here to dinner who seems a very sweet pleasant

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(8-210)young woman and has none of the conceit of an heiress  
(8-210)about her. Now Sir Adam made a sort of explanation  
(8-210)to me of his and his Ladys views towards the young lady  
(8-210)to understand the nature of which I beg you to read over  
(8-210)the first scene of the Merry Wives of Windsor supposing  
(8-210)yourself Mr. Abraham Slender that I am representing  
(8-210)the worshipful Justice Shallow and our friend Sir Adam  
(8-210)Sir Hugh Evans and that a lady already named is Sweet  
(8-210)Mistress Anne Page. I understand she is to pass the  
(8-210)summer or part of it at Gattonside House and if you have  
(8-210)courage to make the attempt you will have plenty  
(8-210)opportunity and as Sir Adam thinks a fair chance of  
(8-210)success. I need not point out the great advantages on

(8-210)the ladys side but there are some on ours also which  
(8-210)would make the match not so remarkable though there  
(8-210)[are] as many wooing at her as at Tibbie Fowler of the  
(8-210)Glen renownd in song.<sup>1</sup> But she has seen a little of the  
(8-210)world now and I understand has a good deal of steadiness  
(8-210)of character.

(8-210)Now if you think this matter worth prosecuting it will  
(8-210)be necessary that you be at Abbotsford in the Summer and  
(8-210)I have no doubt that leave may be obtained by me from

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-211)Sir Alexr. Hope if he succeeds to the establishment. I  
(8-211)have only to add that Sir Hugh Evans is of opinion that  
(8-211)Mr. Slender will not be crossd by the influence of any  
(8-211)Mr. Fenton.

(8-211)Seriously if you can make up your mind on this matter  
(8-211)and render yourself acceptable in my opinion you may  
(8-211)do worse. There are no unpleasant stipulations of any  
(8-211)kind and you would pursue your profession with the  
(8-211)advantage of a comfortable independence. I am to  
(8-211)suppose that our friends Sir A. and Lady F. would not  
(8-211)have come so far forward in a matter which had not a  
(8-211)face of probability.

(8-211)You know I have always treated you with the utmost  
(8-211)confidence and therefore expect the same in return and  
(8-211)that I would do everything in my power to contribute  
(8-211)to your happiness.

(8-211)I will match your old officer of the African Corps with  
(8-211)Henry Cranstoun <sup>1</sup> who has been here telling long stories  
(8-211)out of Gil Blas and Joe Millar as if they were the newest  
(8-211)and wittiest things in the world and to mend the matter



(8-211)Cats have no terrors for him for old Hinz has sate staring  
(8-211)him in the face this half hour.

(8-211)Mama is pretty well and Anne as usuall. Soph is  
(8-211)getting stouter and her child is also better but poor  
(8-211)Johnie is a tender plant.

(8-211)Probably the usual term of vacation will suit well  
(8-211)enough to come down instead of employing it in sketching  
(8-211)in Kent. But whatever be your resolution we have  
(8-211)agreed to say nothing of it untill the time approaches  
(8-211)but let the Lockharts and everyone else suppose that  
(8-211)you stay all the summer in England as originally  
(8-211)intended.

(8-211)If you desire to break off the matter entirely you will

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(8-212)let me know immediatly and I shall inform Sir Hugh  
(8-212)Evans that Master Slender is a second Lord Henry

(8-212)His thoughts were still on honour bent  
(8-212)He never stoopd to love  
(8-212)No lady in the land has power  
(8-212)His frozen heart to move.1

(8-212)Yours most affectionately,                                      WALTER SCOTT  
(8-212)EDINR. 9th March [PM. 1824]

(8-212)"five hundred pounds and possibilities are goot gifts "  
(8-212)says Sir Hugh Evans.2

[Law]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-212)DEAR CONSTABLE,-The arms which you kindly procured  
(8-212)to be cut for me are wanted to put in some books in  
(8-212)Jock Stevensons hand-Will you give him an order for  
(8-212)them on the person in whose hands they may be for the  
(8-212)time-I regret not being able to take farewell in person  
(8-212)but expect to see you in the Summer at Polton 3 once a  
(8-212)howff of mine. Always yours truly     WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 10 March [1824]  
[Stevenson]

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TO ROBERT CADELL

(8-213)DEAR SIR,-In our friend James's absence you will be  
(8-213)often troubled with my correspondence. My proofs are  
(8-213)to be sent by the Blucher as usual but with this addition  
(8-213)"To be left at Morose-bridge toll-bar" which will bring  
(8-213)them safe. I beg you will have the kind[ness] to order  
(8-213)Lingards history 1 for me and make a bookseller of me for  
(8-213)the price. I am just setting of[f]. Yours truly

(8-213)CASTLE STREET Thursday [11 March 1824]     W SCOTT  
(8-213)Private

[Stevenson]

TO DANIEL TERRY, LONDON

(8-213)ABBOTSFORD, March 13, 1824  
(8-213)MY DEAR TERRY,-We are now arrived here, and in  
(8-213)great bustle with painters, which obliges me to press  
(8-213)you about the mirrors. If we cannot have them soon,  
(8-213)there is now an excellent assortment at Trotter's,2 where

(8-213)I can be supplied, for I will hardly again endure to have  
(8-213)the house turned upside down by upholsterers-and wish  
(8-213)the whole business ended, and the house rid of that sort  
(8-213)of cattle once for all. I am only ambitious to have one  
(8-213)fine mirror over the chimney-piece ; a smaller one will  
(8-213)do for the other side of the room. Lady Scott has seen  
(8-213)some Bannockburn carpets, which will answer very well,  
(8-213)unless there are any bespoke. They are putting up my  
(8-213)presses, which look very handsome. In the drawing-  
(8-213)room, the cedar doors and windows, being well varnished,  
(8-213)assume a most rich and beautiful appearance. The  
(8-213)Chinese paper in the drawing-room is most beautiful,  
(8-213)saving the two ugly blanks left for these mirrors of d--n,

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(8-214)which I dare say you curse as heartily as I do. I wish  
(8-214)you could secure a parcel of old caricatures which can  
(8-214)be bought cheap, for the purpose of papering two cabinets  
(8-214)a l'eau. John Ballantyne used to make great hawls in  
(8-214)this way. The Tory side of the question would of course  
(8-214)be most acceptable ; but I don't care about this, so the  
(8-214)prints have some spirit. Excuse this hasty and pressing  
(8-214)letter ; if you saw the plight we are in, you would pity  
(8-214)and forgive. At Baldock, as I have had at you. My  
(8-214)mother whips me, and I whip the top. Best compliments  
(8-214)to Mrs Terry.-Believe me always yours,

(8-214)WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO JAMES SKENE

(8-214)ABBOTSFORD, 13th March 1824

(8-214)MY DEAR SKENE,-I had not the least doubt from the

(8-214)beginning that there was party at the bottom of this  
(8-214)opposition.<sup>1</sup> Horner's letter showed the cloven hoof in  
(8-214)every line. It amounts to no more than that Mr.  
(8-214)Williams, a plain man and perhaps conceited of his  
(8-214)erudition, was disagreeable to those with whom he early  
(8-214)struggled in the course of preferment, a common circumstance  
(8-214)in the life of many scholars. What if he were as  
(8-214)rude as Dr. Johnson or Dr. Parr     Might he not be  
(8-214)the best for our purpose notwithstanding     A school-  
(8-214)master has almost always something pedantic about him,  
(8-214)from being long and constantly a man among boys. I  
(8-214)have no doubt that Mr. Williams has some of the carelessnesses  
(8-214)of an abstracted scholar, and that he may not be  
(8-214)quite a pupil of Lord Chesterfield. But I know that his  
(8-214)conversation is not only agreeable, but, to literary people,  
(8-214)fascinating, and that he has the art of attaching his pupils  
(8-214)in a most uncommon degree, which is totally incompatible  
(8-214)with the description now drawn. Young Morritt, Villiers

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-215)Surtees, and my own son-the two last lived with him  
(8-215)for years-have the most sincere attachment to him, and  
(8-215)describe him as one of the best-humoured men in the  
(8-215)world. Is not their testimony, upon whom he exercised  
(8-215)the very talents of which we desire to judge, much better  
(8-215)than that of men whom he was only known to as a student,  
(8-215)and that ten years ago     And am not I as pure a channel  
(8-215)for conveying their testimony to the Committee as Mr.  
(8-215)Horner for reporting the private opinions which he has  
(8-215)had the goodness to collect     I never knew the match of  
(8-215)the Whigs for talking up and whispering down their friends,<sup>1</sup>  
(8-215)and this is exactly the second edition of Wilson's business,  
(8-215)and it must be crushed at once. I have written to Major  
(8-215)Evans, Mr. Harford of Blaise Castle, and one or two  
(8-215)gentlemen whom we know to be men of education and

(8-215)breeding, and well acquainted with Mr. Williams, but  
(8-215)I doubt there is little time for receiving answers,<sup>2</sup> and I

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(8-216)think with you that we should decide on the 22nd. Pray  
(8-216)let our friends know how the business stands. I never  
(8-216)heard Blackwood's Magazine received any contributions  
(8-216)from Williams, and I do not believe it. I know, however,  
(8-216)that Williams extinguished the bonfires at Lampeter  
(8-216)which were kindled in honour of Saint Caroline,<sup>1</sup> and  
(8-216)perhaps that is as great a crime. For God's sake let us  
(8-216)have a full meeting, and let our friends be confidentially  
(8-216)apprised of what you tell me. To secure the stronghold  
(8-216)of education has been a part of the Whig tactics for  
(8-216)twenty years past. They have not wealth or numbers to  
(8-216)found schools, but by a constant system of manoeuvres  
(8-216)they endeavour to intrigue us out of our natural influence  
(8-216)in these matters. But if with our eyes open we allow them  
(8-216)to get on our backs and ride us with a cobweb in our  
(8-216)mouths, I for one think we will deserve the fate we meet  
(8-216)with. I have always expected this, and I am glad the  
(8-216)thing is put upon a right footing. I hope Dr. Gabells's  
(8-216)letter will arrive in time.-Yours truly,

(8-216)WALTER SCOTT

[Skene-Tytler and Skew's Memories]

TO COLIN MACKENZIE

(8-216)ABBOTSFORD 13 March 1824

(8-216)MY DEAR COLIN,-I am favoured with your letter this  
(8-216)morning and gratulate you upon your success in your  
(8-216)Treasury matter-Indeed I should have thought it very  
(8-216)strange and even ominous if your wishes after the talent

(8-216)with which you have conducted the affairs of the Society 2  
(8-216)had faild to receive attention even when they could be  
(8-216)only insinuated or perhaps guessed at. Richard Mackenzie  
(8-216)is a good fellow and will I am sure be a credit to  
(8-216)your recommendation.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-217)Respecting our Rectorship I can say only little because  
(8-217)of course much must depend upon our answers from  
(8-217)Oxford and elsewhere. My vouchers for Mr. Williams  
(8-217)present and long-enjoyd character are the Bishop of St.  
(8-217)Davids 1 & Mr. Harford of Blaize Castle-a man of great  
(8-217)wealth, accomplishment and singular pleasing manners-  
(8-217)a traveller and who knows the world like a man that has  
(8-217)lived in it. He is Lord of the Manor of Lampeter and  
(8-217)of course has reason and access to be well acquainted with  
(8-217)Mr. Williams character and that which he expressed to  
(8-217)me was most favourable. I have written to him, also to  
(8-217)Major Evans of Highmead and caused Charles write to  
(8-217)Colonel Lewis of some Welch place or other, the principal  
(8-217)gentry in his neighbourhood. I have caused Charles  
(8-217)also write to Surtees 2 at Oxford who with several other of  
(8-217)Mr. Williams pupils will I believe be most happy to bring  
(8-217)evidence in his behalf and surely the inmates of his house  
(8-217)for two or three years, young men of family and education  
(8-217)should be good evidence in favour of one whom they had  
(8-217)an opportunity to know so well. I only doubt if in the  
(8-217)course cross posts &c. I can get answers so soon as the  
(8-217)23rd-I hope however my own opinion of the report of  
(8-217)the opinion of Mr. Harford and the Bishop of Saint  
(8-217)Davids when I had in view a thing as important to me as  
(8-217)an individual as the rectorship can be, namely the desire to  
(8-217)know if my son was suitably placed will be worth something.

(8-217)I highly approve of your writing to the gentlemen

(8-217)you name at Oxford. Indeed it was only the apparent

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(8-218)acquiescence of Mr. Horner which made me advise  
(8-218)Williams to dispense with all but the necessary certificates.  
(8-218)-You will easily believe if anything really disgraceful  
(8-218)can be imputed to Mr. W. with truth, I will be the first  
(8-218)man to give up the point. But there is a wide distinction  
(8-218)between actions which indicate want of heart or honourable  
(8-218)feeling and the ordinary faults of manner into which  
(8-218)a solitary student working his way into the world with a  
(8-218)consciousness of talent and an ignorance of the time and  
(8-218)manner in which wit and acquired information ought to  
(8-218)be displayd and which is only to be learnd in good  
(8-218)society. Some of the most distinguished scholars I have  
(8-218)known who have forced their way up from the lower ranks  
(8-218)by dint of talent were decidedly most disagreeable  
(8-218)companions to those who could not receive their real  
(8-218)knowledge in excuse for their aberrations from the path of  
(8-218)ordinary behaviour. Again as to the follies or absurdities  
(8-218)of young men at college, Why the Lord help the best  
(8-218)of us if these are not to suffer at least a decennial  
(8-218)prescription. Thus I speak totally ignorant of what our  
(8-218)Oxford applications may produce-For myself as a man  
(8-218)conscious of many follies and in a religious sense too many  
(8-218)vices, I have much commiseration with the frailty of  
(8-218)others and can see with great equanimity one learned  
(8-218)Whig flourishing whom I know a fit subject for Bedlam  
(8-218)and another whom the report of his present friends at  
(8-218)one time said merited a post on the tread-mill for most  
(8-218)dishonourable swindling and applying to his own use  
(8-218)the subscription received for the relief of a distressed  
(8-218)patriot bound to Botany Bay for having been a little too  
(8-218)eager in the great work of revolution. I own however  
(8-218)that in the case of a Tory I might not have the same

(8-218)latitude in the latter circumstances.

(8-218)Skene writes me that Lesley 1 the Marplot of neat

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-219)devices has let out the history of the opposition to Williams  
(8-219)and he has doubtless acquainted you that it is because the  
(8-219)fellow as he terms a gentleman of ten times his learning  
(8-219)is supposed to have written two papers in Blackwoods  
(8-219)Magazine after which you know it was only necessary  
(8-219)for a staff to beat the dog. Leonard Horner seems to  
(8-219)have been pretty active to find one-At least I will  
(8-219)certainly ask him why he did not speak to Dr.Jenkyns,1 Mr.  
(8-219)of Baliol, said to be Williams friend and have endeavoured  
(8-219)to learn his cause for supporting a person so  
(8-219)obnoxious as Williams is represented to have been-Your  
(8-219)very judicious application will probably supply this gap  
(8-219)in the evidence and I trust timeously. It will be no light  
(8-219)matter of general averment that will change my opinion  
(8-219)on Mr. Williams merits founded as they are on the  
(8-219)evidence of the pupils and his neighbours and not brought  
(8-219)forward to serve any immediate purpose but in consequence  
(8-219)of my own investigations for my own satisfaction  
(8-219)and of which in my sons improvement I have received  
(8-219)the strongest confirmation. But the evidence which is  
(8-219)satisfactory to me may not be so to others and I have  
(8-219)neither right nor wish to press it upon our friends-The  
(8-219)rectorship is not half so necessary to Mr. Williams as he  
(8-219)is to the establishment-In fact I am surprized at his  
(8-219)taking it. As to Mr. Fisher 2 I have not the least doubt  
(8-219)he is a Whig of one degree or other otherwise depend upon  
(8-219)it he would not be so supported by the whole cry. It is  
(8-219)and has been long their tactique to get and keep possession  
(8-219)of public schools and they make up by assiduity and  
(8-219)union what they want in influence to accomplish their



(8-219)object. They do not scruple to employ our best and

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(8-220)most honourable feelings on these subjects-to appeal to  
(8-220)our candour, our humanity, our sense of honour and  
(8-220)whenever they gain a trick it is always by making some  
(8-220)well-natured Tory take the lead. I suspect you will find  
(8-220)Hay 1 has been humbugd in this manner. After all I have  
(8-220)no children to be bred up Whigs, those I have are content  
(8-220)to be no wiser than their father. If I thought there was  
(8-220)any difficulty of carrying[ ] Williams I would sprain my  
(8-220)anle on purpose and stay where I am

(8-220)Into our schools and colleges they creep  
(8-220)They've sense to win what we want sense to keep.<sup>2</sup>

(8-220)I should have liked extremely to have talkd the matter  
(8-220)over & considerd whether in the event of Williams being  
(8-220)out of the question we might not try Mauldon who  
(8-220)is an excellent man in point of private character. I do  
(8-220)not fear any loss to the school by chusing Williams-  
(8-220)Wilsons class is larger than ever Dugald Stuarts was &  
(8-220)they did their worst against him in the way not merely  
(8-220)of calumny but of truth for his youthful eccentricities all  
(8-220)of which were of course raked up were of a very singular  
(8-220)description. Yet you see how the appointment has turned  
(8-220)out. Take a man of talents & you will seldom fail in  
(8-220)your object.

(8-220)I have written to Skene and to Robt. Dundas, Arniston-  
(8-220)But I fear I shall have as on other occasions the sad fate  
(8-220)of Cassandra who could never get any one to believe her  
(8-220)prophecies till the event proved them true.

(8-220)But for the distress in your family I should have offerd

(8-220)myself to Marcus on Sunday and we might have gone on  
(8-220)together on Monday. It would be a terrible sacrifice of

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-221)time to ask you to come here on Saturday-I hope in  
(8-221)God things are mending with you & if so perhaps you  
(8-221)might think of it. We durst not trust to a journey on  
(8-221)Monday from this distance as we must see how my  
(8-221)friends stand affected as soon as possible.

[unsigned]

(8-221)Addressed : Colin Mackenzie Esq of Portmore

(8-221)Marcus Cottage, Eddleston

[Brotherton]

TO LADY DAVY, 23 LOWER GROSVENOR STREET, LONDON

(8-221)MY DEAR LADY DAVY,-We are bound to proceed in  
(8-221)the matter of our election with the greatest impartiality  
(8-221)we can. Mr. Mauldons character is most excellent but  
(8-221)his youth and want of experience and of the authority  
(8-221)attendant upon experience are disadvantages to him.  
(8-221)Believe however your recommendation can do him no  
(8-221)harm with me.

(8-221)Since I am writing I have a family question to  
(8-221)ask you of rather a hobbyhorsical nature. I am you  
(8-221)know a herald and I have made a little entrance  
(8-221)hall at Abbotsford with a good deal of blazonry. I got  
(8-221)well enough through the eight quarters of my paternal  
(8-221)coat though chiefly belonging to persons who like Poins  
(8-221)were proper men of their hands and younger brothers.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-221)But having lost my good mother who was a wonderful  
(8-221)genealogist I have been on her side only able to climb  
(8-221)back as far as her great grandfather John Rutherford of

(8-221)Grundisnook upon Jedwater who is said to have been a  
(8-221)younger brother of the Hunthill family.<sup>2</sup> Now this John  
(8-221)Rutherford had for wife a certain Isabel Kerr daughter  
(8-221)of Kerr of Bloodylaws upon Oxenham water of which

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(8-222)family I understand yours is descended and hence a  
(8-222)connection which was very intimate between old Dr.  
(8-222)Rutherford my Grandfather and Dr. Kerr of Northampton  
(8-222)and hence I have the honour to claim you in some  
(8-222)sort for my cousin. I want therefore to know providing  
(8-222)your Ladyship can tell me how your uncle or father I  
(8-222)carried the arms of Kerr that I may put them in their  
(8-222)place in the little Gothic Hall aforesaid. As for the other  
(8-222)intermarriages of the doughty Rutherfords I must e'en  
(8-222)paint clouds on the shields where they should be placed  
(8-222)and announce to all mankind that I cannot pretend to  
(8-222)be a canon of Strasburgh.<sup>2</sup> These things are foolish  
(8-222)enough when accurate but something rather worse than  
(8-222)contemptible when assumed without authority-Any  
(8-222)sketch or impression of a seal or verbal description will  
(8-222)serve my turn. Excuse this trouble from an admirer of  
(8-222)Griffins and wyverns and lions rampant and reguardants  
(8-222)and the whole Menagerie of Heraldry.

(8-222)Lady Scott joins me in begging you will visit Tweedside  
(8-222)this season which my dear Lady Davy affords the great  
(8-222)chance of our meeting for I have no business in London and  
(8-222)God knows little pleasure in going there for any other  
(8-222)purpose. Except yourself and two or three old friends the  
(8-222)place is a waste to me-a waste the more unpleasant that  
(8-222)I remember how it was formerly peopled. Amidst the  
(8-222)advantages of forming friendships with men more advanced  
(8-222)in years than oneself there is this vile drawback that you  
(8-222)seem to grow old before your day. You see the children

(8-222)of your friends children sometimes very different from  
(8-222)their fathers in possession of their houses and estates and  
(8-222)are yourself a stranger where you used to be most intimate.  
(8-222)So pray come my dear friend and see Abbotsford which  
(8-222)besides its whimsicalities is really as comfortable a gentlemen's  
(8-222)residence as any in the neighbourhood I need not say

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-223)how happy we are always to see Sir Humphrey when his  
(8-223)wanderings lead him our way I beg kind compts to him  
(8-223)and am always dear Lady Davy Affectionately and truly  
(8-223)yours

WALTER SCOTT

(8-223)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 14th March [PM. 1824]  
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO ROBERT CADELL

(8-223)DEAR SIR,-Please send these leaves to the transcriber  
(8-223)who will now be supplied regularly-indeed I think of  
(8-223)having Mr Gordon out here in the beginning of next  
(8-223)week to be at my hand.

(8-223)I send two sheets of Swift for MacCorkindale & a little  
(8-223)parcel for John Stevenson-

(8-223)Pray let McCorkindale know I should like to see all  
(8-223)Swifts life as it goes through press Yours truly

(8-223)ABBOTSFORD Monday [15 March 1824]                      W SCOTT  
(8-223)private  
[Stevenson]

TO ANNE SCOTT 1

(8-223)MY DEAR ANNE,-I had your kind letter and am much  
(8-223)concerned on account of your mother's illness. It prepared  
(8-223)me to expect what today's post acquainted me with-the  
(8-223)death of your grandmother.<sup>2</sup> Her state of health and the  
(8-223)extreme verge of life which she had attained makes such a  
(8-223)deprivation an event not to be deeply lamented but still  
(8-223)the tearing asunder of so near a bond of humanity even  
(8-223)when it has lost much of its hold through age and infirmity  
(8-223)is a shock to the survivor and I will be much obliged to  
(8-223)you to let me know how your mother is. The Erisipelas

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(8-224)has of late been a more common complaint than usual  
(8-224)in this country for diseases as well as doctors have a kind  
(8-224)of fashion & the infinite variety of nature is such that she  
(8-224)does not permit us even to suffer in exactly the same way  
(8-224)which we did a year or two passed.

(8-224)I have not heard lately from Walter-pray scold him a  
(8-224)little when you write to Addiscombe. Death has deprived  
(8-224)him too of an excellent friend in Sir Thos. Reid.

(8-224)We are pegged up or rather hermetically sealed in one  
(8-224)corner of this house while a host of painters occupy the  
(8-224)rest. The worst evil is the smell of the turpentine which  
(8-224)gives me a constant headache though I keep it a secret as  
(8-224)I do not intend to quit [ ] the fellows to their own devices  
(8-224)especially among the lions rampant & griffins volant  
(8-224)which begin to decorate the hall. It is lucky dear Anne  
(8-224)that the world has baubles fitted for all ages & lucky too  
(8-224)when the taste continues to be pleased with the means  
(8-224)of amusement which circumstances put in our power.  
(8-224)So I go on quartering and parting per pale 1 as I used formerly  
(8-224)to course hares and ride high-trotting horses like Mad  
(8-224)Tom over nine-inch bridges 2-there is a slip of morality

(8-224)for you to bring out with a sigh the next Sunday evening.

(8-224)Lady Scotts asthma is I think better despite the turpentine  
(8-224)-but Anne has hacked herself to death in Edinburgh  
(8-224)& is looking ill & thin ; the red nurse & the brown doctor  
(8-224)(cow namely & poney) will I hope bring her round  
(8-224)very soon.

(8-224)Remember me affectionately to your Mother & to  
(8-224)Eliza.<sup>3</sup> And tell Eliza Uncle begs she will attend to her  
(8-224)schooling particularly. I hope to have some pleasant  
(8-224)news to send your mama soon. Farewell my love and

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      225

(8-225)whenever you want any thing mind you let me know-&  
(8-225)believe me very affectionately Your uncle & friend

(8-225)WALTER SCOTT

(8-225)ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE 17th March [1824]

(8-225)Excuse the wax-I have none as it happens of the colour  
(8-225)which the letter requires & I hate wafers.

(8-225)Say everything that is proper on my part to your uncles  
(8-225)upon the loss they have sustained.

[Huntington]

TO ROBERT CADELL

(8-225)MY DEAR SIR,-I do not believe anything very serious  
(8-225)has been done about Shakespeare for no agreement was  
(8-225)ever entered into & consequently although I have the  
(8-225)heads of one quite agreeable to me I do not believe Mr

(8-225)Lockhart has acted on it and certainly I have not. To be  
(8-225)a work of the least value it must be very long in hand &  
(8-225)would probably take two or three years at least beyond  
(8-225)the space you propose. It is a sort of work which cannot  
(8-225)be hurriedly executed.

(8-225)I intend being in town on some business on Monday &  
(8-225)will see you for [a] moment & bring you some copy.  
(8-225)Yours truly W. W.

(8-225)Friday [ABBOTSFORD 19 March 1824]  
[Stevenson]

TO THOMAS SHORTREED, JEDBURGH  
[Extract]

(8-225)MY DEAR TOM,- . . . My list of families and clans, with  
(8-225)your assistance, is now finished, and Mr Hay 1 has drawn  
(8-225)out all their armorial bearings with great accuracy, and  
(8-225)is transferring them to the Hall. I just [want] the

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(8-226)armorial bearings of one family with which you can  
(8-226)easily supply me-it is the coat of the Olivers, which I  
(8-226)find in no book of heraldry, though it must be well known  
(8-226)to you : Pray send it by post, either in description or a  
(8-226)heraldic sketch. . . . Very truly yours

(8-226)WALTER SCOTT

(8-226)ABBOTSFORD 20 March [1824]

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES SKENE

(8-226)ABBOTSFORD, 26th March [1824]

(8-226)MY DEAR SKENE,-I send you Surtees's 1 letter concerning  
(8-226)Mr. Williams. It is directed to Charles. Mr. Surtees is  
(8-226)a young man of excellent principles and great promise as  
(8-226)a scholar, about twenty-one years of age. Probably a  
(8-226)letter from Major Evans of Highmead addressed to me 2

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-227)has reached Mr. Russell to whose care it was addressed,  
(8-227)in which case I beg you will take the trouble to open it  
(8-227)and communicate it to the Directors if you see proper.

(8-227)Our opponents will be very busy, but they can but  
(8-227)bring the Crambe bis cocta, the repetition of the same  
(8-227)report which the Wykehamites are necessarily interested  
(8-227)in spreading to justify their own treatment of Mr.  
(8-227)Williams. I trust to you to keep our friends up to this  
(8-227)Whig gossip, for such it is. Aytoun spoke fairly about  
(8-227)the influence of opinions out of doors. For my part,  
(8-227)knowing how easily a cry is raised, I will be the last to  
(8-227)trust the vox populi. For the reputation of the school, one  
(8-227)month of Williams will set it on its legs, and I think  
(8-227)Horner and Cockburn will not drive matters to this  
(8-227)extremity, but will make the best of a bad bargain.

(8-227)I have a letter from one MacTulloch, Mr. Russell's  
(8-227)clerk, in which he, pretending to give the shortened list  
(8-227)of candidates, has omitted the name of Ridley. Has  
(8-227)Ridley retired or is this gross negligence or something  
(8-227)worse, or is it but a slip of the pen in my particular letter  
(8-227)I beg you will inquire into this. I have written my sense  
(8-227)of it to send Mr. MacTulloch.



(8-227)Adieu, sleep with one eye open, and believe me ever  
(8-227)yours, WALTER SCOTT

[Skene-Tytler and Skew's Memories]

TO JAMES SKENE

(8-227)ABBOTSFORD, Sunday [28th March 1824] (1)

(8-227)MY DEAR SKENE,-The enclosed puts Mr. Williams'  
(8-227)character into a striking and, I conclude, a fair point of

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(8-228)view, and accounts for the origin of much of the scandal.  
(8-228)Major Evans is a man of fortune, residing in his immediate  
(8-228)neighbourhood, son-in-law to Lord Robert Seymour.  
(8-228)Mr. Aytoun's principle is totally inadmissible. What man  
(8-228)of common-sense would give up a charge to come down  
(8-228)here upon a trial In one sense, indeed, he is always  
(8-228)on a trial, and may be parted with according to the  
(8-228)terms of the prospectus upon very short notice if found  
(8-228)unworthy, and Mr. Williams on his own offer of service  
(8-228)has expressly taken out of the way any delicacy we could  
(8-228)have on this point arising from circumstances of a  
(8-228)pecuniary nature.

(8-228)I agree with you we cannot easily get over Barker. I.  
(8-228)have little doubt private influence has been used to take  
(8-228)Ridley out of the field. I wish Barker had been rather  
(8-228)an under- than an English master. But I do not see how  
(8-228)we can put any suitable person in his place. I have good  
(8-228)opinion of Thistlethwaite. It is true he may be rather  
(8-228)too good for our purpose, but such a character as his will  
(8-228)keep the school high.

(8-228)Heber sends me enclosed a long tirade addressed to  
(8-228)him by Mr. Hare of Trinity College,<sup>1</sup> to be shown to me,  
(8-228)repeating the charges against Williams, but Heber  
(8-228)intimates at the same time Hare is a Whig, and he himself  
(8-228)desires to be considered as saying nothing on the subject.<sup>2</sup>  
(8-228)I shall answer these properly.

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(8-229)Your order of battle is excellent, and by adhering to  
(8-229)it we shall be secure of victory. I know nothing these  
(8-229)gentlemen can have to say except producing the records  
(8-229)of the N[ew] College, which I told Gockburn I would

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(8-230)admit without seeing them. But they will lump the  
(8-230)Rectorship as dogs do pudding, and try to play some back  
(8-230)game. I will be with you on Friday.-Yours truly,

(8-230)WALTER SCOTT

(8-230)Our friend Sir Robert is, I understand, much stumbled.  
[Skene's Memories]

TO LORD MONTAGU

(8-230)MY DEAR LORD,-I have been more than once on the  
(8-230)point of writing to your Lordship merely to say that you  
(8-230)owe me a letter at least if not two-But then Duns in the  
(8-230)epistolary way have not the ready apology of urgent  
(8-230)creditors of a different description who can always plead  
(8-230)they have a sum to make up and therefore modestly hope  
(8-230)their correspondent will settle his little accompt. I on  
(8-230)the contrary easily supposing your Lordship has more  
(8-230)important business than writing to me had little room to

(8-230)complain when I reflected that I had nothing to say on  
(8-230)my part which could be very interesting to you.

(8-230)I think however that at present you will be glad to  
(8-230)learn authentically the state of my poor neighbour Gala's  
(8-230)health who has had a dreadful & very near a fatal  
(8-230)accident-if indeed he still escapes from the consequences.  
(8-230)He had a very bad fall in hunting about eight days ago  
(8-230)or more & cut his head very severely but as he lost much  
(8-230)blood, & had no fever no consequences were for five or  
(8-230)six days apprehended except suffering and I had heard on  
(8-230)Thursday night that he was continuing to do well-But  
(8-230)we were greatly alarmd at two the next morning by an  
(8-230)express coming to seek ice a sudden & very violent fever  
(8-230)having taken place in the course of which the pulse rose  
(8-230)to 140. Luckily I had caused the ice-house to be filld  
(8-230)on the only occasion which offerd this last year otherwise  
(8-230)I believe there was not an ounce nearer than Edinburgh.  
(8-230)The application was made with success but in spite of this

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(8-231)refrigerating application the pulse only abated to 120 and  
(8-231)the medical men seemd to give up all hope. Happily a  
(8-231)favourable crisis took place after the intervention of  
(8-231)many hours & it is now hoped he will do very well the  
(8-231)crisis having been passd. As Gala has more talent sense  
(8-231)& acquired information than one half of my neighbours  
(8-231)supposing their best qualities creamd off and beat up  
(8-231)together I am proportionally glad at this fair chance of  
(8-231)recovery & your Lordship both in respect of his merit and  
(8-231)your family connection with Gala will I am sure be glad  
(8-231)to hear that the physicians now entertain the most sanguine  
(8-231)hopes of his recovery. So young-a few years married-  
(8-231)with an infant family & only one son when the estate  
(8-231)is strictly entaild on heirs male were circumstances

(8-231)independent of Galas merit to make his case generally  
(8-231)interesting.1

(8-231)I should be greatly obliged when your Lordship can  
(8-231)spare a few lines that you would let me know how Lady  
(8-231)Montagu-your ladies-the Duke Lord John and all my  
(8-231)young freinds are doing-if there had been illness I should  
(8-231)probably have heard but it is always a greater satisfaction  
(8-231)to have positive evidence that all are well.

(8-231)I have finish[d] my mansion here (outside) to the  
(8-231)amazement of all beholders-but I have a great contempt  
(8-231)for that commonplace expostulation

(8-231)Lord what will all the people say  
(8-231)Mr. Mayor Mr. Mayor.

(8-231)The painters are busy with me but the joiners the vilest  
(8-231)knaves of the whole party seem in no hurry to part with  
(8-231)my bookshelves. I think they bring boards into the room  
(8-231)& amuse themselves by drumming upon them so great is

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(8-232)the noise and so little in comparaisn the progress-  
(8-232)I have been transplanting trees on Sir Henry Stuart of  
(8-232)Allantons plan-although the greatest coxcomb living  
(8-232)he does that matter admirably without either lopping &  
(8-232)topping or propping & staying the trees in their new  
(8-232)situation. It is as he practises it possitively a discovery &  
(8-232)a great one for those who would hasten natures tardy  
(8-232)operations in forming a place.

(8-232)I am always with kind Compliments to Lady Montagu  
(8-232)to Lady Anne & the married young ladies as well as the  
(8-232)unmarried Dear Lord Montagu Most truly yours

(8-232)WALTER SCOTT

(8-232)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 29 March [1824]

[Buccleuch]

TO ROBERT CADELL

(8-232)DEAR SIR,-I send some copy-We have been off the  
(8-232)hooks here with the apprehension of losing my dear  
(8-232)friend Mr Scott of Gala who has been at deaths door by  
(8-232)a fall from his horse. He is better but his state still  
(8-232)precarious.

(8-232)I send some sheets of Swift.<sup>1</sup> -The carrier will bring a  
(8-232)terrier dog for Mr Constable which the folks at the shop  
(8-232)will please take great care of as it will elope if let loose and  
(8-232)they will send it to Mr Constable by the first opportunity.  
(8-232)Pray take care of the inclosed & believe me Yours very  
(8-232)truly W. S.

[ABBOTSFORD 29 March 1824]

[Stevenson]

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TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-233)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-Since I receivd your letter I have  
(8-233)been on [the] look out for a companion for you and have  
(8-233)now the pleasure to send one bred at Abbotsford of a  
(8-233)famous race. His name has hitherto been Cribb but you  
(8-233)may change it if you please. I will undertake for his doing  
(8-233)execution upon the rats which Polton was well stocked  
(8-233)with when I knew it some seventeen or eighteen years ago.

(8-233)You must take some trouble to attach Mr Cribb otherwise  
(8-233)he will form low connections in the kitchen which are not  
(8-233)easily broken off. The best & most effectual way is to  
(8-233)feed him yourself for a few days.

(8-233)I congratulate you heartily my good old friend on your  
(8-233)look forward to domestic walks and a companion of  
(8-233)this sort and I have no doubt your health will gradually  
(8-233)be confirmd by it. I will take an early opportunity to  
(8-233)see you when we return to Edinburgh. I like the banks of  
(8-233)the Esk which to me are full of many remembrances  
(8-233)among which those relating to poor Leyden must come  
(8-233)home to you as well as me. I am ringing in my improvements  
(8-233)-painting my baronial [hall] with all the scutcheons  
(8-233)of the Border clans and many similar devices. For the

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(8-234)rooftree I tried to blazon my own quarterings & succeeded  
(8-234)easily with eight on my fathers side. But on my  
(8-234)mothers side I stuck fast at the mother of my great great  
(8-234)grandfather. The ancestor himself was John Rutherfoord  
(8-234)of Grundisnook which is an appanage of the Hunthill  
(8-234)estate & he was married to Isobel Ker of Bloodylaws.  
(8-234)I think I have heard that either this John of Grundisnook  
(8-234)or his father was one of the nine sons of the celebrated  
(8-234)Cock of Hunthill who seems to have had a reasonable  
(8-234)brood of chickens. Do you know anything of the pedigree  
(8-234)of the Hunthills The Earl of Teviot was of a younger  
(8-234)branch Rutherford of Quarrelholes but of the same  
(8-234)family. If I could find out these Rutherfords & who they  
(8-234)married I could complete my tree which is otherwise  
(8-234)correct-but if not I will paint clouds on these three  
(8-234)shields with the motto Vixerunt fortes ante. These things  
(8-234)are trifles when correct but very absurd and contemptible  
(8-234)if otherwise. Edgerstane cannot help me. He only knows

(8-234)that my grandfather was a cousin of his-& you know  
(8-234)he represents Hunthill. My poor mother has often told  
(8-234)me about it but it was to regardless ears. Would to God  
(8-234)I had old Mrs Kedie of Leith who screeded off all the  
(8-234)alliances between the Andersons of Ettrick House & the  
(8-234)Andersons of Ettrickhall though Michael was the name  
(8-234)of every second man and to complete the mess they  
(8-234)intermarried with each other.<sup>1</sup>

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(8-235)My kindest Compliments attend Mrs Constable. When  
(8-235)you have time to write I will be glad to know that Cribb  
(8-235)came safe. I am always Dear Constable Very truly yours  
(8-235)WALTER SCOTT

(8-235)ABBOTSFORD Monday [29 March 1824]

(8-235)The dog goes by this days carrier & is addressd to  
(8-235)Princes Street.

(8-235)A terrier dog  
(8-235)For Archibald Constable Esq

(8-235)To be deliverd at the Shop of Messrs Constable & Go  
(8-235)Booksellers No 1 Princes Street Edinburgh.

[Stevenson]

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TO [JAMES BALLANTYNE]

(8-236)MY FIDLES would be renderd much more piquant by  
(8-236)the occasional use of a Musical phrase.<sup>1</sup> Sure you could  
(8-236)help me to this.

(8-236)All the Novels are in the Country. I think the work  
(8-236)had best stand till I go there on Saturday se'nnight-on  
(8-236)Monday you shall have copy.

(8-236)You never send Running Copy of any thing. I want  
(8-236)the volumes of Swift so far as not yet sent. Also 2 copies  
(8-236)of Richardson's volumes which I have not even seen. I  
(8-236)will get some Swift for you as soon as possible (having first  
(8-236)the running copy wanted). Knowing how my time is  
(8-236)occupied you should always give me a little premonition.  
[without signature]

[circa end of March 1824]

[Glen]

TO MRS. HUGHES

(8-236)ABBOTSFORD 1st April 1824

(8-236)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-I write in haste to say I have  
(8-236)received your very acceptable letter. I rejoice in Dr.  
(8-236)Hughes' recovered health and in the renew'd prospect  
(8-236)of your northern journey. I would almost have advised  
(8-236)the delay for a month or six weeks for our Scotch springs  
(8-236)are very chilly matters though our summers are like our  
(8-236)neighbours' & our autumns excellent. But we must be  
(8-236)thankful to take you when duty health &c permit.<sup>2</sup> Our  
(8-236)motions are regulated by my official attendance on the

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(8-237)court which carries me to Edinburgh from 12 May to  
(8-237)12 July. I shall be here till 12 May therefore and beg  
(8-237)you to come as soon as you can. I would have been



(8-237)delighted to see the young tourist & hope for that pleasure  
(8-237)another day. Lady Scott joins in Compliments to the  
(8-237)Doctor & I always am Dear Mrs. Hughes most truly yours  
(8-237)WALTER SCOTT

(8-237)All the world knows that Abbotsford is four miles from  
(8-237)the Capital city of Selkirk lying on the north west road to  
(8-237)Carlisle. We hope you will make your visit a week at the  
(8-237)very least.<sup>1</sup>

[Heffer and Wells]

TO JAMES SKENE

(8-237)ABBOTSFORD, Thursday [1st April 1824] (2)

(8-237)MY DEAR SKENE,-Although I am to be with you before  
(8-237)four to-morrow, I think it as well to send the enclosed by  
(8-237)the Mail coach as they not only contain some very  
(8-237)important evidence in Mr. Williams' favour, but an  
(8-237)account of Mr. Hare's conduct (Mr. Homers friend) not  
(8-237)much to the credit of his fairness or liberality. I allude  
(8-237)to compelling a young man of New College to withdraw a  
(8-237)testimony in favour of Mr. Williams as being a slur upon  
(8-237)the College. It seems a little hard that, not being  
(8-237)contented with disposing of their own patronage, these  
(8-237)gentlemen Wykehamites should meddle with ours. You  
(8-237)will be pleased with Surtees's letters and zeal.-I am  
(8-237)always truly yours, WALTER SCOTT

(8-237)I look upon Hare's letter to Heber as extremely  
(8-237)ultroneous and uncalled for.

[Skene-Tytler and Skene's Memories]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-238)DEAR WALTER,-I just have received yours and Justice  
(8-238)Shallow proceeds to let Mr Abraham Slender see as far  
(8-238)into the mill-stone as he himself does. Both Mr Slender's  
(8-238)indispensible conditions have been considered and  
(8-238)acceded to. Sir Hugh Evans 1 & the Justice are equally  
(8-238)of opinion that it would be the worst and most imprudent  
(8-238)thing in the world that Mr Slender should give up his  
(8-238)profession. Respecting name Mr Slender remains in  
(8-238)undivided possession of his own without subtraction or  
(8-238)addition. Moreover Sir Hugh says that Mrs Anne Page  
(8-238)whose fortune is entirely in her own hands would not he  
(8-238)thinks be averse to sell her Fife estate 2 as she does not  
(8-238)admire the neighbourhood and to buy where it might be  
(8-238)agreeable to Mr Slender. But then Sir Hugh in the  
(8-238)overflowing of his soul is so keen a friend to the  
(8-238)proposal that what he says must be taken with some  
(8-238)qualification.

(8-238)I have waited five or six days in vain for a fit  
(8-238)opportunity to talk with Sir Hugh on the amount of Mrs  
(8-238)Pages certainties and possibilities. In my opinion if  
(8-238)they should not reach so far as to make Mr Slenders  
(8-238)situation (with what he may expect from the Justice) easy  
(8-238)& independent & insure him against the casualties of life,

(8-239)as Master Slender prosecutes a poor profession, much  
(8-239)temptation to the negotiation would be taken away.  
(8-239)I will endeavour to combien the good knight as we say who  
(8-239)have traveld in France & I will acquaint you with  
[the result].

(8-239)It is clear that your coming down here must be  
(8-239)considered as entirely experimental and not binding you or  
(8-239)Anne Page to anything. What I should like to be  
(8-239)satisfied of are Principles, Temper and manners.  
(8-239)Deficiencies in any of these prime articles would be a real  
(8-239)scrape and perhaps as the mother is a Tartar the second  
(8-239)qualification should be carefully examind. Supposing  
(8-239)these essential points all right you are still to please  
(8-239)yourself as to her person & so forth. Upon her connections  
(8-239)I would just remark that we are but cadets of  
(8-239)Raeburn who are cadets of Harden and therefore, though  
(8-239)gentlemen, are much like what the French call Gentillatres  
(8-239)and the highlanders Duniewassells.<sup>1</sup> In the present day  
(8-239)there is no aristocracy so strong as that of wealth or talent  
(8-239)and no one thinks of making some sacrifices of the  
(8-239)prejudices of birth to acquire the former. Witness the valiant  
(8-239)knights & squires now laying siege to Mrs Anne Page.  
(8-239)I therefore would not have you take up poor Annes  
(8-239)follies who rather makes herself ludicrous by some  
(8-239)affectation of superiority. With regard to connection you  
(8-239)have less need of it than most folks but this match did it  
(8-239)go forward would include a political interest of the most  
(8-239)influential sort which would almost insure your rise in  
(8-239)your profession. This if necessary may be afterwards  
(8-239)explained. Gentle relations (like Maxie our chief) are  
(8-239)apt to be damnably troublesome in the way of requests &  
(8-239)the great relations of our wives have a bad trick of  
(8-239)looking over their noses whereas such as you suppose  
(8-239)belong to Mrs Page (of which I know nothing) may be

(8-240)kept at bay with a little civility & sometimes are apt to  
(8-240)remember that "my cousins Sir W. and Lady S--"  
(8-240)are words which sound handsomely in a will. So if the  
(8-240)girl pleased you in other respects & you pleased her which

(8-240)may be as much of a question I would not disturb my  
(8-240)mind on that subject were I in your case. Your own  
(8-240)situation would hold you so high that hers could not  
(8-240)materially affect you.

(8-240)This is a subject however on which I would not wish  
(8-240)to exercise any controul-my advice would be that unless  
(8-240)something remarkable should turn out between hands  
(8-240)you may as well come down to Scotland during your  
(8-240)vacation. Cela ne tire a rien-you do nothing but what is  
(8-240)the most natural thing in the world and your future  
(8-240)advance or retreat will depend upon your own observation,  
(8-240)upon your reception and upon the other circumstances  
(8-240)of the case. If you are of this opinion you can write to  
(8-240)me in such a stile as I can shew to Sir Hugh Evans expressing  
(8-240)some readiness to improve your slight acquaintance  
(8-240)in a certain quarter. There is no fear of your being  
(8-240)snapt up in spite of yourself. I am much concerned  
(8-240)to say that in consequence of a bad fall when hunting  
(8-240)on the Rink Hill 1 we have almost lost Gala. He has  
(8-240)been dreadfully ill-indeed given over by the Doctors &  
(8-240)at two o'clock on thursday morning we were alarmed by  
(8-240)an application for ice which most fortunately the ice-house  
(8-240)is stocked with. It was applied to the head & brought the  
(8-240)pulse down from 150 to 120-He is much better but  
(8-240)subject to relapse and the medical men think his state  
(8-240)very precarious.

(8-240)Mama is pretty well but the cold weather hurts her  
(8-240)asthma [sic]. The wind seems still to blow through snow.  
(8-240)Spice and Ginger are very well-eat up the cold meat  
(8-240)provided for breakfast this morning as Robinson Crusoe  
(8-240)says to " their exceeding refreshment." They desire

(8-241)compliments to their canine friends. Yours most

(8-241)affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

(8-241)Addressed : Lieutenant Walter Scott/15 Hussars/

(8-241)Sandhurst R.M. College/Hounslow

[PM. 2 April 1824]

London.

[Law]

TO LADY LOUISA STUART, GLOUCESTER PLACE, LONDON

(8-241)MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,-Your very kind and most

(8-241)welcome letter 1 was in one sense not merely red hot coals

(8-241)but a whole torrent of scalding lava poured on my head

(8-241)and yet in another it lets me see that your Ladyship has

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(8-242)been very kind in overlooking my long stupid and ungrateful

(8-242)silence which I had really kept till I was ashamed

(8-242)and afraid to break it there is something so miserable in

(8-242)bringing forwards all the rascally excuses which one has

(8-242)palmed upon themselves for putting off from week to

(8-242)week and from day to day the thing which one ought to

(8-242)do and (such is our strange inconsistency) wish to do and

(8-242)like to do and yet do not do that the poor culprit

(8-242)sometimes stands too effectually self condemned to venture

(8-242)even to solicit pardon. L. L. S. have been three letters

(8-242)which have been traced on the leaves of my asses-skin

(8-242)and still more deeply on my asses pate for many months-

(8-242)the meaning of which was write to Lady Louisa Stuart-

(8-242)But as your goodness has spared me from the censure

(8-242)which I have deserved I will plead my pardon as a traitor

(8-242)does his remission and enter upon my rights as a

(8-242)correspondent without farther apology since in fact I have

(8-242)none to make worth listening to. Our worst news here

(8-242)is that my best and most valuable friend and neighbour  
(8-242)Gala has been at death's door in consequence of a fall in  
(8-242)hunting our best that he has escaped-at first the extent  
(8-242)of the injury was not known nor was there any danger  
(8-242)apprehended worse than a deep ugly cut in the head  
(8-242)must necessarily be attended with. But the fever rose so  
(8-242)high that his life was at one time entirely despaired of and  
(8-242)many days he was in the utmost danger. It pleased God  
(8-242)which I shall always be grateful for that we had secured

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(8-243)the only chance which the season afforded to fill the ice-  
(8-243)house here and were able to supply them. It was applied  
(8-243)to his head continually and with an effect which even  
(8-243)bleeding could not produce. And so what we provided  
(8-243)as mere article of luxury has contributed to save the life  
(8-243)of this excellent young man. He is now out of danger  
(8-243)and I have excellent accounts of him this morning perhaps  
(8-243)your Ladyship may have an opportunity to send a note  
(8-243)to Petersham I understand a late letter of mine to Lord  
(8-243)Montagu carried the first news of his danger there  
(8-243)fortunately the worst was then over. He fell at least  
(8-243)fifteen feet down a sort of precipice and the wonder of all  
(8-243)who witnessed the accident is that he was not killed on  
(8-243)the spot. I am deeply grieved at Morritts distress-I was  
(8-243)afraid from the moment he adopted these young people  
(8-243)in themselves unexceptionable (most especially the girls  
(8-243)and I trust the young man also) that the hereditary  
(8-243)weakness of constitution would be the means of giving  
(8-243)him very much uneasiness. I did not indeed conceal  
(8-243)from him my opinion that situated as he was on Mrs.  
(8-243)Morritts death without any object on which to fix  
(8-243)those domestic affections of which no man has a larger or  
(8-243)warmer portion he ought to have formed a second  
(8-243)matrimonial engagement where if he had had good sense

(8-243)and good temper (and he is not a man to be taken in by  
(8-243)mere outside) he could not have failed of happiness.  
(8-243)Providence who gave him wealth talents general esteem  
(8-243)and a high station in society with one of the best and most  
(8-243)benevolent of hearts seems strangely to have counter-  
(8-243)balanced these splendid advantages by keeping his  
(8-243)affections on the torture for so many years through the  
(8-243)indifferent health of those dear to him-I always thought  
(8-243)Miss Martyn a twaddling disagreeable woman with something  
(8-243)like misplaced pretension about her but her services  
(8-243)in the sick chamber and her devotion to the young ladies  
(8-243)must naturally have given her a very different rank in  
(8-243)poor Morritts estimation who helpless [as] a man must

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(8-244)find himself during his nieces protracted illness cannot  
(8-244)look on her but as their instructress whose presence gives  
(8-244)them assistance and himself comfort. So upon the whole  
(8-244)he must feel this a woeful aggravation of his domestic  
(8-244)uneasiness. I think very little of the volumes I sent your  
(8-244)Ladyship and were I not a builder and a buyer of books  
(8-244)and land would long since have resigned the office of  
(8-244)standing public tale-teller. But while it is worth a great  
(8-244)many thousand pounds a year what mortal wight can  
(8-244)refrain from labouring his brains. I think the next will  
(8-244)consist of two tales one of which will be an extract from  
(8-244)the crusade history. Your late and present melancholy  
(8-244)occupation my dear Lady Louisa are the penance we pay  
(8-244)for having enjoyed in earlier days the countenance and  
(8-244)protection of friends and relations, older than ourselves  
(8-244)and I know by experience how sad it is to see those whom  
(8-244)we love gradually weeded away from the world in which  
(8-244)we are left. In my youth I gained much of the limited  
(8-244)information of which I may be possessed by keeping  
(8-244)company with those older and wiser than myself and I

(8-244)sigh when I think of the great number of excellent persons  
(8-244)with whom I had some intimacy that are now no more.  
(8-244)Still there is some comfort that those who have lived in  
(8-244)youth with the aged may be said to have collected the  
(8-244)wisdom of two generations instead of one. I sometimes  
(8-244)laugh to myself when I hear the younger people about me  
(8-244)talk of the improvement of the world and the concentrated  
(8-244)talent and wisdom which the age has supplied seeming  
(8-244)not to be aware that such men as Adam Smith, David  
(8-244)Hume, Robertson, Adam Ferguson et caetera lived in  
(8-244)that which preceeded ours. Hume was before my time  
(8-244)but I knew all the others.

(8-244)An accident which must have been very alarming has  
(8-244)I find happened at Ditton with the fall of a lamp with its  
(8-244)massive leaden counterpoise : fortunately no one was  
(8-244)much hurt though Charles Douglas was slightly cut.  
(8-244)Death lies in ambush around us even in our most peaceful

(8-245)and social moments. I will be extremely desirous to see  
(8-245)the miniature of the Montagu family and will hint to my  
(8-245)Lord M. that I wish he would bring them down. They  
(8-245)are the most pleasing though I rather suspect the most  
(8-245)difficult resemblances. The reduced size naturally softens  
(8-245)the countenance diminishes the effect of any harshness or  
(8-245)disproportion of features and renders the likeness pleasing  
(8-245)without flattery. Most portraits of full size unless those  
(8-245)which are of the first order of merit have a sort of absurd  
(8-245)caricatura look whether owing entirely to the artist or  
(8-245)connected with the air of pretension which the subject  
(8-245)is apt to assume I cannot tell. The portrait at Ditton  
(8-245)which your Ladyship notices was the last which poor Sir  
(8-245)Henry Raeburn ever put pencil to and unluckily did not  
(8-245)receive his last touches but is still a better picture (the



(8-245)subject considered) than any one but Lawrence could at  
(8-245)present produce. I believe the increased expansion of  
(8-245)countenance may be traced in the splendid original. When  
(8-245)I had last the honour of waiting upon you I was scarce  
(8-245)recovered from a very long illness and was much pulled  
(8-245)down as they say. I have a great horror at the idea of  
(8-245)becoming corpulent which would be a much greater  
(8-245)inconvenience to me than any one else so I sincerely hope  
(8-245)I am not feeding off 1 but have only attained my natural  
(8-245)embonpoint. I rise early (it has but just struck seven)  
(8-245)take much exercise and eat only twice a day. My breakfast  
(8-245)would to be sure ruin a poor man who might chance  
(8-245)to board [me] on low terms but my dinner is very moderate.

(8-245)I have Lord Castlereagh 2 here with me on a visit-a very  
(8-245)fine goodhumoured young man but they must have been  
(8-245)mad if they sent a young man of his rank to Edinr. to  
(8-245)study. It is positively the idlest place I know and Misses  
(8-245)and Mammies and second rate Bucks, not to mention

(8-246)some remnants of the old school make it the most  
(8-246)dangerous place I know for a young man of immediate  
(8-246)consequence and future expectations. My sons have  
(8-246)nothing of the first and very little of the second and yet  
(8-246)merely as smart young men and reasonable partners in a  
(8-246)quadrille they have so many provocations to idleness  
(8-246)that I am always delighted to get them out of Edinr.  
(8-246)though at the expence of losing their society. I am  
(8-246)delighted my dear little half god-daughter is turning out  
(8-246)beautiful. I was at her christening poor soul and took  
(8-246)the oaths as representing I forget whom. That was in  
(8-246)the time when Dalkeith was Dalkeith-how changed alas  
(8-246)-I was forced there the other day by some people who  
(8-246)wanted to see the house and I felt as if it would have done

(8-246)me a great deal of good to have set my manhood aside  
(8-246)to get into a corner and cry like a school boy. Every bit  
(8-246)of furniture now looking old and paltry had some story  
(8-246)and recollections about it and the deserted gallery which  
(8-246)I have seen so happily filled seemed waste and desolate  
(8-246)like Moores

(8-246)Banquet hall deserted  
(8-246)Whose flowers are dead  
(8-246)Whose odours fled  
(8-246)And all but I departed.<sup>1</sup>

(8-246)But it avails not either sighing or moralizing-to have  
(8-246)known the good and the great the wise and the witty is,  
(8-246)still on the whole a pleasing reflection though saddened  
(8-246)by the thought that their voices are silent and their halls  
(8-246)empty. I have been building by degrees a house which  
(8-246)I long to show Lady Louisa Stuart because it is a good  
(8-246)deal out of the common run-neither castle nor priory

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-247)-but an attempt at the old manor house of a comfortable  
(8-247)country family. I have gamboled a little in the entrance  
(8-247)hall which is a Dalilah, as Dryden says of some of his  
(8-247)flights 1 of my own imagination, which I know was not in  
(8-247)very good taste when I did it but why should a gentleman  
(8-247)not be a little fantastic as Tony Lumpkin says " so be he  
(8-247)is in concatenation accordingly." <sup>2</sup>

(8-247)Having filled my kiver with nonsense I must in common  
(8-247)charity and fair play send to Sir Alexander Don for a  
(8-247)frank. All the world says that this privileged person is  
(8-247)going to be married to a certain Miss Stein, but as he does  
(8-247)not say so himself I scarce can persuade myself that it is  
(8-247>true.<sup>3</sup> I am always my dear Lady Louisa your truly

(8-247)obliged and grateful humble servant

(8-247)WALTER SCOTT

(8-247)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 4th April 1824

(8-247)I cannot conceive how the direction was blundered.

(8-247)These beasts of booksellers who live by other peoples

(8-247)thoughts are the last men in creation who should presume

(8-247)to think upon their own account.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO ROBERT CADELL

(8-247)DEAR SIR,-Tomorrow or rather Wednesday I will send

(8-247)what is wanting of Swift & some copy. This has proof

(8-247)Sheets.

248                                      LETTERS                      OF                                      1824

(8-248)Croker has sent me a copy of Mrs Howards correspondence 1

(8-248)-I therefore send one volume by this parcel

(8-248)of that set you were so kind as to send and I will keep the

(8-248)other to ballast my next dispatch. Yours very truly

(8-248)Monday [5 April 1824]

WALTER SCOTT

(8-248)The inclosed note is about my subscription to Playfairs

(8-248)Monument 2 which I see had escaped my memory. In

(8-248)fact I forget the amount but beg you will take the trouble

(8-248)to pay it whatever it may be & let me know the sum.

[Stevenson]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-248)MY DEAR WALTER,-I took the first proper opportunity  
(8-248)of comme bien Sir Hugh Evans and the result is as follows.  
(8-248)Lochore is at present things being on the mending hand  
(8-248)worth from •'1200 to •'1400 per annum. This property  
(8-248)I understand Mrs Anne Page is not very desirous of  
(8-248)retaining : it cannot be called worth less than •'45000 or  
(8-248)from that to •'50000. There is besides a very large  
(8-248)personal property but old Mr Page speculated with a  
(8-248)great many thousands on the Waterloo bridge which  
(8-248)produce no return. There is cash in the funds and so forth  
(8-248)producing income to about the extent of •'20,000 of  
(8-248)principal. So that the said Mrs is worth from •'60,000  
(8-248)to •'70,000 diminished only by the widows jointure of  
(8-248)•'500 per annum. In other words your joint income  
(8-248)might amount to •'1500 or •'2000 a year sufficient for a  
(8-248)good deal of stile and yet for saving something to indulge  
(8-248)any favourite whim or to make provision for contingencies.

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-249)Now these are no empty nuts, nor do I believe there  
(8-249)are many pair of mustachoed jaws in H. Majys. service  
(8-249)that would not be glad to crack them. But you must  
(8-249)make up your mind immediatly for some arrangements  
(8-249)will be necessary that Lady Evans who is warmly your  
(8-249)friend may bring about your meeting Mrs Anne in the  
(8-249)right and delicate way so that you may have an opportunity  
(8-249)of seeing whether the thing suits the parties chiefly  
(8-249)concerned. If on the whole you give the matter up it  
(8-249)is best to write me a letter such as I can show Sir Hugh  
(8-249)stating your youth and love of your profession as the  
(8-249)reason for declining such a valuable opportunity. But if  
(8-249)you mean to try your fortune say when you will be in  
(8-249)Scotland and that without loss of time that we may not  
(8-249)as the sailor says miss stays-Friar Bacons brazen head 1 was

(8-249)a good monitor. Whatever you may do I have said all  
(8-249)that I shall ever say on the subject. No doubt it would  
(8-249)be very agreeable to me to see you in such a state as  
(8-249)would enable you to snap your fingers at the world and  
(8-249)commence Capt. Dolittle whenever you had a mind but  
(8-249)you are the party principally concerned and all I can  
(8-249)do is to warn you such offers seldom occur and are worth  
(8-249)consideration.

(8-249)Mamma and Anne are both well and I saw Sophia and  
(8-249)baby much better last week when I was in town for a day  
(8-249)settling our new Accademy. Mr Williams is to be Rector.<sup>2</sup>

250                      LETTERS      OF                      1824

(8-250)Charles is very well and sends love. There is more game  
(8-250)on the ground this year than I have yet seen. Several  
(8-250)pheasants and blackfowl clucking everywhere.

(8-250)The painters are still busy with the walls and the  
(8-250)joiners (d--n them) are not out of the library. It is  
(8-250)my belief there is some supercherie in the affair and that  
(8-250)they carry in boards and drum on them with hammers  
(8-250)to make an infernal noise without any progress. The  
(8-250)Entrance hall is in progress and you never saw a more  
(8-250)beautiful thing. The blazonry looks very well, but I have  
(8-250)lost three of my grandmothers I fear irredeemably. My  
(8-250)poor Mother could have informd me but I fear no  
(8-250)one living can. I shall just paint clouds on the scutcheons  
(8-250)with the words Permit Nox alta.<sup>1</sup> Twelve or thirteen  
(8-250)quarterings are however pretty well for a new Baronet as  
(8-250)they are all real. Mrs Anne Page might not add much  
(8-250)to our heraldry but I understand your alarm about  
(8-250)discreditable connections is unfounded. Once more peace  
(8-250)be with you and the earlier you will. . . [Here the MS. is  
(8-250)defective, a few words having been cut out with the signature.]

(8-250)6 April [1824]

(8-250)You may misconstrue a part of the above as if I thought  
(8-250)your leaving the army a probable or desireable event-by  
(8-250)no means-but if no war breaks out some years hence and  
(8-250)if you should go on half-pay or if I (if I last so long) should  
(8-250)break much you might probably in any of these events  
(8-250)think of lying bye for a while alors comme alors.

[Law]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-250)DEAR WALTER,-Your letter foolishly addressed to  
(8-250)Castle Street (which costs a days delay & 7d besides of  
(8-250)postage) only reached this morning and as matters seem  
(8-250)to be pressing I do not wait for a stamp but inclose a  
(8-250)letter of credit on Messrs Coutts for •50 directing them

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-251)to answer your draught for that amount. You will of  
(8-251)course in drawing your bill direct it to be placed to my  
(8-251)accout & forward the letter. I think you have done  
(8-251)very sensibly to propose coming down-ones own eyes  
(8-251)are alone to be trusted.

(8-251)I hope Mrs Carpenter if you travel with her wont  
(8-251)make you wait so long in town as she did me-and rather  
(8-251)wonder she should think of coming before the 12 July  
(8-251)has brought us here. As for your travelling expences  
(8-251)laissez faire a Don Antoine. If there is to be a campaign  
(8-251)you must take the field smartly to be sure & some camp  
(8-251)equipage may be necessary. But more of this when I see  
(8-251)Sir Adam which will not be till the end of this week as he

(8-251)is looking after some property to purchase for his son.1  
(8-251)Land has made an awful start. •'15000 profit has been  
(8-251)offerd & refused for Riddell.

(8-251)The Xth have behaved like coxcombs but Battier 2 must  
(8-251)be an ass-he is I am informd incurably ruptured a proper  
(8-251)complaint for a cavalry officer. Lord Castlereagh is here  
(8-251)just now sworn brothers with Sir Charles they go out and  
(8-251)toil the whole day and " catch no fish " friday was an  
(8-251)exception when they went to Ashestiel and brought home  
(8-251)a miraculous draught of six dozen.

(8-251)You are quite right to go to Col McDonalds ball & it  
(8-251)was careless in you to take the wrong day for the levee.  
(8-251)There is a bit and a buffet for you.

(8-251)On consideration if Mrs Carpenter came here in June  
(8-251)Mama and Anne might remain to receive her at Abbotsford  
(8-251)although I am not liberated till the 12 July. I believe  
(8-251)I will have occasion to write soon so now conclude  
(8-251)as being your affectionate father                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-251)ABBOTSFORD 13 April [1824]

(8-251)Mama and Anne are well & send kind love. Here is  
(8-251)Siberian weather-the country two or three inches deep

252                      LETTERS    OF                      1824

(8-252)in snow which alarms us for the lambing season. A letter  
(8-252)of yours addressd to a Mr Heigham has been returnd  
(8-252)here after long travelling. Shall I forward it to you or  
(8-252)keep it till you come.

(8-252)Addressed : Lieut Walter Scott/15th Hussars  
(8-252)R.M. College Sandhurst

(8-252)[Law]

Bagshot/London.

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK, WINDSOR

(8-252)MY DEAR LORD,-You might justly think me most  
(8-252)unmerciful were you to consider this letter as a provoke  
(8-252)requiring an answer. It comes partly to thank you  
(8-252)twenty times for your long & most kind letter 1 and the  
(8-252)information which it conveys on many points so interesting  
(8-252)to me and partly which I think not unnecessary to send  
(8-252)you for information to Captain & Mrs. Scott that Gala  
(8-252)may I trust be considered as quite out of danger. He has  
(8-252)swum for his life though & barely saved it. It is for the  
(8-252)credit of the clan to state he had no dishonour as a horse  
(8-252)man by the fall. He had alighted to put his saddle to  
(8-252)rights and the horse full of corn & little workd went off

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-253)with him before he got into his seat & went headlong  
(8-253)down a sort of precipice. He fell at least fifteen feet  
(8-253)without stopping & no one that saw the accident could  
(8-253)hope he should be taken up a living man. Yet after losing  
(8-253)a quart of blood he walkd home on foot & no dangerous  
(8-253)symptoms appeard till five or six days after when they  
(8-253)came with a vengeance. He continues to use the ice with  
(8-253)wonderful effect though it seems a violent remedy.

(8-253)How fate besets us in our sports and our most quiet  
(8-253)domestic moments-Your Lordships story of the lamp  
(8-253)makes one shudder & I think it wonderful that Lady  
(8-253)Montagu felt no more bad effects from the mere terror of  
(8-253)such an accident but the gentlest characters have often  
(8-253)most real firmness. I once saw some thing of the kind  
(8-253)upon a very large scale. You may have seen at Somerset  
(8-253)House an immense bronze chandelier with several



(8-253)hundred burners weighing three or four tons at least.  
(8-253)On the day previous to the public exhibition of the  
(8-253)paintings the Royal Academicians are in use as your  
(8-253)Lordship knows to give an immensely large dinner party  
(8-253)to people of distinction supposed to be patrons of the art  
(8-253)to literary men to amateurs in general and the Lord  
(8-253)knows whom besides. I happend to be there the first  
(8-253)time this ponderous mass of bronze was suspended. It  
(8-253)had been cast for His Majesty then prince Regent and  
(8-253)he not much liking it-I am [not] surprized he did not  
(8-253)as it is very ugly indeed-had bestowd it on the Royal  
(8-253)Academicians. Beneath it was placed as at Ditton a large  
(8-253)round table or rather a tier of tables rising above each  
(8-253)other like the shelves of a dumb waiter and furnishd with  
(8-253)as many glasses tumblers decanters & so forth as might  
(8-253)have set up an entire glass-shop the numbers of the  
(8-253)company upwards of 150 persons requiring such a supply.  
(8-253)Old West 1 presided and was supported by Jockey of  
(8-253)Norfolk on the one side & one of the Royal Dukes on the

(8-254)other. We had just drunk a preliminary toast or two when  
(8-254)-the Lord preserve us-a noise was heard like that which  
(8-254)I conceive precedes an earthquake-the links of the  
(8-254)massive chain by which this beastly lump of bronze was  
(8-254)suspended began to give way and the mass descending  
(8-254)slowly for several inches encounterd the table beneath  
(8-254)which was positively annihilated by the pressure the  
(8-254)whole glass ware being at once destroyd-What was  
(8-254)very odd the chain after this manifestation of weakness  
(8-254)continued to hold fast. The skillful inspected it and  
(8-254)declared it would yield no further and we I think to the  
(8-254)credit of our courage remaind quiet and continued our  
(8-254)sitting. Had it really given way as the architecture of  
(8-254)Somerset House has been general[ly] esteemd unsubstantial

(8-254)it must have broke the floor like a bomb shell and  
(8-254)carried us all down to the cellars of that great national  
(8-254)edifice. Your lordships letter placed the whole scene in  
(8-254)my recollection. A fine paragraph we should have made.1

(8-254)I think your Lordship will be as much pleased with the  
(8-254)plantation on Bowden moor. I have found an excellent  
(8-254)legend for the spot. It is close by the grave of an unhappy  
(8-254)being calld Wattie Waeman 2 (whether the last appellative  
(8-254)was really his name or has been given him from his  
(8-254)melancholy fate is uncertain) who being all for love and a  
(8-254)little for stealing hung himself there 70 or 80 years since  
(8-254)(querie where did he find a tree) and lies buried in  
(8-254)that unconsecrated ground at once to revenge himself of  
(8-254)his mistress and to save the gallows a labour-Now as the  
(8-254)place of his grave & of his suicide is just on the verge  
(8-254)where the Dukes land meets with mine & Kippilaws (you  
(8-254)are aware that where three Lairds lands meet is always

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-255)a charmd spot) the spirit of Wattie Waeman wanders  
(8-255)sadly over the adjacent moor to the great terror of all  
(8-255)wandering wights who have occasion to pass from Melrose  
(8-255)to Bowden. I begin to think which of his namesakes this  
(8-255)omen concerns for I take Mr. Kerr of Kippilaw to be out  
(8-255)of the question. I never heard of a Duke actually dying  
(8-255)for love though the Duke in Twelfth night be in an  
(8-255)alarming way-on the other hand " Sir John Graeme of the  
(8-255)West countrie " who died for cruel Barbara Allan is a  
(8-255)case or point against the knight. Then in extreme cases  
(8-255)your Duke loses his head whereas your knight & Esquire  
(8-255)is apt to retain it upon a neck a little more elongated than  
(8-255)usual. I will pursue the discussion no further as the cards  
(8-255)appear to turn against me. The people begin to call the  
(8-255)plantation Waemanswood rather a good name.

(8-255)It is quite impossible your Lordship should be satisfied  
(8-255)with the outside view of my castle for I reckon upon  
(8-255)the honor of receiving your whole party quot quot  
(8-255)adestis as usual in the interior. We have plenty of room  
(8-255)for a considerable number of freinds at bed as well as  
(8-255)board. Do not be alarmd by the report of the Gas which  
(8-255)was quite true but reflects no dishonour on that mode  
(8-255)of Illumination. I had calculated that fifteen hundred  
(8-255)cubic feet of gas would tire out some five & twenty or  
(8-255)thirty pair of feet of Scotch dancers but it lasted only till  
(8-255)six in the morning and then as a brave soldier does on  
(8-255)his post went out when burnd out. Had I kept the man  
(8-255)sitting up for an hour or two to make the gas as fast as  
(8-255)consumed I should have spoiled a good story.

(8-255)My hall is in course of having all the heavy parts of my  
(8-255)armor[i]al collection bestowd upon it and really though  
(8-255)fanciful looks very well and I am as busy as a bee disposing  
(8-255)suits of armour battleaxes broadswords and all the nick  
(8-255)nacks I have been breaking my shins over in every corner  
(8-255)of the house for these seven years past in laudable order &  
(8-255)to the best advantage.

(8-255)If Mr. Blakeney be the able person that fame reports

(8-256)him he will have as great a duty to perform as his ancestor  
(8-256)at Stirling Castle 1 for to keep so young a person as my  
(8-256)Chief in his particular situation from the inroads of follies  
(8-256)& worse than follies requires [as] much attention and  
(8-256)firmness as to keep highland claymores & trench engineers  
(8-256)out of a fortified place. But there is an admirable garrison  
(8-256)in the fortress kind & generous feelings and a strong sense  
(8-256)of honour and duty which Duke Walter has by descent

(8-256)from his father & grandfather. God send him life &  
 (8-256)health and I trust he will reward your Lordships paternal  
 (8-256)care and fulfill my hopes-They are not of the lowest but  
 (8-256)such as must be entertained by an old and attached friend  
 (8-256)of the family who has known him from infancy-My  
 (8-256)friend Lord John wants the extreme responsibility of his  
 (8-256)brothers situation and may afford to sow a few more wild  
 (8-256)oats but I trust he will not make the crop a large one.  
 (8-256)Lord Castlereagh & his tutor Mr. Turner to whom Mr.  
 (8-256)Short introduced me have just left us for the south after  
 (8-256)spending three or four days with us. They could not  
 (8-256)have done worse than sending the young Viscount to  
 (8-256)Edinburgh for though he is really an unaffected natural  
 (8-256)young man yet it was absurd to expect that he should  
 (8-256)study hard when he had six invitations for every hour of  
 (8-256)every evening. I am more & more convinced of the  
 (8-256)excellence of the English monastic institutions of  
 (8-256)Cambridge & Oxford-They cannot do all that may be  
 (8-256)expected but there is at least the exclusion of many  
 (8-256)temptations to dissipation of mind. Whereas with us  
 (8-256)supposing a young man to have any pretensions to keep  
 (8-256)good society & to say truth we are not very nice in  
 (8-256)investigating them he is almost pulled to pieces by speculating  
 (8-256)on mamas and flirting misses. If a man is poor plain and  
 (8-256)indifferently connected he may have excellent opportunities  
 (8-256)of study at Edinr. otherwise he should beware of it.

(8-257)Lady Anne is very naughty no[t] to take care of herself  
 (8-257)and I am not sorry she has been a little ill that it may be a  
 (8-257)warning. I wish to hear your Lordships self is at Bath.  
 (8-257)(8-257)I hate unformed complaints. A Doctor is like Ajax 1 -give  
 (8-257)him light & he may make battle with a disease but no  
 (8-257)disparagement to the Esculapian art they are bad  
 (8-257)guessers. Your Lordships complaints proceed I think from

(8-257)the stomach & are peculiarly within the reach of medicine  
(8-257)if their real character can be ascertained. I am truly glad  
(8-257)the venerable & venerated Duchess has got a medical man  
(8-257)whom she respects in some degree equally to Dr. Baillie  
(8-257)though who so remembers him must place others at a great  
(8-257)distance. Yet even he could not make her Grace forget  
(8-257)the " poor creature small beer." I trust Lord Stopford  
(8-257)[Omission] your Lordship[s] letter (unpleasant on that  
(8-257)subject only) seems to intimate. My kindest compliments I had  
(8-257)almost said love attend Lady Isabella-We are threatened  
(8-257)with a cruel deprivation in the loss of our friend Sir Adam  
(8-257)the first of men-A dog of a Banker has bought his house 2 for  
(8-257)an investment of capital and I fear he must trudge. Had  
(8-257)I still had the highland piper 3 in my service who would  
(8-257)not have refused me such a favour I would have had him  
(8-257)directed to a certainty. I mean this cursed Banker. As it  
(8-257)is I must think of some means of poisoning his hot rolls &  
(8-257)butter or setting his house on fire by way of revenge. It  
(8-257)is a real affliction-I am happy to hear of Lady Margaret's  
(8-257)good looks. I was one of her earliest acquaintance[s] &  
(8-257)at least half her god father for I took the vows on me for  
(8-257)somebody or other who I dare say has never thought half

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(8-258)so often of her as I have done-And so I have written out  
(8-258)my paper and I fear your Lordship's patience. My  
(8-258)respectful Compliments attend Lady Montagu & the  
(8-258)young Ladies of Ditton. Always most truly yours

(8-258)WALTER SCOTT

(8-258)ABBOTSFORD 14 April [1824]

[Buccleuch]

TO ROBERT CADELL

(8-258)DEAR SIR,-The Suffolk papers have delayd the Life etc  
(8-258)of Swift from the new light they throw on several passages.  
(8-258)I will push it forward as well as I can. The other shall  
(8-258)be ready by the time you propose. I inclose a note from  
(8-258)Gordon open in haste but not further violated-I wanted  
(8-258)him to come and help me to arrange my books but I  
(8-258)cannot get the carpenters out of the Library. Yours truly

(8-258)W SCOTT

(8-258)ABBOTSFORD friday [16 April 1824]

(8-258)Some copy, proofs, & proofs of Swift.  
[Stevenson]

TO ROBERT CADELL

(8-258)MY DEAR SIR,-I send copy & proofs-Swift is stopd  
(8-258)from my being unable in the confusion of my books to  
(8-258)find after two days search Monck Masons History of Saint  
(8-258)Patricks Cathedral Dublin.1 I have the book & have  
(8-258)marked it in reference to Swift but at present it is  
(8-258)introuvable. Pray get me the use of a copy & send it out quam  
(8-258)primum.

(8-258)When you write to London I should like to have the  
(8-258)V. volume of Fen's correspondence of the Paston family

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-259)lately publishd.1 I will also trouble you to procure &  
(8-259)forward to me from Cotton on the North Bridge-not the  
(8-259)other Cotton a box of his best Havannah segars.

(8-259)I go to the circuit tomorrow & come back on Wednesday

(8-259)night. I have a letter from Constable 2 who writes in  
(8-259)excellent spirits. I am always truly yours

(8-259)WALTER SCOTT

(8-259)ABBOTSFORD Monday [19 April 1824]

[Stevenson]

TO MRS. HUGHES

(8-259)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-I write in haste merely to say  
(8-259)that from Greta Bridge you should go over Stanmore to  
(8-259)Brough which brings you into the great north western  
(8-259)road by Appleby Penrith & Carlisle & from thence by  
(8-259)Longtown Langholm Hawick Selkirk which last place is  
(8-259)within four miles of the house I am writing in. Not being  
(8-259)sure at what rate you venture to travel on account of Dr.  
(8-259)Hughes' health I cannot chalk out your route further  
(8-259)than to say that neither Brough Carlisle or Langholm are  
(8-259)very good sleeping places but may all be born[e]  
(8-259)with in case of necessity. The horses are plenty but the  
(8-259)stages between Penrith & Carlisle & again between  
(8-259)Langholm and Hawick are long and heavy. In hopes of  
(8-259)seeing you about the fifth I am very truly your most  
(8-259)respectful & obliged WALTER SCOTT

(8-259)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE Saturday [17th April 1824] (4)

(8-260)There are fine old ruins at Bowes Brough Penrith  
(8-260)Appleby, memorials of the grandeur of the Cliffords.  
(8-260)The castle at Appleby is particularly well worth a visit.  
(8-260)If you stay a little at Greta Bridge pray see Rokeby which  
(8-260)is close by. If you drop a line there apprizing us of your

(8-260)motions we shall know when to expect you & the Dr.

[Heffer and Wells]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(8-260)JEDBURGH, April 21st, 1824

(8-260)MY DEAR LADY ABERCORN I must not allow any rust  
(8-260)to gather on the chain of friendship (to use an Indian  
(8-260)expression) which your Ladyship has been so kind as to  
(8-260)brighten by your kind letter of 20 March 1 which reached

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-261)my hand about a fortnight ago. I am truly sorry you  
(8-261)should stay at Paris when you find that it does not suit  
(8-261)with your health. In winter and spring I should suppose  
(8-261)Paris cold. When I was there in August 1815 I felt it  
(8-261)unsupportably warm and was unusually listless and  
(8-261)inactive during the middle of the day on that account. I  
(8-261)wish you could have quitted the French capital immediately  
(8-261)and tried what early hours and quiet would have  
(8-261)done for you upon Tweedside which the inhabitants think  
(8-261)the healthiest residence in the world. But I fear your  
(8-261)return to Rome for the winter will put this out of the  
(8-261)question for this season. Really in the short period of fine  
(8-261)weather Scotland has much to interest and amuse  
(8-261)strangers but for eight months in the year the climate is  
(8-261)so rough and so uncertain that it requires to be a native to  
(8-261)endure it and even amongst ourselves complaints of the  
(8-261)lungs are too common and very fatal. Yet it is not excess  
(8-261)of cold which we have to complain of but rather the  
(8-261)variable quality of the atmosphere around us. For  
(8-261)instance all this last winter there was but one day when  
(8-261)they could collect ice for the Ice-house at Abbotsford.



(8-261)Most fortunately or to speak more properly most  
(8-261)providentially the gardener being an alert person had the ice-  
(8-261)house filled on that occasion which has been the means of  
(8-261)saving the life of one of my best friends and nearest

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(8-262)neighbours John Scott of Gala. He had been thrown  
(8-262)down a precipice while hunting but though his head was  
(8-262)dreadfully cut no damage to the skull was apprehended.  
(8-262)But after three or four days a fever of such intensity came  
(8-262)on that the pulse mounted to 150 and could only be kept  
(8-262)under by the constant application of ice to the patient's  
(8-262)head to which the physicians who were long in total  
(8-262)despair ascribe his present progress towards recovery.  
(8-262)Had we not fortunately been able to supply the remedy  
(8-262)there was none to be had nearer than Edinburgh for none  
(8-262)of our neighbours had been upon the alert as we were.  
(8-262)Thus you see dear Lady that Ice may be a great rarity  
(8-262)and a matter of high consequence to boot in this northern  
(8-262)climate of ours severe as I acknowledge it to be. It was  
(8-262)not many weeks before this accident that I had like to  
(8-262)have had a bad accident on the same hill called the  
(8-262)Meiglet 1 and on a similar occasion. I had turned out to  
(8-262)see the fox break cover which I often do when the hounds  
(8-262)are in my neighbourhood and had dismounted from  
(8-262)my pony to run down the hill which was too precipitous  
(8-262)for riding supporting myself on the shoulder of one of  
(8-262)our strong forest yeomen when some stones giving way  
(8-262)I fell very awkwardly with my leg under me. Luckily  
(8-262)the man whom I held by was a Hercules for strength and  
(8-262)though my fall dragged him at length atop of me yet  
(8-262)his resistance made my descent gradual and I came off  
(8-262)with a slight sprain instead of a broken leg. I promise  
(8-262)you I will keep the brow of the Meiglet in future. Your  
(8-262)Ladyship is to suppose my health is pretty good since

(8-262)I am risking my precious limbs in such frolics my ordinary  
(8-262)health is very good. It is indeed as confirmed as I ever  
(8-262)possessed it in my most vigorous days but I use a great  
(8-262)deal of exercise and rise early in order to diminish some  
(8-262)tendency to become [more] of the alderman than I should

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-263)like to be. Perhaps your Ladyship may have seen my  
(8-263)father who was rather corpulent towards the end of his  
(8-263)life though originally a very fine active man. My lameness  
(8-263)would I fear become more inconvenient were I to  
(8-263)get too much embonpoint.

(8-263)Your Ladyship asks me about my sister-in-law's 1 talents  
(8-263)-They consist in strong sense and knowledge of the world  
(8-263)with an unusual fortitude in encountering and surmounting  
(8-263)distresses and dangers of which it has been her  
(8-263)hard lot to encounter many. But she has no literary turn  
(8-263)beyond reading and liking a book in the ordinary way.  
(8-263)She has had much distress lately in her family-  
(8-263)dangerously ill herself and now seriously alarmed on account  
(8-263)other youngest daughter a girl of most uncommon talent-  
(8-263)Whatever she has been taught since she came to Europe  
(8-263)she has excelled in and in America she contrived to  
(8-263)manage the squaws or Indian women by threatening to  
(8-263)prophecy evil to them-Once or twice some things she  
(8-263)threatened them with came out true and of course that was  
(8-263)enough to establish her reputation till her mother coming  
(8-263)to the knowledge of the source of her ascendancy (she was  
(8-263)then about ten years old) put a stop to her predictions.  
(8-263)From this you may see she has a peculiar character.  
(8-263)This was very like some of her father's oddities. But I  
(8-263)fear we shall lose the poor child-She has had a severe  
(8-263)fever and now is extremely weak a severe trial to her  
(8-263)mother who now has this addition to the many unpleasant

(8-263)circumstances attending her return to her native country.  
(8-263)But I trust the poor girl will yet be preserved to [omission]

(8-263)I can easily conceive that Soult's collection of pictures  
(8-263)must be magnificent. He had the readiest mode of  
(8-263)collecting them during his Spanish campaigns and however  
(8-263)nefarious such modes of acquisition are still they  
(8-263)are the common cause of transference where the arts are  
(8-263)concerned for many long years. And one cannot but

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(8-264)be pleased to see the works of such masters as Velasquez  
(8-264)and Murillo pass from the obscurity of Spanish chateaux  
(8-264)and convents into countries where they can be seen  
(8-264)admired and appreciated. In one respect Bonaparte's  
(8-264)collection was of use in making these noble works of art  
(8-264)which once occupied the Louvre easily accessible. But  
(8-264)there was I think little taste in the manner in which they  
(8-264)were arranged since out of 800 fine pictures you never  
(8-264)saw above 30 or 40 and the spoliation which brought them  
(8-264)there was perpetually mixed with one's admiration of  
(8-264)the things themselves. I have forgiven him however  
(8-264)(since he is dead) for this and many other offences. He  
(8-264)was a strange mingled phantom of grandeur and terror  
(8-264)and a little meanness withal as ever bestrode the destinies  
(8-264)of the world and his own close was as extraordinary as his  
(8-264)rise. I wish we had given him a more gentlemanlike  
(8-264)keeper 1 than him to whom he was intrusted. But it is  
(8-264)only for our own sakes I could have wished this for to  
(8-264)him the confinement would have been the same whether  
(8-264)the bars of his cage were gilded or not. Sir Pulteney  
(8-264)Malcolm 2 tells me escape was never out of his head. I  
(8-264)should not have believed him had he said otherwise-  
(8-264)and as it was his keeper's business to keep him fast the  
(8-264)irritation of the devices of the captive encountering with the

(8-264)precautions of the officer appointed to prevent his escape  
(8-264)must have always given rise to scenes unpleasing to  
(8-264)contemplate. He might have been a great man and

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-265)was only a great soldier-he might have been the  
(8-265)benefactor of the human race and he was the cause of more  
(8-265)blood being spilled than had flowed for an hundred years  
(8-265)before. He lowered the standard of virtue and public  
(8-265)feeling among the french and soiled their soldierly  
(8-265)character by associating it with perfidy and dishonour.  
(8-265)Still I think the sufferings attending his double fall are  
(8-265)a great atonement for the faults of his character. By the  
(8-265)way I was reading a very clever memoir of the campaign  
(8-265)of 1814 by a Baron Fain 1 (I think) one of his aides-de-  
(8-265)camp. It is clear to me that his successes during that  
(8-265)awful struggle which he supported with so much talent  
(8-265)and against so much odds were the ultimate cause of his  
(8-265)refusing peace on the one hand and on the other of the  
(8-265)allies and in particular the Emperor of Austria insisting  
(8-265)on his dethronement. Thus his high military talents  
(8-265)through which he rose were also the cause of his fall.

(8-265)I do not understand the controversy between the  
(8-265)D[uke] of Hamilton and Lord Stanley nor can I answer  
(8-265)your Ladyship's question how the titles came to go to the  
(8-265)heirs general instead of the heirs male in the Abercorn  
(8-265)line but I believe there was a surrender and a new  
(8-265)creation. I speak at random about it-I know the  
(8-265)Dukedom of Chatelherault decidedly a male fief was  
(8-265)always considered to belong to the Abercorn family.<sup>2</sup>

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(8-266)I will make a parcel of one or two of Lockhart's books

(8-266)and send them to Sir Coutts Trotter to wait your arrival  
(8-266)in town in case they cannot be safely sent to Paris. I  
(8-266)cannot say I like his last 1; it is full of power but  
(8-266)disagreeable and ends vilely ill. I do not believe he writes in  
(8-266)Blackwood's Magazine though it continues to flourish. It  
(8-266)is too much of a party publication and I think it is a pity

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-267)for him to interfere in matters where you make very bitter  
(8-267)enemies and only lukewarm friends. He is just now in  
(8-267)London Sophia at her father-in-law's recovering strength  
(8-267)fast as does her baby-they are recommended to try sea-  
(8-267)bathing and Mrs. Lockhart who is as fond of her as if  
(8-267)she were her own daughter proposes to take her to Largs  
(8-267)or Helensburgh or some other place on the Firth of Clyde  
(8-267)for that purpose.

(8-267)I think the length of this epistle about nothing will  
(8-267)make your Ladyship dread such a correspondent in  
(8-267)future ; if it is very dull indeed the apology must be the  
(8-267)congenial stupidity of my present situation at a circuit  
(8-267)town and in attendance upon the judge during his residence  
(8-267)there. We have very little criminal business to  
(8-267)attend to on this progress but in return make a great deal  
(8-267)to do with what we have.<sup>1</sup> Yesterday we contrived to  
(8-267)spin out by a trial of several hours respecting the theft of  
(8-267)a piece of cheese (it had not the dignity of a whole one)  
(8-267)by two wretched boys-to-day having positively nothing  
(8-267)to do the Judge has walked away to the top of the next  
(8-267)mountain and I sit down to bestow my tediousness like  
(8-267)Dogberry on my dear Lady Marchioness. I must however  
(8-267)at length release you with the assurance that I am always  
(8-267)dear Lady Abercorn your most faithful most obliged  
(8-267)humble servant

WALTER SCOTT

(8-267)I set off to-night thank heaven and will be borrower of  
(8-267)the said night for a dark hour or twain, rather than stay  
(8-267)here any longer-I will send this under Mr. Stapleton['s]  
(8-267)cover to Mr. Canning. I have the honour to be known  
(8-267)to him but will scarce be an encroacher unless on some  
(8-267)special occasion & shall therefore send no more books  
(8-267)in that way.

[Pierpont Morgan and Familiar Letters]

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TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-268)MY DEAR WALTER,-There is no great use in answering  
(8-268)your letter immediatly but as the subject is a good deal  
(8-268)at my heart it is as well to do it. I mentioned what you  
(8-268)said to Sir Hugh who immediatly replied that all which  
(8-268)was thought of on either side being only an opportunity  
(8-268)of becoming acquainted each party was free to come and  
(8-268)go whenever he or she thought proper. On my own  
(8-268)part however I may mention that if you find nothing  
(8-268)decidedly disagreeable & objectionable you ought for  
(8-268)your own sake to see something more of Mrs Anne than  
(8-268)you would of a mere partner for a ball before deciding  
(8-268)either one way or other. Those qualities upon which the  
(8-268)happiness of the married state chiefly depends are not of  
(8-268)a kind very obvious to transient observation and besides  
(8-268)something is to be allowed for the situation at the outset.  
(8-268)You should ascertain as far as possible whether she has  
(8-268)the thoughts and sentiments of a lady and that can only  
(8-268)be in the course of a little time. I shall be as much  
(8-268)averse as you to procrastinating matters when you have  
(8-268)the means of forming a sound judgement. It is by no  
(8-268)means likely in the course of human events that a marriage  
(8-268)so desireable in establishing your perfect independence

(8-268)will ever occur again-that is no reason why you should  
(8-268)embrace the plan if you are dissatisfied with it in other  
(8-268)respects-But it is a reason and an excellent one why  
(8-268)you should not be rash or precipitous in forming your  
(8-268)opinion. I have some reason to believe that Mrs Annes  
(8-268)best qualities are those which are not most intrusive. If  
(8-268)she possesses as Sir Hugh says sound good sense and  
(8-268)warmth of heart any rust which may have occurred from  
(8-268)want of the usage de monde may be rubbed off-I think it  
(8-268)amounts to a little shyness and reserve. I speak however  
(8-268)rather from hearsay than personal observation.

(8-268)I mentioned in my last that I think you should not be  
(8-268)here before the beginning of July-it would serve no good

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-269)purpose and might awaken the tattle of Edinburgh which  
(8-269)in the state of the case would be unfair both to Mrs Anne  
(8-269)and to you-to her especially.

(8-269)I hope you will not neglect the Dukes next levee-it is  
(8-269)highly proper you should pay your respects there as the  
(8-269)only mode of expressing your gratitude-a call on  
(8-269)Greenwood would also be proper. I am glad you get  
(8-269)shoved upward in the corps. With a resolution to do ones  
(8-269)duty one can always please a sharp commanding officer  
(8-269)unless he is very unreasonable indeed. I wish they would  
(8-269)send the XV to Scotland instead of Ireland. But you  
(8-269)will have your old duties to return to if the Ionian  
(8-269)scheme should fail. All this we will talk off [sic]. Do not  
(8-269)forget your French and German. You should take some  
(8-269)lessons in Italian : if you go to the Ionian Islands it will  
(8-269)be highly necessary-Yours affectionately

(8-269)WALTER SCOTT

(8-269)JEDBURGH-CIRCUIT 21 April [1824]

(8-269)I suppose you must have been joking with Lady Evans  
(8-269)about Mrs Anne for she conceives you had a wish to be  
(8-269)introduced to her.

(8-269)Addressed : Lieut Walter Scott/15 Hussars

(8-269)R. Military College/Sandhurst

(8-269)[Law] Bagshot, London

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

(8-269)My DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-We have been extremely  
(8-269)solicitous about my dear Niece Eliza and sympathised  
(8-269)most sincerely with the distress which this severe Visitation  
(8-269)must have caused you. When you drop me a line it will  
(8-269)be a very great pleasure to me to learn that she continues  
(8-269)the dear little soul to recover from the necessary state of  
(8-269)weakness.

(8-269)Your own views with respect to the disposal of your  
(8-269)family seem to me sensible and judicious only I should

270                                      LETTERS                                      OF                                      1824

(8-270)think it rash to buy a house at Ayr till you were quite  
(8-270)certain how your affairs will ultimately stand. I have  
(8-270)not heard from the war office otherwise I would instantly  
(8-270)have written but there are several things which might  
(8-270)happen to amend your present income. There is a  
(8-270)small post in my own department likely to become vacant  
(8-270)by the death or the retirement of [the] senior clerk of  
(8-270)Session Mr. Ferriar now upwards of eighty. It belongs  
(8-270)to my office and was held by my colleague Mr. Home. I  
(8-270)had no thoughts of asking it because I do not like seeming



(8-270)greedy after the loaves & fishes. I have askd it however &  
(8-270)Lord Mellville under one condition has promised me the  
(8-270)preference.<sup>1</sup> I believe it is better than 200 a year & the  
(8-270)whole business can be managed by my Assistant & is  
(8-270)carried on in my office so it can cost me nothing but a  
(8-270)little superintendence. Now I propose that if I get this  
(8-270)place you & the nieces shall draw the emolument which  
(8-270)I take to be about 200 sometimes better. If this  
(8-270)arrangement and that of the halfpay should take place  
(8-270)you would probably think of Edinr. where the best  
(8-270)masters could be had for Eliza who seems so admirably  
(8-270)qualified to profit by them and the best society for Anne  
(8-270)and yourself. In that case a house at Ayr would hang  
(8-270)on your hands and be a real inconvenience for the same  
(8-270)reasons which make such property cheap just now would  
(8-270)make it cheaper when you came to sell. In fact houses in  
(8-270)a country town are the worst of all property and often will  
(8-270)neither let nor sell. I would therefore[e] rather look out  
(8-270)for a furnishd house till your means were finally ascertaind  
(8-270)& never mind a score of pounds or double the sum to make  
(8-270)yourself comfortable.

(8-270)I have not had a line from Walter and am really not  
(8-270)much pleased with him on that account but I believe he  
(8-270)is in truth very hard wrought and we shall all see him bye  
(8-270)& bye.

(8-270)The worst of Ayr is its great distance which forms an

(8-271)objection to the place so far as we are concernd and  
(8-271)therefore[e] I would not willingly see it adopted as a  
(8-271)permanent scheme. Be so good as to say nothing to any  
(8-271)one of the views I have mentiond as if a breath of them was  
(8-271)getting abroad they might be misrepresented and defeated.

(8-271)At present success is pretty certain.

(8-271)My kindest love to Anne and the poor little patient.<sup>1</sup>

(8-271)Pray drop me a line to say how she goes on.

(8-271)Can you tell me what arms Huxley bears. I want

(8-271)them for a hobbyhorse purpose as I am putting some

(8-271)scutcheons into my hall which is now almost finished &

(8-271)very handsome it is. Ever Yours affectionately

(8-271)WALTER SCOTT

(8-271)ABBOTSFORD 28 April [1824]

[Huntington]

TO WILLIAM DALLAS, W.S.<sup>2</sup>

(8-271)ABBOTSFORD, 29th April 1824

(8-271)MY DEAR SIR,-Will you excuse my intruding on you a

(8-271)rather hobbyhorse request I am finishing a new old

(8-271)entrance hall hung about with armour and knickknacks,

(8-271)and I wish to place on some of the old oak panelling the

(8-271)armorial bearings of what was formerly called Kith, Kin,

(8-271)and Ally.

(8-271)Among other creditable families, we have always called

(8-271)each other cousins, in virtue of which claim I beg you will

(8-272)have the kindness to indulge me with a description or

(8-272)drawing-it matters not which-of the arms which

(8-272)[blank] or an impression of a seal, which will do as well,

(8-272)and I hope you will have no objection to my making the

(8-272)proposed use of them with those of the Keiths, Swintons,  
(8-272)Halliburtons, and other reputable folk. Excuse the  
(8-272)trouble I give you on such a trifling matter. Yours, etc.

(8-272)WALTER SCOTT

[James Dallas's Family of Dallas]

TO JOHN GIBSON LOCKHART

[2nd May 1824]

(8-272)MY DEAR LOCKHART,-I received your letter yesterday  
(8-272)with the very agreeable news that you are well and well  
(8-272)amused. I have also most gratifying letters from Soph  
(8-272)concerning her health and the babys so I hope we shall  
(8-272)meet on the 12 with renewd health and pleasant prospects  
(8-272)on all sides. It will be a great consolation to me for  
(8-272)abandoning my matters here which are now in great  
(8-272)forwardness-the hall is almost entirely finishd and looks  
(8-272)very feudal.

(8-272)When you come down I we will determine what should  
(8-272)be asked for your brother I mean par preference for I am  
(8-272)afraid we may be in the condition of those petitioners who  
(8-272)must not be chusers-I believe no immediate appointment  
(8-272)could be obtaind and good education in the interim will  
(8-272)be indispensable

(8-272)Williams came here yesterday I like him much-there  
(8-272)is no rudeness in his manner-none whatever-and he is  
(8-272)the only schoolmaster whom I ever found totally free  
(8-272)of pedantry-full of information besides and a very  
(8-272)pleasant companion. He has been most kindly received

(8-273)at Edinburgh-even by those who least wishd him there-  
(8-273)But imagine the narrow minded jealousy or self diffidence  
(8-273)of the geeze of the old school 1 who refused to allow him to  
(8-273)see that establishment & subjected themselves to all the  
(8-273)inferences arising from such illiberality. Horner who was  
(8-273)with him complaind to the Provost but M[r] W. with  
(8-273)better taste sent his compliments and he would be happy  
(8-273)to see them at the New Academy when it was started.

(8-273)Remember me kindly to all freinds in Piccadilly to poor  
(8-273)Lydia 2 -Will Spencer-Rogers-Croker-and swear Rose  
(8-273)on the bible-book to come down early to us-if he jibbs  
(8-273)swear Hinvaes which will do as well.

(8-273)There is some thing very alarming in Sir Robert  
(8-273)Dundas's case-no formd disease yet a pulse above no the  
(8-273)ordinary beat being 60-gout appeard but did not fix-  
(8-273)this looks ill or doubtful at least. He will be a great loss.  
(8-273)If you see Terry tell him we are all anxiety for the mirrors.  
(8-273)I wish you would pick me up a few good caricatures as  
(8-273)far as a guinea or two will go. I design them for the  
(8-273)chamber of retirement & remember the pens of Bramah  
(8-273)whose last avatar seems to have had for its object the  
(8-273)abolition of pen knives & the relief of weak eyes. Your  
(8-273)letter dated 26th only reachd me yesterday being the first.

(8-273)When you see Theodore remember me very kindly to  
(8-273)him-Sayings & Doings are excellent.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps this may  
(8-273)miss you I will therefore be brief. Lady Scott, Anne &  
(8-273)Charles are all well and send love-Charles is as big as  
(8-273)bull beef fussing about to do the honours to Mr Williams  
(8-273)and divertingly anxious to put every thing before him in  
(8-273)its proper importance. But there is much kindness and  
(8-273)gratitude in all this officiousness [MS. cut]

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

## TO WILLIAM BLACKWOOD

(8-274)MY DEAR SIR,-Permit me to introduce & recommend  
(8-274)to your attention Dr. Hughes one of the Canons  
(8-274)Residentiary of Saint Pauls together with his lady. They  
(8-274)may require a little advice and assistance about seeing  
(8-274)what is memorable in Auld Reekie which none can afford  
(8-274)so well as C. N.1 of whom they are great admirers. They  
(8-274)are particular friends of mine. I am always Yours &c

(8-274)WALTER SCOTT

(8-274)ABBOTSFORD Thursday [May 1824]

[Heffer and Wells]

## TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-274)DEAR JAMES,-I send the proofs & will be in town  
(8-274)tomorrow night-happy to see you at eight if you can  
(8-274)call. I leave a passage confused by your printers p. 39  
(8-274)to duple (2) as you list. I have had a herculean labour this  
(8-274)last week getting my library into some rough order before  
(8-274)I leave this place. Always yours W SCOTT

(8-274)Monday [May 1824]

Two pages of copy.

[Stevenson]

## TO ROBERT MACCULLOCH 3

(8-274)MY DEAR SIR,-You are probably made aware of the  
(8-274)unfavourable termination of the accounting at the War

(8-275)Office and that my poor brother is brought in Debtor for  
(8-275)a larger balance than we had been led to expect-no less  
(8-275)than 3122.-and I am called upon for the sum of 1000  
(8-275)for which I am his security. I fear there is little chance of  
(8-275)bringing this matter to an issue otherwise than by paying  
(8-275)the money but I wish to know in the first place what you  
(8-275)who are on the spot and must understand these matters  
(8-275)think or can learn on the subject. The worst of the  
(8-275)matter is that even our loss will not I fear save poor Mrs.  
(8-275)Scott's pension. I have been so long accustomed however  
(8-275)to conceive these affairs as totally desperate that I shall be  
(8-275)glad to see them ended in how disagreeable a manner  
(8-275)soever.

(8-275)Walter writes me a letter in which he seems to intimate  
(8-275)the probability of his being sent off as an artillery[-man]  
(8-275)instead of remaining for the Engineers at Christmas. I

(8-276)shall be very sorry for this and beg you or Mr. David will  
(8-276)enquire how his prospects stand and write me whether  
(8-276)any interest can be exerted to procure him the superior  
(8-276)appointment. May I also beg you to let me know what  
(8-276)expenses &c. are necessary to make him comfortable in  
(8-276)his outfit and I will remit the needful. He gives me a sort  
(8-276)of statement about it which I do not quite understand.  
(8-276)He also mentions some doubt about what settlement he  
(8-276)may be named to & seems to point at Bengal. Let me  
(8-276)know your opinion of this and also in what quarter  
(8-276)application should be made for ascertaining his  
(8-276)destination. I am very ignorant in all such matters which  
(8-276)occasions you this trouble from Dear Sir your faithful  
(8-276)humble Servant

(8-276)WALTER SCOTT

(8-276)ABBOTSFORD, 3 May [1824]

(8-276)Will you let me know in general how Walter keeps his  
(8-276)ground in the Academy : he has been a very bad  
(8-276)correspondent of late. My kind compliments attend your  
(8-276)brother David.

(8-276)Robert MacCulloch, Navy Pay Office, London.  
[Brotherton]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

(8-276)EDINR. May 12th [1824]

(8-276)MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,-I was obliged to defer  
(8-276)answering your letter untill I reached this place yesterday,  
(8-276)and got from Sir William Forbes the exact state of the cash  
(8-276)belonging to you in their hands, which amounts, I find,  
(8-276)to 2432. 4. 0. I have made out a drat. for this sum,  
(8-276)which you will sign and return inclosed to John Gibson  
(8-276)Esqre. W.S. who will receive and apply the money.<sup>1</sup> There  
(8-276)is more of it than I thought, but we will try to put up as

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-277)much of it as we can. The rest may be replaced in Sir  
(8-277)William's, till some opportunity offer of laying it out to  
(8-277)advantage, on which I will consult some of my friends.  
(8-277)I wish the money-that is to say the very cash, to go  
(8-277)through Mr. Gibson's hands because he keeps of course  
(8-277)regular books which are not so much in my way.

(8-277)I am just fetched in from the country perforce to attend  
(8-277)my duty here. I never left it more reluctantly, for

(8-277)although I had the horrible labour of arranging all my  
(8-277)books in a new bookroom yet it was still a kind of labour  
(8-277)of love, and the weather began to grow kindly, and the  
(8-277)young larches to show their tender green so that to leave  
(8-277)was really a vexation. However I shall be back there in  
(8-277)July, when I hope I may look forward to the pleasure of  
(8-277)seeing you all in the course of the vacation, to which I  
(8-277)look forward with as much pleasure as ever I did in the  
(8-277)days of the High School. I must beg your excuse for a  
(8-277)very short letter as I have been rather too late of sending  
(8-277)the needful. Love to Mama and Williamina. I don't  
(8-277)approve of the last sacrificing her music for drawing-  
(8-277)the former is much more of a social accomplishment,  
(8-277)besides excellence in music may be much more easily  
(8-277)attained by a mere amateur than excellence in drawing  
(8-277)or painting.<sup>1</sup> A song sung with feeling and truth of  
(8-277)expression is pleasing to everyone, and perhaps more  
(8-277)pleasing than a superior stile of execution to all but the  
(8-277)highest class of musicians. It is different with drawing,  
(8-277)where that which falls short of perfection is not so highly  
(8-277)valued. Not but what I think sketching from nature is  
(8-277)a faculty to be cherished in all cases where nature has  
(8-277)given the requisites. It encourages the love of the country

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(8-278)and the study of scenery. But figures seldom answer, for  
(8-278)how can a young lady acquire the necessary knowledge  
(8-278)of anatomy I am always My dear Miss Clephane Most  
(8-278)affectionately yours

(8-278)WALTER SCOTT

(8-278)When you send the enclosed to Mr. Gibson you can tell  
(8-278)him to advise with me about the disposal of it. I fear  
(8-278)I cannot do anything just now for your poor woman.



[Northampton and Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-278)DEAR JAMES,-I am attending to your exhortations &  
(8-278)winding up my bottom as well as I can. I send proof &  
(8-278)copy-In some pages lately sent the lady is erroneously  
(8-278)call'd Annabel-pray restore her original epithet Lilies.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-278)I wish you could remit today to Messrs Coutts on my  
(8-278)account 250 as I find I am about 200 behind hand  
(8-278)with these gentlemen-You shall have it on Monday out  
(8-278)of Cadell's money. Let me know if you have done this.  
(8-278)Yours truly

(8-278)W SCOTT  
(8-278)15 May 1824

(8-278)I think you may press on now-Redgauntlet-a tale  
(8-278)of the 18th Century is the Title-& the 3d. volume will  
(8-278)be half finish'd on Sunday-On Monday I would be glad  
(8-278)to see you when most convenient.

[Stevenson]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO ROBERT SCOTT MONCRIEFF 1

(8-279)MY DEAR SIR,-Poor Sandie 2 is gone-I have a 10  
(8-279)lying by me which I had intended for his use and which  
(8-279)must now go to his decent funeral. I am a total stranger  
(8-279)how these things are managed and would be much  
(8-279)obliged to you to advise the poor lad his nephew about it.  
(8-279)Of course one would wish it as private as is consistent with  
(8-279)decency & no unnecessary expence incurred as I fear

(8-279)there may be little debts. But I should like myself to see  
(8-279)my very old acquaintance's head laid in the grave where  
(8-279)he will have the peace he can scarce be thought to have  
(8-279)had whilst living. Probably you will wish to do poor  
(8-279)Alister the same kindness. Yours truly

(8-279)signed WALTER SCOTT

(8-279)CASTLE STREET Sunday morning [16 May] 1824  
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LORD MONTAGU

(8-279)MY DEAR LORD,-I am truly grieved that after writing  
(8-279)you an idle letter upon the nonsense of the hour I feel  
(8-279)now calld upon to express my sincere sympathy with the  
(8-279)severe family misfortune with which you have been since

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(8-280)afflicted by the death of the late excellent Marquis of  
(8-280)Lothian 1 -When we have turnd a certain period of life  
(8-280)which I am afraid your Lordship as well as I has attained  
(8-280)(though I am the older of the two) Fate acts upon the  
(8-280)society in which we have past our happiest days like an  
(8-280)invading enemy who taking one fortress after another  
(8-280)announces gradually but surely the successive fall of those  
(8-280)which remain. In this point of view I cannot help  
(8-280)feeling the deepest sympathy for your Lordships venerable  
(8-280)mother 2 whose old age has been exposed to so many  
(8-280)deprivations of this affecting kind. There are some  
(8-280)characters whom Providence afflicts as if it were for the  
(8-280)purpose of shewing us how afflictions are to be borne.

(8-280)In another point of view this family loss points out the  
(8-280)prudence of your Lordships conduct on the late opening

(8-280)in Selkirkshire since it is doubtful perhaps how Mid  
(8-280)Lothian may be now filld but as I know your Lordship  
(8-280)will be a warm assenter and Lord Melville a good &  
(8-280)favourable listener to all the pretensions which can be  
(8-280)reasonably formd on behalf of my young Chief I hope  
(8-280)that as he is now (so time runs away) not very distant from  
(8-280)[his] majority 3 means may be found of keeping open for  
(8-280)him the respectable situation held by his father and

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-281)grandfather which places him at the head of the Lords  
(8-281)Lieutenant as other circumstances make him natural[ly]  
(8-281)the most influential among the Scottish nobility. I hope  
(8-281)he will bear it poor dear and have indeed little doubt of  
(8-281)it only a full cup is always carried with more difficulty  
(8-281)than an empty one.

(8-281)I hope the Bath expedition soon goes on and will be  
(8-281)happy should this find your Lordship there for I think  
(8-281)it may be of service in the complaints you talk of. Then  
(8-281)it will be an assurance of an early visit to Scotland. The  
(8-281)winter and Spring have been remarkably favourable.  
(8-281)Indeed I never saw anything so much so but we have cold  
(8-281)eastern winds and mists here which I flatter myself are  
(8-281)peculiar to Edinburgh and never reach Tweedside which  
(8-281)I left unwillingly about a week ago. Rents seem to  
(8-281)remain uncertain but land is rising at an awful rate  
(8-281)30 years purchase is commonly given and 13000 has  
(8-281)been offerd & refused of profit on the estate of Riddell.1  
(8-281)Horses are rising very high indeed and I even I  
(8-281)made a good deal of money of[f] three or four colts which  
(8-281)I had taken merely to stock some very rough outfield.  
(8-281)One of them of my own breeding I refused 50 guineas for.  
(8-281)I hope this will augur a mending of times in other respects  
(8-281)but farm stock is still low.

(8-281)I beg my kind respects to Lady Montagu & the young  
(8-281)Ladies also to all members of the Buccleuch family.  
(8-281)Believe me my dear Lord Always most respectfully  
(8-281)yours WALTER SCOTT  
(8-281)EDINBURGH 17 May [1824]

[Buccleuch]

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TO LIEUT. WALTER SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS, ROY. MILITARY  
COLLEGE, SANDHURST

[17 May 1824]

(8-282)MY DEAR WALTER,-I could not answer your last till  
(8-282)I came to Edinburgh when I saw the Chief Commissioner  
(8-282)who informd me that Sir Frederick would be most happy  
(8-282)to receive you into his establishment as a supernumerary  
(8-282)with the understanding that you should get on the actual  
(8-282)staff as soon as it could be managed. In the mean time  
(8-282)you take your own time of going out and must in the first  
(8-282)place pass your examinations & leave Sandhurst with  
(8-282)such a character as may advance your subsequent views.  
(8-282)In point of time if you are with us by the end of  
(8-282)July or beginning of August it will be time enough for  
(8-282)the purpose you wot of 1 and we will also have the pleasure  
(8-282)of your company during the Shooting season a diversion  
(8-282)you have not enjoyd for some time & with respect to the  
(8-282)rest alors comme alors-if matters should suit you will be  
(8-282)an independent man-if otherwise no poorer than you are.

(8-282)With respect to your military promotion I am no competent  
(8-282)judge. If there were a strong probability of speedy  
(8-282)promotion in the 15th. as you seemd to apprehend it would

(8-282)be a pity not to get a troop [if] possible at the regulation  
(8-282)price before you leave that regiment especially as I apprehend  
(8-282)that by quitting before you will in a great measure  
(8-282)lose the heavy difference which was paid to get you on  
(8-282)full pay. Except for this consideration your plan of  
(8-282)getting rank by an unattachd company seems a good  
(8-282)one & perhaps I may have interest enough to carry it  
(8-282)through for you. I will speak to Lord Chief Commissioner  
(8-282)and get him to consider the matter and if he  
(8-282)approves which I will learn before dispatching this  
(8-282)letter I will make the application.

(8-282)-- Turn over

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-283)Sunday 17 May

(8-283)I have not got speech of Lord Chief Commissr. But I  
(8-283)have advised with Sir Thomas Bradford who approves  
(8-283)of the plan of proposing to buy an unattachd company  
(8-283)and therefore I have written to Sir Herbert Taylor  
(8-283)to request H.R. Highnesses permission for that. You  
(8-283)ought really to make a point of going to his levees  
(8-283)sometimes. The Duke has been very kind and that sort of  
(8-283)civility is the only way you have to shew your sense  
(8-283)of it.

(8-283)Report says Battier has made a bad hand of his duel  
(8-283)and gone off the field with the spittle in his face after all  
(8-283)for that the Marquis after standing the shot sent him  
(8-283)special word by the seconds that he considerd there were  
(8-283)two gross falsehoods in his letter. I am informd his  
(8-283)Colonel was of Poines rank 1 & that they resided in the  
(8-283)Swan with two necks, Ludlow [    ], an odd place from  
(8-283)which to sally forth for a duel with a Marquis.<sup>2</sup>

(8-283)These however are the reports of Lockhart who is a  
(8-283)most accomplishd gossip. I am glad to say that Soph  
(8-283)is quite well and in her best looks as is little Johnie.  
(8-283)Always your affectionate father

(8-283)WALTER SCOTT

(8-283)EDINBURGH

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(8-284)Here we are for the Session. Left Abbotsford with  
(8-284)infinite regret last tuesday.1

[Bayley]

TO JAMES CURLE 2

(8-284)DEAR MR. GURL[E],-Your note gave me pleasure as I  
(8-284)had been for two days very anxious about the health of  
(8-284)my very old and excellent friend Chas Erskine having  
(8-284)heard a confused and alarming account of his attack.  
(8-284)I am in great hopes that the danger is now over and that  
(8-284)his convalescence will be progressive. It is an awful  
(8-284)visitation. I am glad the Icehouse was of use-it is the  
(8-284)second time that this place which I accounted a mere  
(8-284)luxury has been beneficial to a valued friends recovery.

(8-284)If Mr Usher wishes to have more money you will be  
(8-284)so good as to let me know. And I beg to know particularly  
(8-284)how Mr Erskine goes on. Yours truly

(8-284)WALTER SCOTT

(8-284)CASTLE STREET 20 May [1824]

[Curle]

TO SIR ADAM FERGUSSON, KNIGHT KEEPER, ETC., ETC.,  
GATTONSIDE, MELROSE

(8-284)MY DEAR ADAM,-I have this day paid Miss Fergussons  
(8-284)interest amounting at this term to 78 to Messrs.

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(8-285)Ramsay & Bonars as usual, with which pray acquaint  
(8-285)them.

(8-285)I am happy to learn from the Chief Baron that there  
(8-285)is a fair prospect of the salary being fixd. I have no doubt  
(8-285)that if Peartree 1 will push Lord Melville it will be done.  
(8-285)I think you should tip him a jog for you suffer by delay  
(8-285)as I fear it will be difficult to get at arrears.

(8-285)My womenkind visit Tweedside upon Saturday se'ennight 2  
(8-285)to remain a week but I am effectually fetterd by the  
(8-285)continued indisposition of honest Sir Yebert.<sup>3</sup> I wish we  
(8-285)knew precisely what ails him. He is considerably better  
(8-285)however & gone to Woodhall for a week or two.

(8-285)My motions being thus fixd I would like to know how  
(8-285)yours are to stand. I want to have your advice about  
(8-285)Walters promotion. He has set me upon asking permission  
(8-285)to purchase one of the unattachd companies by which he  
(8-285)will at once get his rank a bon marche & get clear of the  
(8-285)Duke of Cumberland. He will go on halfpay indeed but  
(8-285)this will not I understand prevent him from going on  
(8-285)the Ionian Staffer elsewhere where he may be useful. As  
(8-285)Sir Thomas Bradford seems to think his plan a good one  
(8-285)I trust it will have your approbation. I am as ignorant

(8-285)as a sucking turkey in these matters but am of course  
(8-285)desirous to use my little interest at the Horse Guards to  
(8-285)the best advantage.

(8-285)Begging to be affectionately rememberd to the Lady  
(8-285)I am always truly yours WALTER SCOTT

(8-285)CASTLE STREET 20 May [1824]

[Bayley]

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TO MRS. HUGHES

(8-286)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-No ticket is necessary. Just  
(8-286)drive to the Parl. Square walk into the court & ask for me  
(8-286)at any one-I think you may let it be half past twelve as I  
(8-286)shall scarce be disengaged to attend you till then.1 Always  
(8-286)yours W. SCOTT

(8-286)CASTLE STREET Tuesday [25th May 1824]

[Heffer and Wells]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-286)MY DEAR WALTER,-I have your letter on the subject  
(8-286)of my application to the War Office. I have not yet heard  
(8-286)in reply as I dare say I should have done if the proposal  
(8-286)to purchase had been inadmissible. I write at present  
(8-286)chiefly to caution you about expressing any strong opinion  
(8-286)or making yourself any way busy in Battiers business 2

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(8-287)as it would be prejudicial to you were such a thing  
(8-287)reported at Headquarters and there are always birds of  
(8-287)the air to carry the matter. Whoever or whatever the  
(8-287)parties were I never saw an affair of honour more  
(8-287)strangely mismanaged though poor Battier seems to have  
(8-287)been made a tool of by others. Westerns sudden death is  
(8-287)a singular feature of the affair which seems [to] have  
(8-287)been attended with mischief and discredit to all  
(8-287)concerned from first to last. It will give me serious pain  
(8-287)and displeasure should your name be mixed with it more  
(8-287)or less and if I have shewn too much anxiety in my  
(8-287)apprehensions of such an event it is because my  
(8-287)experience in life has taught me to observe how very easily  
(8-287)and thoughtlessly young men from old companionship  
(8-287)get into serious scrapes. You have such fair prospects of  
(8-287)advancement in your profession that you must be a good  
(8-287)deal on your guard.

(8-287)Mamas health is much reestablished. She and Anne talk  
(8-287)of going to Abbotsford on Saturday to stay a fortnight  
(8-287)and to superintend the finishing of the rooms. I design  
(8-287)next Saturday to go for two days to Tynninghame to have  
(8-287)a chat with the old peer of Haddington 1 and to return on  
(8-287)Monday. The subsequent Saturday I will go to Fife and  
(8-287)Kinross with the Chief Commissioner for two or three days  
(8-287)so the term of my widower state in Castle Street will not  
(8-287)be very long.

(8-287)I observe with pleasure that you are studying hard.  
(8-287)You may fairly count all July into your residence if you  
(8-287)please for according to our arrangements your being at  
(8-287)Abbotsford in the beginning of August will suit perfectly  
(8-287)well so do not work yourself too hard.

(8-287)After very severe weather we have some that is very  
(8-287)fine indeed and the wind seems to have left the east corner



(8-288)eyes became weak shortly after she was forty enjoyed  
(8-288)the use of them with some precautions untill she  
(8-288)attained the extreme verge of human life being able with  
(8-288)assistance of her spectacles to read in her eighty-fifth  
(8-288)year. It is not any positive dimness or imperfection of  
(8-288)the visual nerve of which I have to complain for I see

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-289)pretty nearly as well as ever I did only when I read or  
(8-289)write long and especially by lamp-light or candle-light  
(8-289)my eyes begin to water so profusely as to render further  
(8-289)progress impossible. They are however getting rather  
(8-289)better and I must not complain of them as God knows  
(8-289)they have had no sinecure only if you find my hand more  
(8-289)illegible than usual and *c'est beaucoup dire* you know what  
(8-289)to impute it to.

(8-289)You should come and see Abbotsford which as Augustus  
(8-289)said of Rome (I love magnificent comparisons) I found of  
(8-289)Brick and have left of marble.<sup>1</sup> It is really a very  
(8-289)handsome old manorial looking place both without and within,  
(8-289)with a fine library, a Gothick hall of entrance and what  
(8-289)not. But in truth it does not brook description any more  
(8-289)than it is amenable to the ordinary rules of architecture-  
(8-289)it is as Coleridge says

(8-289)A thing to dream of not to tell.

(8-289)But yet I think the effect is pleasing on the whole. Pray  
(8-289)come to see it and the lake in which Walter saild his fairy  
(8-289)frigate poor fellow he is now at the Royal Military College  
(8-289)as one of the advanced students and I think it is likely he  
(8-289)will shortly sail to the Ionian Islands as one of Sir  
(8-289)Frederick Adams Aids-de-camp-it depends however  
(8-289)upon exchanges and purchases and other matters-if

(8-289)not he will return to the land of Green Erin with the  
(8-289)15 Hussars in which he is now Lieutenant.

(8-289)Little Charles whom you remember a mere baby is now  
(8-289)entered at Brazen Nose where I trust he may make some  
(8-289)figure as he has good parts and has been well grounded  
(8-289)in classical learning by Mr. Williams of Lampeter whom  
(8-289)we have lately got to be rector of a new Academy here.  
(8-289)Charles staid with him in Lampeter for the space of three  
(8-289)years and better, so is half a Welchman.

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(8-290)I was greatly obliged by your kind inclosure, the  
(8-290)pamphlets are very curious and so is the letter but you  
(8-290)had given me a copy of it before and it is printed in  
(8-290)Swift's works. I have been revising the second edition  
(8-290)and will shortly send you a copy of the Life not that there  
(8-290)are any important alterations in it but some few occur.

(8-290)Mrs. Lockhart whom you remember as Sophia Scott  
(8-290)has a pretty little cottage near us in the country where she  
(8-290)resides in the summer time with a fine chattering little  
(8-290)fellow of a grandson. He is not very stout and has once  
(8-290)or twice alarmd us a little but on the whole he is getting  
(8-290)much healthier.

(8-290)Lady Scott begs kind compliments and hopes you will  
(8-290)come and see your Scotch acquaintances before we get  
(8-290)too old to be worth acknowledging. I am glad to hear  
(8-290)Mr. Maturins Albigenses 1 succeeds it is a work I think  
(8-290)of very great power. I am always my dear Sir Your  
(8-290)truly obliged and faithful                                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-290)EDINH. 27 May 1824.  
[Brotherton]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-290)DEAR JAMES,-I am rather surprized at not seeing a  
(8-290)mark of yours on the inclosed sheets. I beg you to read  
(8-290)them carefully as I always value your corrections &  
(8-290)criticisms & think myself surer of escaping errors.

(8-290)[EDIN: 3 June 1824]  
[Stevenson]

W. S.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO ROBERT CADELL

(8-291)DEAR SIR,-I inclose the Advertizement for vol. I of  
(8-291)Swift. Also the whole copy for Vol. X. The last still  
(8-291)needs to be corrected in one or two places where there  
(8-291)are references to other volumes & you will see there is a  
(8-291)manuscript article of some length. I can make the  
(8-291)necessary Additions in your shop tomorrow with the help of  
(8-291)your running copy. I hope your index is better than the  
(8-291)last. Ever your obedient Servant

(8-291)WALTER SCOTT

(8-291)CASTLE STREET Thursday [3 June 1824]

[Stevenson]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(8-291)EDINBURGH, 4th June 1824

(8-291)MY DEAREST LADY ABERCORN,-Your kind letter of  
(8-291)the 20th May 1 reached me yesterday so that it is probable

(8-292)that by writing in what is called course of post not my  
(8-292)wont I confess this may kiss your hands before the 15th  
(8-292)June when you propose leaving Paris. I am truly sorry  
(8-292)to think there is no chance of my seeing your Ladyship  
(8-292)which I should look forward to with so much pleasure.  
(8-292)It is just about the time when we look with some confidence  
(8-292)to a few weeks' settled weather in Scotland where  
(8-292)there really is nothing to complain of except the  
(8-292)uncertainty and severity of the climate so that if you could  
(8-292)have extended your tour a little northward I think I  
(8-292)could have promised your Ladyship some amusement  
(8-292)among our hills and glens of green bracken.

(8-292)I have been terribly distressed at poor Byron's death.1  
(8-292)In talents he was unequalled and his faults were those  
(8-292)rather of a bizarre temper arising from an eager and  
(8-292)irritable nervous habit than any depravity of disposition.  
(8-292)He was devoid of selfishness which I take to be the basest  
(8-292)ingredient in the human composition. He was generous  
(8-292)humane and noble-minded when passion did not blind  
(8-292)him. The worst I ever saw about him was that he  
(8-292)rather liked indifferent company than that of those with  
(8-292)whom he must from character and talent have necessarily  
(8-292)conversed more upon an equality. I believe much of his  
(8-292)affected misanthropy for I never thought it real was  
(8-292)founded upon instances of ingratitude and selfishness  
(8-292)experienced at the hands of those from whom better  
(8-292)could not have been expected. During his disagreement  
(8-292)between him and his lady the hubbub raised by the public  
(8-292)reminded me of the mischievous boys who pretend to  
(8-292)chase runaway horses-

(8-292)And roar Stop, Stop them, till they're hoarse

(8-292)But mean to drive them faster.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-293)Man and wife will hardly make the mutual sacrifices  
(8-293)which are necessary to make them friends when the whole  
(8-293)public of London are hallooing about them. Sir Frederick  
(8-293)Adam's last letters state that poor Byron's loss will be  
(8-293)inestimably felt by the Greeks. He had influence with  
(8-293)their chiefs which he employed in recommending moderation  
(8-293)in their councils and humanity in their actions  
(8-293)very contrary doctrines to those preached by some hot-  
(8-293)headed folks from this part of the world. The worst of  
(8-293)the Turks is their religion which embraces the doctrine  
(8-293)of fatalism to the most blighting and withering extent  
(8-293)under which the human mind can never become progressive  
(8-293)and so they remain the same Turks which they  
(8-293)were in the days of Mahomet the Magnificent.

(8-293)Lockhart is not author of the books you mentioned.  
(8-293)A Mr. Gait who has tried literature in several other  
(8-293)modes and all unsuccessfully had the merit at length of  
(8-293)writing them and discovering a degree of talent which  
(8-293)no one conceived could belong to him.<sup>1</sup> Lockhart however  
(8-293)wrote one or two tales of fiction uncommonly  
(8-293)powerful in incident and language. His first was called  
(8-293)the Confessions of Adam Blair <sup>2</sup> a Scotch clergyman who  
(8-293)succumbs to strong temptation and according to the  
(8-293)rigorous morality of the presbyterian church suffers  
(8-293)degradation. There is I think a want of taste in printing  
(8-293)some part of the story something too broadly but perhaps  
(8-293)that was unavoidable in telling such a tale. It is

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(8-294)written with prodigious power. A gayer book which he

(8-294)wrote some time ago entitled " Reginald Dalton" had  
(8-294)great success and he very lately wrote a little volume  
(8-294)called " Matthew Wald " which is a painful tale very  
(8-294)forcibly told-the worst is that there is no resting-place-  
(8-294)nothing but misery from the title-page to the finis.

(8-294)I have been spending two days last week with old Lord  
(8-294)Haddington 1 who although a Hamilton is not I think  
(8-294)much known to your Ladyship. A stroke of an apoplectic  
(8-294)nature and the violent bleeding to which he was in  
(8-294)consequence subjected has given him a constant giddiness so  
(8-294)that he leans on two servants when walking. But it has  
(8-294)left untouched one of the best arranged and most powerful  
(8-294)memories I ever remarked in any one. He got on the  
(8-294)subject of the Suffolk letters 2 on which he could certainly  
(8-294)write a most entertaining commentary for he has all the  
(8-294)vivacity and gaiety of youth mixed with the extensive  
(8-294)experience of old age. It must be owned that if our  
(8-294)forefathers were not in fact worse than we are in point of  
(8-294)morals they were at least less decent in their impropriety  
(8-294)and the same may be said of our foremothers. I always  
(8-294)thought the beautiful Miss Bellenden 3 mother of the old  
(8-294)Duke of Argyle and Lord Frederick Campbell was a very  
(8-294)exemplary person but certainly the jokes which seem to  
(8-294)have passed current between her and Lady Suffolk were  
(8-294)of a very free description.

(8-294)Well I am getting into scandal though somewhat  
(8-294)antiquated so I will write no more at present. Trusting  
(8-294)your Ladyship will honour me with a line from Fulham  
(8-294)where you will find something lying for you believe me

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-295)always dear Lady Abercorn your truly obliged and  
(8-295)grateful friend

WALTER SCOTT



[Pierpont Morgan and Familiar Letters]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-295)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I have been scheming to look  
(8-295)in upon you any day this three weeks past but the great  
(8-295)sickness among our learned body the Clerks of Session  
(8-295)has interfered with my wishes. In the mean time Lady  
(8-295)Scott & my daughter have gone off to the Country for  
(8-295)this week past and left me alone here with Charles for  
(8-295)my companion. We propose to go to Roslinn one day  
(8-295)the beginning of next week and if you feel yourself well &  
(8-295)hearty to face such an invasion we will look in upon  
(8-295)Mrs Constable & you time enough to wash our hands  
(8-295)before dinner as we mean to walk through the woods.  
(8-295)If you can with perfect convenience receive us on this  
(8-295)occasion as in fact to see you is my principal object  
(8-295)either Tuesday or Wednesday 1 will suit us equally. Lady  
(8-295)Scott had proposed to be of the party but for her excursion  
(8-295)to Abbotsford where she remains for the summer putting  
(8-295)things to rights. Always yours truly

(8-295)WALTER SCOTT

(8-295)CASTLE STREET Saturday [PM. 5 June 1824]  
[Stevenson]

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TO JOHN CUNDALL, 1 HOPE STREET, LEITH

(8-296)SIR,-I should esteem myself happy if I could add any  
(8-296)thing to the elaborate account of the game of golf which  
(8-296)you were so good as to transmit me as I am still an  
(8-296)admirer of that manly exercise which in former days I

(8-296)occasionally practised. I fear however that the activity  
(8-296)of other gentlemen has anticipated any remarks which  
(8-296)I could offer especially as I have no books by me at  
(8-296)present. The following particulars I mention merely to  
(8-296)shew that I have not neglected the wish of the gentlemen  
(8-296)golfers.

(8-296)I should doubt much the assertion that the word Golf  
(8-296)is derived from the verb to gowff or strike hard. On  
(8-296)the contrary I conceive the verb itself is derived from the  
(8-296)game & that to gowff is to strike sharp & strong as in  
(8-296)that amusement. If I were to hazard a conjecture I  
(8-296)should think the name is derived from the same teutonic  
(8-296)expression from which the germans have Cobb a club &  
(8-296)the lower dutch Keoff which comes very near the sound  
(8-296)of golf.<sup>2</sup> The exchange of the labial letter b for pf is a  
(8-296)very common transformation. If I am right the game of  
(8-296)Golf will just signify the [use] of the Club.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-297)I have visited the old House No. 77 Canongate 1 and I  
(8-297)see the scutcheon with the arms still in high preservation  
(8-297)but it appears to me that they are not older than the  
(8-297)17 century.

(8-297)There is a latin inscription mentioning that Adam  
(8-297)Paterson was the name of the successful heroe in the game  
(8-297)described as proper to Scotchmen. I would have taken  
(8-297)a copy of it but my doing so attracted rather too much  
(8-297)attention. It would be easy for any expert plasterer to  
(8-297)take a cast both of the arms & inscription to ornament  
(8-297)your club room it is really a curious memorial of the high  
(8-297)esteem in which the game was formerly held.

(8-297)I fear the club will think me very unworthy of their



here is a very good one. I have seen him several times  
(8-298)and besides the respect I entertain for his genius I like  
(8-298)his manners so much that I would be very glad to have  
(8-298)him for my guest at Abbotsford for the time necessary  
(8-298)to make the portrait.

(8-298)But I am rather delicately situated in the case for I  
(8-298)had a letter from a gentleman of the art offering his  
(8-298)services to make a portrait at the request he said of

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      299

(8-299)several American gentlemen. Now not being acquainted  
(8-299)with the artists own name and those of his employers not  
(8-299)being mentioned I was at liberty I thought to decline  
(8-299)the request alleging that the operation of sitting being  
(8-299)singularly unpleasant to me I had come under a resolution  
(8-299)not to become a subject of the art again unless under  
(8-299)some special circumstances. Now if you think that I can  
(8-299)without indelicacy to this gentleman accept of Mr Leslie's  
(8-299)[services] (and certainly the circumstance of knowing the  
(8-299)gentleman 1 who wishes to have the portrait and him who  
(8-299)is to execute it make a considerable difference) I will  
(8-299)commit the matter entirely to your management and be  
(8-299)most happy to see Mr Leslie at Abbotsford as soon after  
(8-299)the 12th July as he can make it convenient. Yours very  
(8-299)truly  
(8-299)WALTER SCOTT

(8-299)We will be with you on Friday of course.

[After 14th June 1824] (2)  
[Stevenson]

300                      LETTERS      OF                      1824

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK

(8-300)MY DEAR LORD,-I was much interested by your Lordship[s]  
(8-300)last letter.<sup>1</sup> For some certain reasons I rather prefer  
(8-300)Oxford to Cambridge chiefly because the last great  
(8-300)University was infected long ago with liberalism in  
(8-300)politics and at present shews some symptoms of a very  
(8-300)different heresy which is yet sometimes blended with the  
(8-300)first I mean enthusiasm in religion. I mean not that  
(8-300)sincere zeal for religion in which mortals cannot be too  
(8-300)fervid but the far more doubtful enthusiasm which makes  
(8-300)religion a motive and a pretext for particular lines of  
(8-300)thinking in politics and in temporal affairs. This is a  
(8-300)spirit which while it has abandond the lower classes where  
(8-300)perhaps it did some good for it is a guard against gross &  
(8-300)scandalous vice has transferd itself to the upper classes  
(8-300)where I think it can do little but evil disuniting families  
(8-300)setting children in opposition to parents and teaching as

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-301)I think a new way of going to the Devil for Gods sake.  
(8-301)On the other hand this is a species of doctrine not likely  
(8-301)to carry off our young freind and I am sure Mr Blakeney's  
(8-301)good sense will equally guard him against political  
(8-301)mistakes for I should think my freind Professor Smyth's  
(8-301)historical course of lectures likely to be somewhat  
(8-301)whiggish tho' I dare say not improperly so. Upon the  
(8-301)whole I think the reasons your Lordships letter contains  
(8-301)in favour of Cambridge are decisive although I may have  
(8-301)a private wish in favour of Christ Church which I dare  
(8-301)say will rear its head once more under the new Dean.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-301)But then I agree with your Lordship that the Tutor could  
(8-301)hardly have been avoided yet would not have answerd.  
(8-301)Something happend lately in which I thought the said  
(8-301)tutor acted like a narrow minded and almost an uncandid

(8-301)man. This however is inter nos for it only respects a  
(8-301)narrow-mindedness which I would not have liked to see  
(8-301)in the character of the D of Bs tutor. The neighbourhood  
(8-301)of Newmarket is certainly in some sort a snare for so [many]  
(8-301)young persons as attend college at Cambridge but alas  
(8-301)where is it that there lie not snares of one kind or other.  
(8-301)Parents and those who have the more delicate task of  
(8-301)standing in the room of parents must weigh objections  
(8-301)and advantages and without expecting to find any that  
(8-301)are without risk must be content to chuse those where the  
(8-301)chances seem most favourable. The Turf is no doubt a  
(8-301)very fashionable temptation especially to a youth of high  
(8-301)rank & fortune, there is something very flattering in  
(8-301)winning where good fortune depends so much upon  
(8-301)shrewdness of observation and as it is calld knowingness,  
(8-301)the very sight is of an agitating character and perhaps  
(8-301)there are few things more fascinating to young men whose  
(8-301)large fortune excludes the ordinary causes of solicitude  
(8-301)than the pleasures and risks of the race course. And  
(8-301)though when indulged to excess it leads to very evil

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(8-302)consequences yet if the Duke hereafter should like to have  
(8-302)a stud of racers he might very harmlessly amuse himself  
(8-302)in that way to a considerable extent if he did not suffer it  
(8-302)to take too eager possession of his mind or to engross his  
(8-302)time. Certainly one would rather he had not the turn  
(8-302)at all but I am far more afraid of sedentary games of  
(8-302)chance for wasting time & fortune than I am of any active  
(8-302)out of doors sport whatsoever.

(8-302)Sir Adam and Lady Eve are like to be turnd out of  
(8-302)paradise-namely their castle at Gattonside. Old paradise  
(8-302)did not number a neighbourhood among its pleasures  
(8-302)but gattonside has that advantage and great will be the

(8-302)regret of the said neighbours if Adam and Eve are  
(8-302)turn'd out.<sup>1</sup>

(8-302)The Ladies after whom you enquire are connections  
(8-302)of the Vogrie family though I believe they are not related  
(8-302)to it by blood or at least the connection is very distant  
(8-302)indeed. The present Vogries father <sup>2</sup> was twice married  
(8-302)and his second wife by whom he left no family survived  
(8-302)him. Being a buxome young widow (very pretty by the  
(8-302)bye) she married a second time & to save the awkwardness  
(8-302)I suppose of a change of name selected Captain Dewar  
(8-302)of Gilstone a small property in Fife a dashing clever man  
(8-302)but of a character rather more congenial to the Shires  
(8-302)of green Erin than to our mountains. His chariot in  
(8-302)short ran upon the four aces and was therefore[e] apt to  
(8-302)have a wheel out of order. He was well known in his

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-303)day at Bath & other places where play is deep & I fancy  
(8-303)was on the whole a winner. He died some time since  
(8-303)leaving only daughters-the eldest as I believe was  
(8-303)married on the father of the present Sir John Anstruther  
(8-303)of Anstruther who is your Lordships present Lady Anstruther  
(8-303)and the Misses Dewars are I suppose his sisters.  
(8-303)I never heard any thing but what was honourable of  
(8-303)Captain Dewar and rather wonder your Lordship has  
(8-303)never seen him at Arniestone where he used to be in the  
(8-303)late Chiefs time. But I recollect some years since he  
(8-303)wish'd to have the management of his grandson Sir John  
(8-303)Anstruthers property and the court of Session would not  
(8-303)hear of it not considering his habits as favourable for a  
(8-303)person holding the responsible character of a Tutor or  
(8-303)Curator for a minor. So this as Joe Hume <sup>1</sup> says is the  
(8-303)tottle of the whole.

(8-303)Adam and Eve are off to see country cousins in  
(8-303)Aberdeenshire. I parted with them at Blair Adam on Monday  
(8-303)& taking a fit of what waiting maids call the Clevers 2 I  
(8-303)started at six this morning & got here to breakfast. As it  
(8-303)blew hard all night there was a great swell on the ferry so  
(8-303)that I came through

(8-303)Like Chieftain to the highlands bound  
(8-303)Crying boatman do not tarry 3

(8-303)Or rather

(8-303)Like Clerk unto the Session bound.

(8-303)I could have borne a worse toss and even a little danger  
(8-303)since the wind brought rain which is so much wanted.  
(8-303)One set of insects is eating the larch another the spruce  
(8-303)many of the latter will not I think recover the stripping  
(8-303)they are receiving. Crops are looking well except the  
(8-303)hay which is not looking at all [well]. The sheep are  
(8-303)eating roasted grass but will not be the worse mutton as  
(8-303)I hope to prove to your Lordship at Abbotsford.

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(8-304)I beg most respectful compliments to Lady Montagu  
(8-304)who I hope accompanies your Lordship north. I am  
(8-304)always my dear Lord Your faithful to command

(8-304)WALTER SCOTT

(8-304)EDINR. 15 June [PM. 1824]

(8-304)I am here according to the old saying Burd Alone 1 for  
(8-304)my son Charles is fishing at Lochleven & my wife and  
(8-304)daughter happy persons ! at Abbotsford. I took the



(8-304)opportunity to spend two days at Tynninghame. Lord  
(8-304)Haddington 2 complains of want of memory while his  
(8-304)conversation is as witty as a comedy and his anecdote as  
(8-304)correct as a parish register.

(8-304)I will be a suitor for a few acorns this year if they  
(8-304)ripen well at Ditton or your other forests. Those I had  
(8-304)before (raised in the nursery not planted out) are now fine  
(8-304)oak plants.

[Buccleuch]

TO ROBERT CADELL

(8-304)DEAR SIR,-Will you be kind enough to let John  
(8-304)Stevenson 3 have a set of the Novels & tales to complete  
(8-304)my set of the Author of Waverleys works as republishd  
(8-304)in 8vo. which I have sent to the binder. Yours truly  
(8-304)W SCOTT

(8-304)16 June [1824]

[Stevenson]

TO MRS. HUGHES

(8-304)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-I have to offer you my best  
(8-304)thanks for two letters the last particularly wellcome as  
(8-304)it assured us of your safe arrival at your resting place

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-305)without our good & kind Dr. Hughes having sufferd any  
(8-305)inconvenience from the journey. I was rather anxious  
(8-305)on the last score for my wife accuses me of the three sins  
(8-305)which beset a Scotch Landlord, over walking, over

(8-305)talking and over feasting the guests whom I delight to  
(8-305)honour. As for over talking that must be as it may-over  
(8-305)walking is now a little beyond my strength and over  
(8-305)feasting I always regulate by the inclinations of my guests  
(8-305)and Dr. Hughes is so moderate in that respect that  
(8-305)there is no fear of any one hurting him. Not that I ever  
(8-305)was much of a bon vivant myself but in our cold country  
(8-305)although abuse of wine is now unknown in good society  
(8-305)yet the use of the good creature is more than with you in  
(8-305)the South for which climate & manners are an apology.

(8-305)I am very happy you have made your pilgrimage well  
(8-305)out & seen those you must have been interested in seeing.  
(8-305)I am particularly obliged for the hint you have given me  
(8-305)about Southey.<sup>1</sup> I thought he had taken me en guignon  
(8-305)though I could not guess why. I know he has owed me

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(8-306)a letter since 1818 and when he made a tour through  
(8-306)Scotland <sup>1</sup> with Telford the engineer never looked near me  
(8-306)although not far from my door. But it is of little  
(8-306)consequence who is in fault when no unkindness is meant and  
(8-306)so I will write to him very soon and I thank you kindly  
(8-306)for having been the good natured friend <sup>2</sup> who when as

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-307)I think Richardson says the parallel lines are in danger of  
(8-307)running along side of each other for ever gives one of them  
(8-307)a chop out of its course and makes them meet again.<sup>1</sup>

(8-307)I am sorry Mrs. O. P. has past into the next letter of  
(8-307)the Alphabet and turned Q. I hate all conversions of mere  
(8-307)form they are usually a change of garments not the heart.

(8-307)Wordsworth is a man and a gentleman every inch of  
(8-307)him unless when he is mounted on his critical hobby  
(8-307)horse & tells one Pope is no poet. He might as well say  
(8-307)Wellington is no soldier because he wears a blue great  
(8-307)coat and not a coat of burnished mail.

(8-307)I owe you among many things the honor of a most  
(8-307)obliging 2 letter from the Duke of Buckingham about the  
(8-307)MS supposed of Swinton.<sup>3</sup> I hope the Duchess 4 will make  
(8-307)out her tour ; the best way of inducing her Grace to  
(8-307)honour us by looking our way is to assure her that our  
(8-307)hospitality such as it is is never ostentatious and therefore  
(8-307)no inconvenience to ourselves.

(8-307)Charles will I am sure be grateful for Mr. Hughes'  
(8-307)patronage and I trust he will profit by the acquaintances  
(8-307)he may procure him at Oxford. I know nothing so  
(8-307)essential to give the proper tone to a young mind as  
(8-307)intercourse with the learned and the worthy. Charles  
(8-307)does not leave me till October. In the meantime I hope  
(8-307)to have a visit from " my gay goss-hawk " Walter the  
(8-307)only one of my family whom you do not know 5 and who  
(8-307)is a fine fellow in his own way & devoted to his profession.

(8-307)Thank you for the verses on old Q 6 ; they are both  
(8-307)witty and severe yet give him little more than his due for

(8-308)he was a most ingeniously selfish animal. I have given  
(8-308)the music to Sophia in the first place who will impart it  
(8-308)to her more idle sister. Besides both Mama and Anne  
(8-308)have been at Abbotsford for three weeks during which  
(8-308)time I have not seen them. I was never half the time  
(8-308)separated from my wife since our marriage saving when  
(8-308)I have been " furth of Scotland " as our law phrase goes.

(8-308)I quite agree with you that Byron's merits and the  
(8-308)regrets due to his inimitable genius should supersede  
(8-308)every thing else that envy may wish to dwell upon. Our  
(8-308)lake-friends were narrow-minded about his talents & even  
(8-308)about his conduct much of which might be indefensible  
(8-308)but only attracted loud and virulent stricture because of  
(8-308)the brilliancy of his powers.

(8-308)To swear no broader upon paper & to a lady the deuce  
(8-308)take your Mr. Whitgreave.<sup>1</sup> He may call himself Mr.  
(8-308)Higgins now if he will without being challenged by Him  
(8-308)of Higgins-Neuch who is gone to the shades below where  
(8-308)the race of Higgins as well as of Percies & Howards must  
(8-308)descend. His successor is called Mr. Burn Calender  
(8-308)which I hope will satisfy your ear.

(8-308)I would be quite delighted to become proprietor at any  
(8-308)reasonable rate of the old chimney piece. It would  
(8-308)however be necessary that someone on the spot [be]  
(8-308)employed on my behalf an expert joiner who compleatly  
(8-308)understands his business to take it down & pack it with  
(8-308)sawdust and shavings (or what do you call them in  
(8-308)English I mean planings of wood) in a proper packing

(8-309)case & it might be sent by sea from Liverpool to Glasgow  
(8-309)where there is daily communication & Lockhart would  
(8-309)cause someone there [to] send it through the canal to  
(8-309)Edinburgh for so old a material must be tender and very  
(8-309)easily broken. A few guineas will be no object to me  
(8-309)to secure this point so the packing is carefully attended to.

(8-309)By the way Mrs. Paterson who experienced your bounty  
(8-309)is now she writes me 1 in a tolerable way of providing for  
(8-309)her family and much to her credit with a very grateful

(8-309)feeling for kindness shown assures me she is extricated  
(8-309)from her difficulties and in no need of farther assistance  
(8-309)than good wishes. Her eldest son is taken off her hands  
(8-309)and promises to succeed well. So true it is that moderate  
(8-309)assistance will often help those effectually who are really  
(8-309)willing to help themselves.

(8-309)I begin to be ashamed of my letter for as your friend  
(8-309)Mungo says " Adod it is a tumber." I will stifle this  
(8-309)modesty however in respect I very seldom trespass upon  
(8-309)the patience of my correspondents unless they are in a  
(8-309)hurry for answers & moreover because I had so many  
(8-309)kindnesses to acknowledge. I go to Abbotsford on  
(8-309)Saturday 2 for three or four days which will be a great  
(8-309)refreshment. Remember me most kindly to the Doctor  
(8-309)& believe me always most respectfully yours

(8-309)EDINBURGH 16 June 1824                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-309)On looking at your letter this morning I find the  
(8-309)chimney piece must be asked from Lord Craven 3 and about

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(8-310)this I feel much delicacy. I am not fond of obligations  
(8-310)and do not know his Lordship in the slightest degree.  
(8-310)Besides there is a sort of affront in asking a man for a  
(8-310)curiosity of this kind as your request must be founded  
(8-310)upon the supposition that he has not himself taste enough  
(8-310)to value it. If he would take better care of it himself it  
(8-310)would answer my purpose. If I had any friend to sound  
(8-310)Lord Craven it would be a different matter.

[Heffer and Wells]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-310)DEAR JAMES,-The public must take its own way with  
(8-310)respect to Redgauntlet 1 as with regard to more important  
(8-310)matters. The sale will tell better than anything else how  
(8-310)far it will go. I am as firm as Benlomond with respect  
(8-310)to any anxiety of an authorial character & we shall know  
(8-310)best by Caddells books a month hence how the thing has  
(8-310)arrived. Meantime I go to Abbotsford on Saturday and  
(8-310)shall send from thence or bring on my return on Tuesday  
(8-310)the commencement of the Crusading tales. A good deal  
(8-310)is already written but I want to consult books which I  
(8-310)have there.

(8-310)Of course I will comply with Messrs Robinsons wishes.  
(8-310)I would have left out Robinson 2 but as they have taken  
(8-310)that I think they should take the Memoirs of a Cavalier.  
(8-310)You will go on with these two damnd castles after the  
(8-310)Italian.<sup>3</sup> I will bring the others from Abbotsford on  
(8-310)Tuesday & we will have an accurate computation. If  
(8-310)you think a bottle of wine will assist us Charles & I will  
(8-310)take a friendly dinner with you (barring Company) on  
(8-310)Thursday or Friday.

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      311

(8-311)Please to seal & forward the inclosed letter to Mr  
(8-311)Paterson having first made entry of the Note which is  
(8-311)inclosed to him for my long accompt which is however  
(8-311)very reasonable considering the trouble of the Gothic  
[screen    ].

(8-311)Before returning the proof of Swift I must consult the  
(8-311)original copy which I will do tomorrow in Parlt. House &  
(8-311)bring it down with me to the office. Yours truly

(8-311)16 June [1824] CASTLE STREET                      W. S.

[Stevenson]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-311)DEAR WALTER,-Having got a frank for Annes letter  
(8-311)who by the way had forgot your direction I add two lines  
(8-311)within it just to say that our divided family are at present  
(8-311)all well. I was over the water at Blair Adam from  
(8-311)Saturday last till tuesday morning when I returnd to  
(8-311)breakfast after a good toss on the ferry the wind having  
(8-311)blown a gale during the night and not having quite  
(8-311)subsided. Charles remains till today to fish Lochleven  
(8-311)trout and visit the old Castle. On Saturday I intend to  
(8-311)take French leave of the Court and go out to Abbotsford.  
(8-311)I have never before been so long separated from Mama  
(8-311)unless when out of Scotland. From Annes information  
(8-311)you are going down to sketch in Kent which I think is a  
(8-311)very wise plan. It is only practice which gives freedom  
(8-311)of hand and truth of eye-I wish when in Kent you  
(8-311)would learn how they manage to rear such fine chestnut  
(8-311)trees which they use for the hop-poles. In our country they  
(8-311)always grow to bushes but there they shoot up into long  
(8-311)poles. I suppose they plant them in mass and very close.  
(8-311)I will remit you 50 when I hear from you that you want  
(8-311)it and where your address is. For I conceive this letter  
(8-311)may wander a little before finding you. I am always  
(8-311)yours affectionately WALTER SCOTT

(8-311)EDINBR. 16 June [PM. 1824]

[Law]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-312)DEAR WALTER,-I wrote you a few lines yesterday

(8-312)and have received yours this morning. I inclose a bill  
(8-312)for fifty pounds which will serve current expences : if you  
(8-312)want a score more for travelling you shall have it. Please  
(8-312)to observe that though the best inns and first rate  
(8-312)accommodations may not be particularly objectionable to your  
(8-312)taste my purse may like those of a moderate scale. However  
(8-312)continue to be a good lad and you will not find me  
(8-312)unreasonable on money matters. You do not say any  
(8-312)thing on the subject I wrote about with some anxiety  
(8-312)I conclude my warning was not necessary or if necessary  
(8-312)will be of course attended to.<sup>1</sup> It is amazing over what  
(8-312)trifles people will sometimes break the neck of their  
(8-312)fortunes especially in your profession.

(8-312)You may if you will prolong your sketching in Kent  
(8-312)till the beginning of August for that is as early I think  
(8-312)as it will be necessary for you to be at Abbotsford with  
(8-312)reference to our former subject of correspondence. By  
(8-312)the way I found Mrs Anne Page and her mother at Blair  
(8-312)Adam which is near Mrs Annes own estate of Lochore.  
(8-312)My old friends Lord and Lady Abercromby <sup>2</sup> were also  
(8-312)there and we had a pleasant party. Old Madam Page  
(8-312)has a singularly unhappy manner which she has not  
(8-312)however transmitted to Mrs Anne at least so far as I could  
(8-312)remark. The sight of the beautiful woods and valley  
(8-312)of Lochore from the windows may perhaps have  
(8-312)influenced my judgement but I conversed with her a good

(8-313)deal and when her shyness wore off found her pleasant  
(8-313)and totally unaffected. Of all this however you will judge  
(8-313)for yourself-thank God I am only responsible for my  
(8-313)owr tastes and so let every herring hang by its own head.

(8-313)We are threatend (I hope it is only a menace) with a



(8-313)visit from the Duke and Duchess of Buckingham at  
(8-313)Abbotsford and there is again an uncertain rumour of the  
(8-313)Duke of Wellington designing for Scotland. Should he  
(8-313)really come to Abbotsford I shall be most desirous you  
(8-313)should be at home at the time. As for other Dukes and  
(8-313)Drakes I can manage them single handed.

(8-313)On Saturday I intend to make a bolt as far as Abbotsford  
(8-313)the Lockharts and Charles go with me to return on  
(8-313)Tuesday. I trust to find Abbotsford in beauty and  
(8-313)wish you were there to see it. I am always Your  
(8-313)affectionate father WALTER SCOTT

(8-313)EDINR. 17 June 1824  
[Law]

#### TO THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM 1

(8-313)My LORD DUKE,-I am equally flattered and ashamed  
(8-313)of the trouble which your Grace has had the great goodness  
(8-313)to take in order to gratify my idle curiosity. I own

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(8-314)my curiosity was very much fascinated by the report of a  
(8-314)memoir found in the Bastille, and written, as was alleged,  
(8-314)by one of an ancient family, with which I have the honour  
(8-314)to be connected. But the sense of your Grace's kindness,  
(8-314)and the honour of your acquaintance with which you  
(8-314)condescend to offer me, would be a compense 1 for a far  
(8-314)greater disappointment.

(8-314)I should not have ventured, considering that our  
(8-314)accommodations cannot be of the first class, to offer the  
(8-314)Duchess of Buckingham any convenience that these can  
(8-314)afford her Grace, had I not been sensible that the

(8-314)Duchess's goodness will consider the meaning of the  
(8-314)invitation, and compare them not with those her Grace

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-315)is most accustomed to, but to such as are afforded by a  
(8-315)Scotch Inn. It is true our late much lamented friend  
(8-315)the Duchess of Buccleugh used to make our roof her home  
(8-315)occasionally, but as the Lady of my Chief, she was bound  
(8-315)to think herself well entertained, providing on our part  
(8-315)there was nothing omitted which could show our sense of  
(8-315)her kindness.

(8-315)We do not live in the most romantic and picturesque  
(8-315)part of Scotland, but the country round us is very pleasant,  
(8-315)besides having to boast of the ruins of Melrose and other  
(8-315)objects of antiquarian interest. I can only add, that if  
(8-315)your Grace should accompany the Duchess on her proposed  
(8-315)tour, it will give us a double honour and pleasure  
(8-315)to see the Lord of the far-famed Stowe,<sup>1</sup> among our wild  
(8-315)hills and moors. Also, that we have room enough, such  
(8-315)as it is, for any friends who may belong to the Duchess's  
(8-315)party, and that we have enough of hard beds, forest  
(8-315)mutton, and tolerable claret, which are the chief  
(8-315)ingredients of border hospitality, including always the  
(8-315)sincere and respectful welcome, which the Duke and  
(8-315)Duchess of Buckingham are sure to find wherever they  
(8-315)visit. I have the honour to be, with a sincere sense of  
(8-315)your Grace's goodness. My Lord Duke, Your much  
(8-315)obliged And most respectful, humble servant

(8-315)WALTER SCOTT

(8-315)EDINBURGH, June 17, 1824

(8-315)The Duchess of Buckingham must not quite form her

(8-315)expectations of Scotland on Mrs Hughes' report, for our  
(8-315)good friend brings so much disposition to be pleased  
(8-315)wherever she comes, that she is, perhaps, if that be a fault,  
(8-315)gratified with what is in itself not of very much value.

[Willis's Current Notes]

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1824

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

(8-316)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-Walter 1 will deliver this in his  
(8-316)own person as large as life-& that is much larger than  
(8-316)when you or even when I last saw him. The boy has really  
(8-316)shot up wonderfully. His examination has terminated very  
(8-316)satisfactorily & I think he has insured the engineers-a  
(8-316)great matter as the service is inexpressibly better besides  
(8-316)the chance of civil employment. If Lord Dalhousie goes  
(8-316)to India as is talkd of it will be a great matter for Walter  
(8-316)but go who will we will find some way of getting at him.

(8-316)I sincerely hope the symptoms you mention are only  
(8-316)those of remaining weakness on poor Elizas constitution.  
(8-316)Quiet and cheerful domestic society will soon I hope in  
(8-316)God bring back her natural good health.

(8-316)Walter will tell you how he came to change his route  
(8-316)and you will act according to your own ideas and wishes  
(8-316)respecting his stay at Ayr-only remembering that after  
(8-316)12 July we are all at Abbotsford & his bed ready. So if  
(8-316)you see time hangs heavy or that there is any little  
(8-316)idleness creeping on you can forward him to me and he  
(8-316)can take a spell at the mathematics with Mr Thompson.  
(8-316)By the way if he can get any person to work with at Ayr  
(8-316)were it only an hour or two in the day it keeps up practice.  
(8-316)I am with best love to Anne and Eliza always Dear Mrs.

(8-316)Scott Affectionately yours

WALTER SCOTT

(8-316)CASTLE STREET 23. June [1824]

[Huntington]

TO JOSEPH TRAIN

(8-316)DEAR MR. TRAIN,-I have received two very kind

(8-316)letters from Lord Liverpool 2 and Mr. Peel on the subject

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-317)of your promotion. It seems the appointment is with the

(8-317)Board of Excise not with the Treasury. But they have

(8-317)recommended you to Mr. Lushington which one would

(8-317)think would be sufficient from their natural high influence.

(8-317)I remain, Dear Mr. Train, Your obedient Servant

(8-317)EDINBURGH, 23 June, 1824

WALTER SCOTT

[Barr]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-317)DEAR WALTER,-I presume you have by this time my

(8-317)letter franked by Sir Alexr. Don addressd to the College

(8-317)and covering a Drat to your order by James Ballantyne

(8-317)on Tritton and Barclay for 50 which I sent immediatly

(8-317)on receipt of your letter. If this has not come to hand

(8-317)write instantly that all inquiries may be made but

(8-317)computing the dates as nearly as I can it must I think

(8-317)have reachd you. If it has not you may draw on

(8-317)Messrs Coutts as you propose and I will write to them to

(8-317)answer it. If you have been detaind at College it is not

(8-317)my fault as I sent the money by return of post so soon as I

(8-317)heard you wanted it.

(8-317)A more important remittance must I perceive be made  
(8-317)immediatly for Messrs Coutts apprise me that they have  
(8-317)been requested by Messrs Greenwood to say whether

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(8-318) 2037 Sterling have been lodged as the regulation price  
(8-318)of a Captains commission. I must do all in my power to  
(8-318)get the money together as getting this step would put you  
(8-318)on velvet and I will write to both the parties accordingly  
(8-318)that it shall [be] remitted without loss of time.

(8-318)Certainly I expect you to visit us as formerly proposed.  
(8-318)On which subject I said more to you in the letter covering  
(8-318)the cash. I wish you would let me know whether you  
(8-318)have heard any thing from Greenwood & Coy and when  
(8-318)the cash is wanted.

(8-318)I have just come here for a start of two or three days but  
(8-318)return on Wednesday.

(8-318)Address to Edinburgh till after the 12th of July. Yours  
(8-318)affectionately WALTER SCOTT

(8-318)ABBOTSFORD 26th JUM [PM. 1824]

[Law]

TO DAVID LAING, SECRETARY, BANNATYNE CLUB

(8-318)MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY,-Weighty matters of no  
(8-318)very pleasant description have prevented my attending  
(8-318)to the Bannatyne measures of late. I am however of  
(8-318)decided opinion that to do the club credit & be useful to

(8-318)History the works undertaken by the association should  
(8-318)be of a substantial and useful kind. If we can get permission  
(8-318)for a genuine Melville 1 it will be a great matter.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-319)If not I would like to see a genuine Pitscottie with such  
(8-319)variorum notes as our joint reading might suggest. I have  
(8-319)one for the famous Bulls head. In a word let us have the  
(8-319)most curious of Scottish authors illustrated by the most  
(8-319)curious of Scottish Antiqs. All these we will treat of at  
(8-319)large. Meantime I send the List as I cannot attend the  
(8-319)meeting today. Yours truly                      WALTER SCOTT

[early July 1824]

[Mitchell]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY, KESWICK, CUMBERLAND

(8-319)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-Do you remember Richardson's  
(8-319)metaphor of two bashful lovers running opposite to each  
(8-319)other in parallel lines, without the least chance of union,  
(8-319)until some good-natured body gives a shove to the one,  
(8-319)and a shove to the other, and so leads them to form a  
(8-319)junction      Two lazy correspondents may, I think, form  
(8-319)an equally apt subject for the simile, for here have you and  
(8-319)I been silent for I know not how many years, for no other  
(8-319)reason than the uncertainty which wrote last, or which  
(8-319)was in duty bound to write first. And here comes my  
(8-319)clever, active, bustling friend Mrs Hughes, and tells me  
(8-319)that you regret a silence which I have not the least power  
(8-319)of accounting for, 1 except upon the general belief that

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(8-320)I wrote you a long epistle after your kind present of the

(8-320)Lay of the Laureate, and that I have once every week  
(8-320)proposed to write you a still longer, till shame of my own  
(8-320)indolence confirmed me in my evil habits of procrastination  
(8-320)-when here comes good Mrs Hughes,<sup>1</sup> gives me a shake

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-321)by the collar, and assures me that you are in pretty nearly  
(8-321)the same case with myself-and, as a very slight external  
(8-321)impulse will sometimes drive us into action when a long  
(8-321)succession of internal resolutions have been made and  
(8-321)broke, I take my pen to assure my dear Southey that I love  
(8-321)him as well as if our correspondence had been weekly  
(8-321)or daily.

(8-321)The years which have gone by have found me dallying  
(8-321)with the time, and you improving it as usual,-I tossing  
(8-321)my ball and driving my hoop, a grey-headed schoolboy-  
(8-321)and you plying your task unremittingly for the instruction  
(8-321)of our own and future ages. Yet I have not been wholly  
(8-321)idle or useless-witness five hundred acres of moor and  
(8-321)moss, now converted into hopeful woodland of various  
(8-321)sizes, to the great refreshment, even already, of the eyes  
(8-321)of the pilgrims who still journey to Melrose. I wish you  
(8-321)could take a step over the Border this season with Mrs  
(8-321)Southey, and let us have the pleasure of showing you what  
(8-321)I have been doing. I twice intended an invasion of this  
(8-321)sort upon your solitude at Keswick-one in spring 1821,  
(8-321)and then again in the summer of the same year when the  
(8-321)coronation took place. But the convenience of going to  
(8-321)London by the steam-packet, which carries you on  
(8-321)whether you wake or sleep, is so much preferable to a  
(8-321)long land journey, that I took it on both occasions.<sup>1</sup> The  
(8-321)extreme rapidity of communication, which places an  
(8-321)inhabitant of Edinburgh in the metropolis sooner than a  
(8-321)letter can reach it by post, is like to be attended with

(8-321)a mass of most important consequences-some, or rather  
(8-321)most of them, good, but some also which are not to be viewed  
(8-321)without apprehension. It must make the public feeling  
(8-321)and sentiment of London, whatever that may chance to  
(8-321)be, much more readily and emphatically influential upon  
(8-321)the rest of the kingdom, and I am by no means sure that

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(8-322)it will be on the whole desirable that the whole country  
(8-322)should be as subject to be moved by its example as the  
(8-322)inhabitants of its suburbs. Admitting the metropolis to  
(8-322)be the heart of the system, it is no sign of health when the  
(8-322)blood flows too rapidly through the system at every  
(8-322)pulsation. Formerly, in Edinburgh and other towns, the  
(8-322)impulse received from any strong popular feeling in  
(8-322)London was comparatively slow and gradual, and had to  
(8-322)contend with opposite feelings and prejudices of a  
(8-322)national or provincial character ; the matter underwent  
(8-322)a reconsideration,-and the cry which was raised in the  
(8-322)great mart of halloo and humbug was not instantly  
(8-322)echoed back, as it may be in the present day and present  
(8-322)circumstances, when our opinion, like a small drop of  
(8-322)water brought into immediate contiguity with a bigger,  
(8-322)is most likely to be absorbed in and united with that of the  
(8-322)larger mass. However, you and I have outlived so many  
(8-322)real perils, that it is not perhaps wise to dread those that  
(8-322)are only contingent, especially where the cause out of  
(8-322)which they arise brings with it so much absolute and  
(8-322)indisputable advantage.

(8-322)What is Wordsworth doing      I was unlucky in being  
(8-322)absent when he crossed the Border.<sup>1</sup> I heartily wish I  
(8-322)could induce him to make a foray this season, and that  
(8-322)you and Mrs Southey, and Miss Wordsworth, my very  
(8-322)good and well remembered friend, could be of the party.



(8-322)Pray think of this, for the distance is nothing to well  
(8-322)resolved minds, and you in particular owe me a visit. I  
(8-322)have never quite forgiven your tour in Scotland without  
(8-322)looking in upon my poor premises. Well, as I have  
(8-322)reappeared like your floating island, which I see the  
(8-322)newspapers aver hath again, after seven years' soaking,  
(8-322)become visible to mortal ken, it would not be fair in me  
(8-322)to make my visit too long a one-so, with kindest respects

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-323)to Mrs Southey, in which my wife sincerely joins, I am  
(8-323)always most truly yours, WALTER SCOTT

(8-323)[5th or 6th July](1) 1824, EDINBURGH.

(8-323)Address Abbotsford, Melrose.

(8-323)You may have heard that about four years since I was  
(8-323)brought to death's door by a violent, and at the same time  
(8-323)most obstinate complaint-a sort of spasms in the stomach  
(8-323)or diaphragm, which for a long time defied medicine.  
(8-323)It gave way at length to a terrific course of calomel, such  
(8-323)as made the cure almost as bad as the disease. Since that  
(8-323)time, I have recovered even a better portion of health  
(8-323)than I generally had before, and that was excellent. I do  
(8-323)not indeed possess the activity of former days, either on  
(8-323)foot or horseback, but while I can ride a pony, and walk  
(8-323)five or six miles with pleasure, I have no reason to  
(8-323)complain. The rogue Radicals had nearly set me on  
(8-323)horseback again, but I would have had a good following  
(8-323)to help out my own deficiencies, as all my poor neighbours  
(8-323)were willing to fight for Kirk and King.

[Lockhart]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(8-323)MY DEAR SHARPE,-Jock 2 has been veracious on the  
(8-323)present occasion for I had the Session records (your  
(8-323)extracts) for a day and calld to tell you so. It was wrong  
(8-323)in me [to] take them-not on your account for I know  
(8-323)you would not mind the freedom-but because it might  
(8-323)make him think lightly of such an irregularity where the  
(8-323)parties are in a different relation to each other. I do not  
(8-323)indeed know any other person wt whom I would have  
(8-323)taken the same liberty. I was much entertaind with  
(8-323)your extracts-Certainly if it were possible to stop old  
(8-323)women's tongues the Kirk Session of Humble 3 made a fair

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(8-324)effort. By the way I have got a-joug which I intend to  
(8-324)put up at the gate with the mottoe Serva jugum. It will  
(8-324)serve to hang a bridle upon.

(8-324)I have seen very little of you this Session having been  
(8-324)so frequently absent on my day of leisure. Now I want  
(8-324)you to quit your painters (by the bye their contiguity is  
(8-324)bad for the eyes) and spare me a week or two at Abbotsford  
(8-324)this fine weather. You shall have your own room &  
(8-324)breakfast at your own hour. I will neither walk you nor  
(8-324)talk you when you are disposed to sit still or be silent &  
(8-324)you have a large bookroom and plenty of queer reading-  
(8-324)Item a coach benempt the Blucher sets out from your  
(8-324)vicinity in Princes Street thrice a week at 8 a.m.1 and sets  
(8-324)you down within a mile of Abbotsford where the carriage  
(8-324)shall meet you. Bring a gossoon with you or not just as  
(8-324)you like-there is plenty of room. My wife heartily joins  
(8-324)in this request.

(8-324)I am in no earthly hurry about the ballads-the 5th

(8-324)volume of my own collection is now at John Stevenson's  
(8-324)for you. It came with some books to be bound.

(8-324)I will call at Forrest's and try to get the cabinet 2 for I

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-325)have got a present of some imitation medals besides what  
(8-325)I have of Bony's.

(8-325)I will probably call today-if not this parting is well  
(8-325)made as we go tomorrow. I have the Diana but I have  
(8-325)never yet had courage to read it-I shall on your  
(8-325)recommendation. Pray say yes to my invite and let me know  
(8-325)when the voiture shall attend you at the Melrose toll-bar.

(8-325)I inclose the music of the Heir of Northumberland.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-325)Yours truly W. SCOTT

(8-325)9 July [1824]  
[Hornel]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE 2

(8-325)MY DEAR JAMES,-We must do what we can but the  
(8-325)public is like the Lady in Goldsmith's Essays. She came  
(8-325)to be displeased and displeased she was. The fact is I  
(8-325)have written till I have taught others as Captain Bobadil  
(8-325)proposed to teach fencing " almost if not altogether as  
(8-325)well as myself." 3 The world wants novelty more than  
(8-325)superior excellence in what is now rather a less favourd  
(8-325)stile. The wonder is that they have been constant so long.  
(8-325)All this must be heedfully considerd. Yours truly

(8-325)CASTLE STREET 9th July [1824]

W. SCOTT

(8-325)I got the Caleb Williams.<sup>4</sup> I am taking a formal opinion  
(8-325)from Ld. Ch. Baron which he has promised to give me in

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(8-326)detail upon the law of Calebs case. I send Henry in case  
(8-326)it can be added to the volume of novels in hand without  
(8-326)making it too thick.

[Stevenson]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-326)DEAR CONSTABLE,-Today at two o'clock & I fear I will  
(8-326)be detain'd in the court till that time I must meet some  
(8-326)friends at the Waterloo tavern on the subject of a monument  
(8-326)for Mr. Watt.<sup>1</sup> I inclose you a summons if you have  
(8-326)not receiv'd one already in case you cannot attend. I will  
(8-326)call at the shop as I come from the meeting and hope to  
(8-326)meet you either there or at my own house. Yours truly

(8-326)CASTLE STREET Friday [9 July 1824] W SCOTT

(8-326)I think the business cannot last an hour.

(8-326)private

[Stevenson]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-326)DEAR CONSTABLE,-I will be delighted to see Mr Leslie.  
(8-326)I think you should show him the way and set things agoing  
(8-326)at Abbotsford.<sup>2</sup> I am afraid I have mislaid his letter to

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-327)you and am now in the agonies of an Interlqr. of sale  
(8-327)which must be written by court-hours so cannot look for

(8-327)it just now. Health and comfort to you. Yours truly

(8-327)W SCOTT

(8-327)CASTLE STREET Saturday [10 July 1824]

(8-327)I hope you are thinking of Turner 2 who is a complete

(8-327)Captain Dalgaty.

[Stevenson]

TO MRS. J. G. LOCKHART, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET,  
EDINBURGH 2

(8-327)MY DEAR SOPHIA,-When I spoke with you about

(8-327)Johns youngest brother I ought to have said that though

(8-327)my interest at the Justice House was exhausted for this

(8-327)year yet in all probability the young gentleman would

(8-327)not leave Britain immediatly and I dare say I could get

(8-327)an appointment military or medical for 1825 or 1826.3

(8-327)The engineer-line is an extremely good one where there

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(8-328)is the necessary turn for mathematics & mechanicks.

(8-328)In the medical line there is this advantage that on getting

(8-328)to India it may readily be laid aside for any other in

(8-328)which our young freinds talent for languages may be

(8-328)renderd more useful. Indeed the facility of acquiring

(8-328)languages is one of the readiest steps to success in India.

(8-328)You can lay all this before our freinds at Germiston &

(8-328)Capt Lockhart and assure them of my great readiness to

(8-328)assist if it is thought desireable. I wish I could promise a

(8-328)writership but these are less easily come by. I will do

(8-328)my best however with pleasure and if my services can be

(8-328)useful I should like to have as soon as possible an account

(8-328)of the young gentlemans age studies bent of inclination &c.



(8-329)invite me to subject myself to that operation and which  
(8-329)more goodness than my desert I cannot handsomely decline.  
(8-329)But certainly to be painted for your halls and by  
(8-329)my friend Sir Thomas is very different from an ordinary  
(8-329)sitting and although I had no thoughts whatever of  
(8-329)visiting London next year I will certainly if God send life  
(8-329)and health come to London in Spring were it for that sole  
(8-329)purpose and in truth excepting to give Sir Thos. an  
(8-329)opportunity of finishing a portrait which His Majesty  
(8-329)commanded and to eat my mutton at the Roxburghe  
(8-329)club I have little business there.

(8-329)Now why could I not have said all this at once and  
(8-329)without bestowing such a share of my tediousness upon  
(8-329)you whose time is so much better employd. But when  
(8-329)was ever statesman approachd without some selfish or  
(8-329)interested view of some kind or other and not to differ

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(8-330)from the rest of mankind I am by endeavouring to  
(8-330)represent what is a great honour conferrd upon me into as  
(8-330)important a favour as possible granted by me to you-in  
(8-330)order to palliate the shamelessness of asking another  
(8-330)personal favour of you so very soon after your great  
(8-330)kindness in the matter of Train which I am conscious is  
(8-330)of itself far more than I could claim. My present petition  
(8-330)however is in favour of a very near connection and I think  
(8-330)a youth of the most remarkable talent for acquiring  
(8-330)languages who (Murray and perhaps Leyden excepted)  
(8-330)ever fell in my way. He is brother to my Son-in-law  
(8-330)John Lockhart a boy about fifteen years old who has  
(8-330)carried away all the prizes in languages at the Glasgow  
(8-330)college.<sup>1</sup> His father though an excellent man is old and  
(8-330)no conjurer so instead of making the lad follow out his  
(8-330)classical pursuits by sending him to Oxford or Cambridge

(8-330)he kept him at home to learn what he pleased and how he  
(8-330)pleased. At one time he secluded himself in his own room  
(8-330)for a month or two and came out talking as good Gaelic  
(8-330)as you would wish to hear from Lochaber-at another  
(8-330)he came down acquainted with the Talmud and posed  
(8-330)the Hebrew professor-But all this is throwing away  
(8-330)time and talent and it has occurred to his brother and me  
(8-330)that were he to have any reasonable prospect of getting  
(8-330)out to India as a Cadet suppose a year and a half or two  
(8-330)years hence he might employ the interval to advantage in  
(8-330)studying the Oriental languages great proficiency in  
(8-330)which has always led to prosperity in the East. But his  
(8-330)father will not part with him for such a purpose unless  
(8-330)I can hold out to him something better than my own  
(8-330)assurance that I will do my utmost. It unluckily happens  
(8-330)that my direct India influence is expended for the present

(8-331)having had the good luck to fire two applications for a  
(8-331)nephew and a cousin and to kill with both barrels. You  
(8-331)are aware that Scotland is in every sense a breeding not a  
(8-331)feeding country and that we send our children and  
(8-331)relatives to India as we send our black cattle to England.  
(8-331)I can only say that since I dealt in this exportation trade  
(8-331)my cargoes from John Leyden's time downward have  
(8-331)usually been of good quality and have given satisfaction  
(8-331)to Mother Company. My present stock of griffins is very  
(8-331)promising the nephew aforesaid being rather a crack  
(8-331)scholar at Addiscombe and my cousin an excellent  
(8-331)arithmetician.

(8-331)I should wish to put the young Lockhart as soon as  
(8-331)possible to the appropriate studies but I repeat that the  
(8-331)favour I ask you is your interest for a cadetship of horse  
(8-331)or foot within the space of two or three seasons so that



(8-331)as the boon has a tractus futuri temporis 1 as we lawyers call it  
(8-331)you must be so good as to hold that it was to be asked a  
(8-331)twelvemonth hence and not at this very unbecoming  
(8-331)time. But I am afraid my verbiage will not recommend  
(8-331)my pretensions any more than an indifferent cooks bad  
(8-331)butter is admitted as a passport for her stale fish. So I  
(8-331)will een draw my letter to a close being with much regard  
(8-331)and respect Dear Sir Your most obedient and obliged  
(8-331)servant  
WALTER SCOTT

(8-331)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 12 July [1824]

[Owen D. Young]

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TO MRS. MEIK, 1 RANKEILOUR STREET, ST PATRICK SQUARE,  
EDINBURGH

(8-332)DEAR MRS MEIK, -Mr David Haliburton was here  
(8-332)yesterday and brought me the very agreeable intelligence  
(8-332)that he has secured a cadet-ship for Patrick who will sail  
(8-332)for India next Christmas to enter on the great scene of  
(8-332)human life. It is early to begin on it, but I have no doubt  
(8-332)he will do well. Mr Haliburton will take care to chuse the  
(8-332)presidency where his uncle Dr Meik is which I believe  
(8-332)to be Bengal. Pray write me a line on this subject. I  
(8-332)conclude Patrick will visit his South country friends this  
(8-332)season and your brother will I am sure take the trouble  
(8-332)to bring him here. Should you come out with him  
(8-332)yourself it would give Lady Scott & me great pleasure if  
(8-332)you would spare us a few days.

(8-332)I saw my Aunt Mrs Scott of Raeburn remarkably well  
(8-332)on Monday which was Saint Boswells fair & for a wonder

(8-333)without rain. All I have to add is that if I can be of  
(8-333)farther use in Patrick's matters it will give me great  
(8-333)pleasure & that I am always Dear Barbara Your  
(8-333)affectionate cousin  
WALTER SCOTT

(8-333)ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE. 20 July [PM. 1824]

[Signet Library]

#### TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-333)DEAR WALTER,-I have your letter and observe that  
(8-333)like the redoubted Major Sturgeon 1 you have had your  
(8-333)marchings and counter-marchings your sousing and your  
(8-333)sweatings. Our weather has on the contrary been  
(8-333)delightful and even Saint Boswell on his fair day has  
(8-333)suspended his habitual diabetes. This took place on  
(8-333)Monday last and we went there in force encouraged by  
(8-333)the fine weather. The crops I think are the finest I ever  
(8-333)saw. If Lord Guildford 2 had been at home and had  
(8-333)known you were in the neighbourhood he would have  
(8-333)been civil to you for I know him very well but he is  
(8-333)seldom resident in the country.

(8-333)I find the letter to Coutts which gave me some surprize  
(8-333)is merely a circular to ensure that those who propose to  
(8-333)purchase have the cash forth-coming and I will endeavour  
(8-333)to be provided accordingly as I should be extremely  
(8-333)mortified did you lose your chance of preferment. It may  
(8-333)be then considered whether you should not exchange for  
(8-333)the infantry where promotion goes faster on. I am glad  
(8-333)to say Major Huxley is like to be aid de camp to Lord  
(8-333)Dalhousie.

(8-334)We may expect you here I suppose in the course of next  
(8-334)month which will be time enough for your reconnoitring  
(8-334)party in these parts. I suppose Sir Adams party will not  
(8-334)be here till the 12 at soonest as they are on a highland tour.

(8-334)To save trouble your marching money (say 20 or 30)  
(8-334)is at Coutts who will answer your draught for such a sum  
(8-334)and place it to my accompt.

(8-334)Mama is quite well and sends love. Both little Walter  
(8-334)and Charles are here the latter big with the hope of  
(8-334)carrying a gun this season but he is too absent to be a  
(8-334)proficient in field exercises. He has had some weeks of  
(8-334)Leatham and has a much better seat on horseback than  
(8-334)formerly.

(8-334)Sophia and Lockhart are quite well. I find you visited  
(8-334)Miss Dumergue when you went to town which was quite  
(8-334)right. I remain always your affectionate father

(8-334)ABBOTSFORD 20 July [PM. 1824]      WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-334)MY DEAR WALTER,-I have your letter this morning.  
(8-334)Mine which seems to have misssd you I informd you that  
(8-334)your presence was not necessary and would not be useful  
(8-334)here untill about 12 Augt. I hastend to shew Sir Adam  
(8-334)your letter and he and I both agree that it would be a  
(8-334)very serious affair to miss the examination. On the other  
(8-334)hand it is very desireable when a matter of th[is] important  
(8-334)nature is once started that it should go either off or on.

(8-334)And it is my opinion that you should if possible get three  
(8-334)weeks in August to get down here. I am not sure which  
(8-334)of the Hopes is now your governor but I have interest  
(8-334)with all the family and have no doubt I can make my  
(8-334)way to him when you advise me which he is and where to

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-335)be addressd. The Almanacks still bear Sir Geo: Murrays  
(8-335)name. Now what I would have you do when you are in  
(8-335)London is to see either Lt. Col. MacDonald (your  
(8-335)guardian angel being of that clan I believe) or Sir Herbert  
(8-335)Taylor and ask in the way of consultation whether it  
(8-335)would be a very improper request to make for a month  
(8-335)or three weeks leave to attend some family business of a  
(8-335)very particular nature for which Mrs Carpenters visit  
(8-335)to Scotland may be mentiond as an excuse or pretext. In  
(8-335)short learn how the land lies and write me. I observe  
(8-335)what you say about the troop which is very sensible and  
(8-335)considerate. If you have a right to be preferd to  
(8-335)purchase I apprehend cases must now and then occur in  
(8-335)which there is no evading your right and better wait for  
(8-335)such with patience.

(8-335)Don Antoine always remembers his promises. In his  
(8-335)last he told you you had credit for 30 at Coutts but if  
(8-335)you want more you may make it 50. If you step into  
(8-335)the Compting house Sir Coutts Trotter or Sir Edmund  
(8-335)Antrobus will be glad to see you.

(8-335)Lest I should not have been plain enough you will  
(8-335)understand a party of friends have taken possession of Sir  
(8-335)Adams house so that he cannot receive the visit he  
(8-335)expected untill about the 12th August when it is to take  
(8-335)place. Putting this matter off would have the great  
(8-335)inconvenience of throwing the scene into the medisance

(8-335)of Edinburgh whereas here the intimacy of the families  
(8-335)and the retired state of the country may permit such a  
(8-335)thing to glide on-or off-without attracting any observation  
(8-335)which would be very desireable.

(8-335)Mama,<sup>1</sup> [the] Lockharts, Anne and Charles all well and  
(8-335)send love to you and Miss D[umergue] and Mrs Nick.

(8-335)I beg you not [to] miss a levee of His R. Highness if one  
(8-335)occurs. But if not I think you should pegg down to Sandhurst  
(8-335)as fast as possible and make up by hard study for what  
(8-335)time you may according to my plan lose in August. Write

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(8-336)to me on receipt of this or rather when you have advised  
(8-336)with Lt. Col. MacDonald or Sir Herbert-if you liked you  
(8-336)might consult with Colonel Stanhope who would willingly  
(8-336)advise you but do not take young counsellors in an affair  
(8-336)of this important kind.

(8-336)I received your letter this morning so set you example  
(8-336)of a close correspondence. Yours truly and affectionately  
(8-336)WALTER SCOTT

(8-336)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 25 July [PM. 1824]

[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[27th July 1824]

(8-336)DEAR JAMES,-I send some copy. I am a little down  
(8-336)hearted about it <sup>1</sup> but am getting on. When I do not  
(8-336)please you or myself how can I please other folks.

(8-336)However I will get on.

(8-336)I wish your parcels to be addressd "to be left at  
(8-336)Melrose Tollbar" and speak to the guard to leave them  
(8-336)there. This will save their going on to Melrose & lying  
(8-336)there twelve hours.

(8-336)I enclose my Exchequer precepts please to receive the  
(8-336)contents & pay the enclosed 10 requisition from the  
(8-336)Kirkintilloch Rail road. Also have the goodness to let  
(8-336)Hughes pay the sum of 48 or thereby to Mr Bell  
(8-336)Ironmonger Greenside Place close by Haldane's chapel 2  
(8-336)& send me a bill for the ballance these payments being  
(8-336)made. Here is delicious weather. Yours truly

(8-336)W. SCOTT  
[Stevenson]

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      337

TO LADY ABERCORN

(8-337)ABBOTSFORD, August 1st, 1824

(8-337)MY DEAREST FRIEND,-Your letter gave me great  
(8-337)pleasure as I was beginning to be anxious on your account  
(8-337)-the papers had apprised me of the very melancholy news  
(8-337)from Stanmore 1 in which I sympathise sincerely. I do  
(8-337)not well know whether such is really the dispensation of  
(8-337)good and evil or whether our attention is more powerfully  
(8-337)attracted by family distress when it comes upon those  
(8-337)whom we know to be kind and amiable but it always  
(8-337)seems to me that those domestic deprivations happen most  
(8-337)frequently in the quarter where they are most keenly felt  
(8-337)and such is eminently the case with Lord Aberdeen. He  
(8-337)has however a strong mind and many resources. . . . These

(8-337)diseases arising from an inflamed & perverted [ ] state of

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(8-338)the blood seem to grow frightfully common. Ice has  
(8-338)lately been applied here with great success arresting the  
(8-338)progress of blood to the heart. The winter has been so  
(8-338)open that no ice-house in the neighbourhood could be  
(8-338)filled excepting my own & it has been eminently useful  
(8-338)in the cases of two of my best friends & brought down  
(8-338)the fever immediately.

(8-338)After all it is a cruel thing this dancing away again  
(8-338)from old England after seeing so few friends but I suppose  
(8-338)it must be; it is the worse for me as I intend to be in  
(8-338)town in Spring if circumstances will permit.

(8-338)Nothing can interest me more than the last verses 1 of  
(8-338)poor [Byron] born as he was for something so noble and  
(8-338)only prevented from attaining the highest point in public  
(8-338)esteem by the faults which I think flowed from a morbid  
(8-338)temperament which like the slave in the triumphal  
(8-338)chariot so often accompanies genius to humble her and  
(8-338)her triumphs. The unfinished state of the lines the  
(8-338)heartfelt pressure of care and unhappiness under which  
(8-338)they are written and the longing for closing the season  
(8-338)by an honourable death render them as melancholy and  
(8-338)as impressive as any verses I ever read in my life. There  
(8-338)are one or two errors of the pen I should suppose which  
(8-338)render it difficult to make [out] the sense of particular  
(8-338)passages.

(8-338)We expected rather an appalling visit for little folks  
(8-338)from the Duchess of Buckingham but her Grace found  
(8-338)the seas of the Hebrides so rough (for she went as far as  
(8-338)Dunvegan Castle) that she broke her purpose of trying

(8-339)the mainland. I never saw her but have heard she is  
(8-339)intelligent and amiable. I expect a more interesting  
(8-339)visitor however than even this dignified guest and that is  
(8-339)my friend and former ward Countess Compton who is a  
(8-339)highly accomplished and most agreeable woman. I think  
(8-339)your Ladyship never met [her]. She has promised to  
(8-339)come with all the bairns and I have engaged by a wild and  
(8-339)unusual road through our pastoral hills to guide them  
(8-339)here in person from Moffat performing in one day's  
(8-339)journey what usually requires three.

(8-339)I can easily conceive your Ladyship must have been  
(8-339)amused with Basil Hall and struck with the very direct  
(8-339)and almost abrupt mode in which he always prosecutes  
(8-339)his object of inquiry. He has written an excellent book 1  
(8-339)full of practical good sense and sound views and I admire  
(8-339)how as a traveller he has said so much about the manners  
(8-339)of the people yet avoided any breach of the confidence  
(8-339)of private society upon which travellers think themselves  
(8-339)entitled to trample merely because they are travellers.

(8-339)As to the book you inquire about I greatly doubt its  
(8-339)seeing the light till November-it is going on but  
(8-339)interrupted by various amusements and occupations. My  
(8-339)son Walter came down on me two days ago rather  
(8-339)unexpectedly. He had much the appearance of a wild  
(8-339)Arab being burnt black with the late sunny days which he  
(8-339)had spent in sketching and making military drawings in  
(8-339)Kent and having chosen to let his moustaches and beard

(8-340)attain a formidable growth. He has really a most



(8-340)Saracenic appearance and were not Kamehameha  
(8-340)departed I should certainly have passed him off for King  
(8-340)of the Sandwich Islands at a review of the yeomanry  
(8-340)which we attend to-day-By the way was it not a foolish  
(8-340)fuss they made about these poor savages besides cramming  
(8-340)them to death as children do their pets.<sup>1</sup>

(8-340)Our gracious Sovereign has been very civil to me  
(8-340)desiring Wilkie to introduce my ancient figure in a large  
(8-340)picture he is painting for his Majesty of his reception at  
(8-340)Holyrood.<sup>2</sup> My younger son also figures as one of the  
(8-340)Knight Marshal's pages of honour so there will be enough  
(8-340)of us. Like you I admire his royal constancy-there was  
(8-340)an idea that that was all over but habits become inveterate  
(8-340)at a certain period of life. Now here is a long letter and  
(8-340)as little in it to the purpose as three sides of paper and a bit  
(8-340)of another can be well supposed to contain. It is time to  
(8-340)stop.-Believe [me] my dear Lady Marchioness, always  
(8-340)most affectionately and respectfully yours,

(8-340)WALTER SCOTT  
[Pierpont Morgan and Familiar Letters]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK

(8-340)MY DEAR LORD,-I am very glad to learn by your very  
(8-340)kind letter that Lady Montagu is not the worse of her  
(8-340)various and unexpected duties which while no one can  
(8-340)discharge them so willingly and so well were after all of a  
(8-340)nature very harassing and agitating especially as her

(8-341)kindness of disposition in such a cause would also most  
(8-341)probably induce her to exceed her strength. I trust dear  
(8-341)Lady Isabella is now quite restored to health. Since she

(8-341)was to be surprized it could not have happend in better  
(8-341)quarters than at the almost paternal roof of Ditton.1

(8-341)I am anxious to hear of the Duke & Mr Blakeney whom  
(8-341)I wish particularly to know. If I hear of them at Bowhill  
(8-341)I will try to inveigle them down to this place where I have  
(8-341)now got myself into tolerable order and beat out of doors  
(8-341)all the mechanics who for two years have been half the  
(8-341)amusement and half the plague of my life. Your Lordship  
(8-341)& Lady M. are missing the finest season ever seen  
(8-341)in Scotland-scarce a drop of rain till yesterday & hay  
(8-341)so plenty notwithstanding that I bought it of the first  
(8-341)quality at 4d 1/2 per stone. Two months ago I lookd to  
(8-341)pay a shilling and I have e'en taken the opportunity to  
(8-341)buy as much as will serve for two years. The crops look  
(8-341)beautiful and all is plentiful save the garden where the  
(8-341)fruit is devourd by wasps in a manner which I never  
(8-341)before witnessd. They leave us neither peach nor cherry  
(8-341)out of a fine show of both.

(8-341)I have been out two days affording the light of my  
(8-341)countenance to the Selkirk & Roxburghshire yeomanry.  
(8-341)Government are acting with culpable short sightedness  
(8-341)in throwing cold water on this most constitutional & loyal  
(8-341)species of force. I should be glad to know where we  
(8-341)would have been in Scotland had they not been able in  
(8-341)the absence of regular troops to march 1000 yeomen into  
(8-341)Glasgow in one morning. I think they are quite right to  
(8-341)insist upon this corps being as well disciplined as their  
(8-341)nature admits and being regularly musterd but it is very  
(8-341)impolitic to disgust them by cutting off their small  
(8-341)allowances considering the individuals make considerable  
(8-341)sacrifices both of time & money and considering also that

(8-342)this wretchd oeconomy goes to impress them with an idea  
(8-342)that their service is overlooked & held cheap. I wish  
(8-342)we may not sup the sauce of this one day for as sure as I  
(8-342)am writing in my own great chamber as Slender says so  
(8-342)surely are our freinds at the helm in this & one or two  
(8-342)other Scottis[h] matters holding a false course.

(8-342)When a man turns it is time to draw bridle-he may  
(8-342)bestow his tediousness but not his ill humour on his  
(8-342)freinds. The Forest troop were flatterd & delighted with  
(8-342)your Lordships interference in their behalf and made a  
(8-342)most gallant halloo for Lord M. as well as their young  
(8-342)Landlord.

(8-342)As for my motions about which your Lordship so kindly  
(8-342)enquires we shall be quite stationary here all the season  
(8-342)and delighted to see you & Lady M. within our walls.  
(8-342)We have now reasonably good accomodation for night  
(8-342)also so I hope you will extend your favours in point of  
(8-342)time as much [as] your leisure will permit. I am sure a  
(8-342)visit at Bothwell will do Lady M. much good.

(8-342)My son came in suddenly the other day from drawing  
(8-342)military sketches in Kent under a burning sun varied with  
(8-342)thunder storms. He is burnd as black as a Moor and  
(8-342)being bearded like a pard was taken by the yeomanry for  
(8-342)some stray Aid de Camp of the deceasd King Tamahmeah.<sup>1</sup>  
(8-342)My kind respects attend Lady Montagu & I hope your  
(8-342)Lordship will always believe me your truly faithful

(8-342)WALTER SCOTT

(8-342)ABBOTSFORD 3d August [1824]

(8-342)I deliverd your Lordships message to Sir Adam about  
(8-342)his Lyon young.

[Buccleuch]

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-343)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-This I conclude will find you  
(8-343)in the Great City and I hope you have not forgotten your  
(8-343)promise to visit us on your return. Permit me to remind  
(8-343)you about my Ordnance maps.<sup>1</sup> I have those of Cornwall  
(8-343)Kent Dorset Devon Sussex Pembroke Wilt[s] & Surrey  
(8-343)Essex with an Index map. All others I want and they  
(8-343)are highly useful to me. Almost all our long job here is  
(8-343)now ended except some glasses which have been long  
(8-343)promised us from London. The library is uncommonly  
(8-343)handsome and quite full nay overflowing into my study  
(8-343)which is also shelved. I presume you will bring Mr  
(8-343)Leslie when you come down: his very ingenious countryman  
(8-343)Newton 2 is at Chiefswood at present & makes a  
(8-343)pleasant addition to our society, occasionally.

(8-343)Will you take the trouble to convey to M[r] Wiffen 1., 1.,  
(8-343)to be paid when we meet as my subscription to his very  
(8-343)beautiful 1st volume 3 the translator has done justice to  
(8-343)the poet and the artist to both. My best Compliments to  
(8-343)Mrs Constable whom we expect to see by & bye. Pray let  
(8-343)me hear of your motions. I have ceased to enquire after  
(8-343)your health. Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

(8-343)ABBOTSFORD 3 August [PM. 1824]

[Stevenson]

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LETTERS OF

1824

TO OWEN REES, MESSRS. LONGMAN AND COY.,  
PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON

(8-344)DEAR SIR,-I send the notices you want which have at  
(8-344)least the advantage of being quite genuine though not  
(8-344)perhaps very dignified. I could add dates proofs &c if I  
(8-344)were in Edinburgh where most of my family papers now  
(8-344)are. My descent from the Lairds of Harden (wild fellows  
(8-344)in their day) is proved by their deeds of entail settling the  
(8-344)estate on my great grandfather and failing the family  
(8-344)of Raeburn I am next Cadet of Harden so a good swinging  
(8-344)plague might give me 10,000 a year but it is quite as well  
(8-344)as it is. I would like to see the proofsheets of the article  
(8-344)for the compositor considering my bad hand will make  
(8-344)sad work with our Scottish names.

(8-344)The Editor will observe my title to Supporters ranks  
(8-344)on a grant of our Lord Lion King at arms which was  
(8-344)subsequent to the entry of my arms in the Herald's books  
(8-344)in London.

(8-344)I will be happy to see you here when you are next  
(8-344)Skimming Scotland. Yours truly

(8-344)WALTER SCOTT

(8-344)ABBOTSFORD 3 Augt. [1824]

(8-344)I may have made slips of the pen but I think not many.  
[Robson]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

(8-344)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-I have been waiting for a  
(8-344)frank to cover the inclosed half yearly payment of 100,,  
(8-344)being a cheque for 50 and now send it at the charge of

(8-344)double postage rather than pass the term farther. This  
(8-344)is on your own accompt not that of the girls notes.

(8-344)We had a letter from Walter two days since mentioning  
(8-344)his safe arrival at College. His parting gave us all the  
(8-344)greatest regret as his manners are extremely good joined  
(8-344)to a most goodnatured and actively obliging disposition.  
(8-344)There is no one here who does not miss him in our

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-345)different departments and Lady Scott in particular as he  
(8-345)was always her principal Aide de Camp. I have a long  
(8-345)and satisfactory letter from Major Huxley.<sup>1</sup> The  
(8-345)connection with Lord Dalhousie cannot but prove highly  
(8-345)advantageous to him. I called at Dalhousie Castle to  
(8-345)return my thanks and express my sense of Lord and Lady  
(8-345)Dalhousies very uncommon kindness but they were  
(8-345)unluckily at Edinburgh. I then expressed my thanks in  
(8-345)writing & had a most kind answer from Lady D. holding  
(8-345)out some hopes of our receiving them here an event  
(8-345)which would give me particular pleasure. There is still  
(8-345)a report that he will go to India but I have not heard it  
(8-345)from any good authority. Should he carry Major Huxley  
(8-345)there as I trust he would it might be a very advantageous  
(8-345)thing for our friend.

(8-345)I am happy to hear from every quarter that Elizas  
(8-345)health is getting confirmed and strengthened so I trust she  
(8-345)will reap permanent benefit from her last illness working  
(8-345)away all the unseen and unmedicinal complaints which  
(8-345)linger about the system of young folks till carried off by  
(8-345)some good brushing disorder.

(8-345)We were truly grieved by the bad news of Mr. David  
(8-345)MacCullochs health which I heartily hope may be

(8-345)exaggerated. I am aware how much you must feel on  
(8-345)this occasion from the mutual affection which subsists  
(8-345)betwixt you. There is no remedy save to hope the best.

(8-345)We have been here nearly a month amidst the finest  
(8-345)weather possible and the highest appearance of excellent  
(8-345)crops. Hay which we thought would have been scarce &  
(8-345)dear to be had at 6d. per stone. Heaven make us thankful

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(8-346)for peace and plenty. Lady Scott is the only grumbler  
(8-346)and that against the wasps who eat all our fruit. I wish  
(8-346)your girls were here to help them. Let me hear when  
(8-346)convenient that the inclosed reaches you safely. I hope  
(8-346)you will be able to come to town during the winter  
(8-346)months for Annes comfort and Elizas schools. She must  
(8-346)not let her laming slip. My wife with Anne & Sophia-  
(8-346)Walter and Charles-for for once we are all here together  
(8-346)send kindest regards to you and my nieces. Believe me  
(8-346)allways Your affectionate brother              WALTER SCOTT

(8-346)ABBOTSFORD 5 Augt. [1824]

[Huntington]

TO WILLIAM CLERK, PRINCIPAL CLERK TO THE JURY  
COURT, EDINBURGH

(8-346)ABBOTSFORD 7th August 1824

(8-346)MY DEAR WILLIE,-Time has been that I would have  
(8-346)been a little annoyed at what has given your kindness and  
(8-346)delicacy unnecessary raffling.<sup>1</sup> Indeed to tell you the truth

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      347

(8-347)one reason for not letting off a stave or two to the  
(8-347)praise of Kenmure was the unpleasantness of being  
(8-347)brought before the public on every occasion like Gows 1  
(8-347)band which plays at all manner of festivals. But after all  
(8-347)my life would be a sore one if I had the delicacy of our  
(8-347)friend Cran[stoun]. I thank the Gods that have made  
(8-347)me of sterner stuff- I have been struck up and down too  
(8-347)often to be very sensitive about the matter and I have  
(8-347)endeavoured for my own comforts sake to separate myself  
(8-347)so far from my Literary self that I think I can view the  
(8-347)ascent or descent of the latter with all thereto belonging  
(8-347)with about the same interest I would take in the Walter  
(8-347)Scott Leith Smack or the no less nobly nominated stage.<sup>2</sup>  
(8-347)Perhaps I would not have exactly expressed myself in  
(8-347)the terms of my letter to a public company when sober  
(8-347)but had I partaken of the festivities of the day I might  
(8-347)probably have said something still more extravagant and  
(8-347)you may be assured yourself and assure Mr. Kennedy if  
(8-347)necessary that I have not the least painful feeling on the  
(8-347)subject unless that it makes me rather sorry I did not try  
(8-347)the song upon the old principle. In for a penny. So I  
(8-347)really take an interest in the Gordon of Kenmure and the  
(8-347)party seems to have been a most joyous one. It would  
(8-347)be a most agreeable termination to this little incident  
(8-347)should it be the shoeing horn to draw on a visit from you.  
(8-347)We were at Newton-i.e. I was-but I think the Knight  
(8-347)is going to be noosed after all 3 -our regale was dull and

(8-348)dignified-grave and gentlemanlike in the extreme-of  
(8-348)course small mirth stirring.

(8-348)By the way our honest friend Culvenan 1 had proposed  
(8-348)me the same task which you did to which I made some



(8-348)similar answer so that if Mr Maitland had not mentioned  
(8-348)the matter honest Leatherhead certainly would and on the  
(8-348)whole I have great reason to be thankful. Always my  
(8-348)dear Clerk Yours entirely WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-348)DEAR JAMES,-I am delighted I am begun to interest  
(8-348)you.

(8-348)Tomorrow I go to Lees in Berwickshire to meet Mrs  
(8-348)Cutts 2 & return on Monday.

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(8-349)Please to enter in your Book two Abbotsford notes of  
(8-349)mine pr. 275 each dated 17 Current & payable at  
(8-349)Constables one at 6 and the other at 12 months & see this  
(8-349)is not left undone they are payable to Baird.

(8-349)I return proofs and send copy also a note for 2d post.  
(8-349)Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

(8-349)friday [20th August 1824]  
[Stevenson]

TO MRS. COUTTS 1

(8-349)MY DEAR MRS COUTTS,-That which we wish earnestly  
(8-349)we are sometimes rather tiresome in trying to secure ;  
(8-349)so there is perhaps little reasoning for my troubling you  
(8-349)with a note to remind that we entertain the hope of seeing  
(8-349)you with Miss Goddard 2 and my friend Dr Thomas some  
(8-349)time in the week after this which may be most convenient

(8-350)for you. We have plenty of room, such as it is, for your  
 (8-350)suite, that is numbering it on its effective strength, not  
 (8-350)on the number of the Morning Post. When you honour  
 (8-350)me with any notice of your motions, my address is  
 (8-350)Abbotsford, Melrose, and the post leaves Edinr. at  
 (8-350)five o'clock. Much health and happiness from the land  
 (8-350)of cakes. I remain dear Madam Your most obedient  
 (8-350)and respectful W. S.

(8-350)LEES, Monday [23d (1) August 1824]

(8-350)Too early for a light-must try to twist this into a  
 (8-350)proper complication of folds.

[Coutts and Co.]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DRUMLANRIG CASTLE

(8-350)MY DEAR LORD,-I had your kind letter 2 in course but  
 (8-350)have delayd answering it my motions being a little  
 (8-350)uncertain. And now such is the crossness and cantankerousness  
 (8-350)of our posts that possibly my corporal presence at  
 (8-350)Drumlanrigg may outstrip this letter. I mean God  
 (8-350)willing to sleep tomorrow at Betocks Bridge 3 near Moffat  
 (8-350)& next morning to give Sir Adam and his Lions who are  
 (8-350)at or about Kirkmichael some practical instructions upon  
 (8-350)their plans of planting & building to which I should be  
 (8-350)competent if bought experience is worth anything. On  
 (8-350)the same day Thursday 26th. I propose to dine at

(8-351)Drumlanrig. I bring my son in law Lockhart with me as

(8-351)company through the hills which I hope is not too great  
(8-351)an intrusion on the hospitality of the Chateau. I intend  
(8-351)with your Lordships permiss[ion] to stay Friday & return  
(8-351)Saturday. I am aware your mornings are mornings of  
(8-351)business and will bring a pony that I may revisit some of  
(8-351)my old haunts.

(8-351)Mr. Oddie & his friend have not yet cast up. When  
(8-351)which I hope will not be before my return to this place  
(8-351)they shall be most welcome to all the hospitality which  
(8-351)their time and inclination permit them to accept.

(8-351)My motions towards Dumfriesshire would have been  
(8-351)sooner announced but I was down to Leas to hail like all  
(8-351)the rest of the world the Diva Pecunia as she crossed the  
(8-351)border. Mortals call the goddess Mrs. Coutts-I fear I  
(8-351)shall not see Lady Montagu but in the agreeable hope of  
(8-351)meeting your Lordship soon I am most respectfully yours

(8-351)WALTER SCOTT

(8-351)ABBOTSFORD 24 Aug. [1824]

(8-351)Lest I should excite alarm of any kind by having  
(8-351)announced the vicinity of the Knight of the Lions I add  
(8-351)that it is not his purpose at present to make any more  
(8-351)than a lionizing morning visit at Drumlanrigg to shew the  
(8-351)lions of that residence to his own lions.

[Buccleuch]

TO LADY COMPTON

(8-351)MY DEAR LADY COMPTON,-When you promise your  
(8-351)young folks some bonne bouche bye and bye they are very  
(8-351)apt to trouble Mama with enquiries when bye and bye is

(8-351)likely to come and I in expectation of the very great  
(8-351)pleasure of seeing you all at Abbotsford begin now to  
(8-351)pluck your sleeve and enquire after your motions.  
(8-351)Besides if your Ladyship is true of promise and allow me  
(8-351)the pleasure of escorting you safely through our hills some  
(8-351)arrangement is previously necessary to secure horses and

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(8-352)though this cannot be till the precise time of meeting is  
(8-352)fixed yet it may be as well to consider it a little beforehand.  
(8-352)I came to this place yesterday by the road I propose and  
(8-352)I found it all capital good except about two miles which  
(8-352)are rather rough but quite safe and practicable. There  
(8-352)is a very decent Inn called Betocks Bridge two miles on  
(8-352)the west (or Dumfries) side of Moffat where I will meet  
(8-352)you or if any strange and unavoidable cause of delay  
(8-352)should occur will send my son to be your guide. You  
(8-352)must have horses from this place to go through to Saint  
(8-352)Marys Loch and I when assured of your motions will take  
(8-352)care that horses come from Selkirk to meet you there you  
(8-352)must say how many you will want. Betocks Bridge is just  
(8-352)[about twenty miles ] from Dumfries and you must calculate  
(8-352)so as to sleep there and we shall easily get to Abbotsford  
(8-352)to a late dinner or early supper on the following day. Would  
(8-352)I could ensure such a day as the day before yesterday when  
(8-352)you and yours could see our pass without the vapours mists  
(8-352)and darkness which are as proper to it as to the far end of  
(8-352)Mirzas bridge. I do not however wish your Ladyship  
(8-352)to lose the skin of your forehead as I am like to do in the  
(8-352)cause or even to be burnt like a brick which has befallen  
(8-352)my companion Lockhart. I really question if an Italian  
(8-352)sun has more strength.

(8-352)I am here for two days to look at my young chief I and  
(8-352)spend a while with his excellent uncle who besides his

(8-353)sterling worth has an admirable perception of quiet fun.  
(8-353)The plantations [word indecipherable] around the house are  
(8-353)fast rising to supply the devastation of old Q. but it is still  
(8-353)impossible to consider how much the fine old castle has  
(8-353)lost by being deprived in a great measure of its natural  
(8-353)garland of mighty oaks without wishing the selfish old  
(8-353)wretch what one should not wish to any poor living (I mean  
(8-353)dead) soul. Still Drumlanrig shows like the Queen of the  
(8-353)fine valley of Nithsdale.

(8-353)I cannot tell with how much pleasure I look to having  
(8-353)your mother and Anna Jane and Williamina all under my  
(8-353)roof not forgetting the dear babies. I will not play a male  
(8-353)Goneril to you and abate your train 1 for [word indecipherable]  
(8-353)included. We have now a good deal of accommodation  
(8-353)such as it is. I shall certainly Reganise Mrs Goutts a  
(8-353)little however if she comes our way as she proposes, for  
(8-353)she has in necessity to make an apology for travelling en  
(8-353)princesse. I saw her the other day at Lees with seven  
(8-353)servants besides a bed miss and a bed doctor who were  
(8-353)little better. She is however a very good natured person  
(8-353)and has been very liberal of her wealth and not injudiciously  
(8-353)where she could relieve distress. I expect her  
(8-353)visit if she makes it out will be over in a week. I am a  
(8-353)distant relative of old Thomas 2 (or dear Tom as his Relict  
(8-353)calls him) which procures me this distinction.

(8-353)The Italian Lamp is hung up in a place in my Library  
(8-353)which seems quite made for it. Everyone admires its form  
(8-353)and elegance. I have not yet put a light in it. There is an  
(8-353)excellent pianoforte in the same room which I purchased  
(8-353)chiefly with the hopes of your Ladyships visit and one  
(8-353)which I expect from Lady Albanley and her daughters.

(8-353)I am very sorry to find we are not to hope to see Lord  
(8-353)Compton but his arrangements are natural and proper.  
(8-353)I trust in God that the years residence you propose on the  
(8-353)continent may confirm his constitution. I think he is

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(8-354)arrived at the time of life when affections of the breast lose  
(8-354)much of their dangerous character, but still prevention  
(8-354)is what he owes to all of us.

(8-354)Kindest love to Mrs Clephane and the sisters and adieu,  
(8-354)for I hear a great clamour of dogs and servants which is  
(8-354)as much as to say that the shooters are going out and  
(8-354)therefore that breakfast is ready. Pray mind to allow  
(8-354)for cross posts and all contingencies when your plans are  
(8-354)finally arranged. Always my dearest Lady Compton with  
(8-354)kindest and best wishes your sincere and affectionate friend

(8-354)DRUMLANRIG 28 August 1824

WALTER SCOTT

(8-354)I will be at home on the 30th at e'en.  
[Northampton]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON 1

(8-354)DRUMLANRIG THORNHILL-29 Augt.-1824

(8-354)MY DEAR RICHARDSON,-Yours of the 12 reached me  
(8-354)only about the 20th & since that time I have been a  
(8-354)cruizing about, down to Lees to meet Mrs Coutts then  
(8-354)through the hills to this place to spend a day or two with  
(8-354)my young chief and his excellent uncle at this fine old  
(8-354)place. How you would luxuriate in the fine dashing  
(8-354)stream of the Nith & the grand old building now recovering  
(8-354)its mantle of green of which old Q's rapacity had

(8-354)divested it.

(8-354)I could scold you for not coming to Abbotsford cum tota

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-355)sequela as we say that practise the law and were it not that  
(8-355)it would be punishing myself I could find in my heart to  
(8-355)say that I will not have you without my young friend.  
(8-355)Our house is now as ample as I could wish it and I hope  
(8-355)it has not lost its quality of being like the tent of the fairy  
(8-355)(8-355)Perizade capable of stretching so as to accomodate all  
(8-355)friends. I hope Mrs Richardson and you with Mr &  
(8-355)Mrs Bell will carve us out a comfortable visit towards  
(8-355)the end of September or beginning of October (as I  
(8-355)should like well to secure good weather). I want your  
(8-355)opinion of my house, library, etc. and in reward you shall  
(8-355)kill as many fine fish in the Ashesteil water as you can  
(8-355)wish for. It is but a morning's ride from us. I am not  
(8-355)sure I should give you leave at this very moment to kill  
(8-355)quite so large a trout as the last for fear of the effect on  
(8-355)Tom Purdie's weakened nerves.<sup>1</sup> Seriously I have almost  
(8-355)lost my poor Sancho Panza by a sudden & most violent  
(8-355)inflammatory complaint augmented by his obstinacy in  
(8-355)persisting on going to the moors with my sons on the 12th  
(8-355)August. He has swum for his life and during his delirium  
(8-355)it was most melancholy to hear the poor fellow sometimes  
(8-355)hunting his dogs as if he were on the hill and sometimes  
(8-355)talking as if he were walking with me in the plantations.  
(8-355)I thought of Joanna's exclamation " Alas poor heart !  
(8-355)thy thoughts stray far from home." He is now out of  
(8-355)danger or probably I should not have been here. I rely  
(8-355)I shall hear from you when your plans are matured.  
(8-355>About the middle of September we shall be rather throng  
(8-355)but towards the beginning of October I know of no visit  
(8-355)can interfere with yours & certainly know none from

(8-355)which Lady Scott & I will anticipate so much pleasure.  
(8-355)If you take us on your return it will be just so far on your  
(8-355)way but then it casts your visit into the "sear & yellow  
(8-355)leaf" & deprives us of good days & fishing weather.  
(8-355)But consult your own convenience only pray come &  
(8-355)oblige yours truly WALTER SCOTT

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(8-356)I have much kindness to thank Mr Chas. Bell for. I beg  
(8-356)kind respects to him & especially to Mrs Richardson. I  
(8-356)send this to Cockburns care as the best address I can think  
(8-356)of in Edinburgh.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO CAPTAIN BASIL HALL 1

(8-356)MY DEAR CAPTAIN,-I am unable to answer your  
(8-356)queries very particularly although I have long known  
(8-356)Miss Ferriar. I do not attribute much of her success to  
(8-356)her father being a Clerk of Session although an office  
(8-356)peculiarly suited to inspire literary attempts & fan the  
(8-356)glow of awakening genius as in Sir James Colquhouns  
(8-356)case-my own-and other signal instances. Miss Ferriar  
(8-356)is in society a very well bred good humourd and sensible  
(8-356)person and uncommonly well informd though without the  
(8-356)least assumption or affectation. I do not believe she had  
(8-356)any other opportunities of studying human character than  
(8-356)are open to most Scotchwomen. Her natural connections  
(8-356)are in the better classes but you know thanks to our Scotch

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 357

(8-357)love of cousinship every one has plenty of old Uncle  
(8-357)Adams & Aunt Betties to draw portraits from. In former



(8-357)days Miss Ferriar was a good deal at Inverary being an  
(8-357)intimate freind of Lady Charlotte Campbell<sup>1</sup> & probably  
(8-357)she may have seen high life in other quarters. In short  
(8-357)her excellences as an authoress seem to arise not from any  
(8-357)peculiar opportunities of observing nature but from the  
(8-357)strong and intuitive power of observing what is around  
(8-357)all of us-at least in this country where the learnd and  
(8-357)unlearnd, the stupid and the ingenious, the well bred and  
(8-357)the clownish, are not so much classified and separated  
(8-357)from each other as in the society of a great metropolis.

(8-357)I will be pleased should these notices sati[s]fy in any  
(8-357)respect Lady Spencers curiosity concerning this very  
(8-357)accomplishd & amiable woman. I ought to add that  
(8-357)her health is far from strong which occasions lately at  
(8-357)least her being rather retired & seldom visiting. I beg  
(8-357)my respectful compliments to Lord & Lady Spenser and  
(8-357)am always Dear Basil Very truly yours

(8-357)WALTER SCOTT

(8-357)ABBOTSFORD 30 Augt. 1824

[Miss Mary Lockhart]

TO LADY COMFTON

(8-357)MY DEAR LADY COMPTON,-I found your kind letter on  
(8-357)my return from Drumlanrig from which place I addressed  
(8-357)a few lines to your Ladyship. We will be delighted to  
(8-357)see you all upon Monday as your kindness proposes-only

(8-358)the preceding day belonging to the circuit will prevent the  
(8-358)possibility of my coming over the pass to meet you as I

(8-358)proposed. But by this I am the only sufferer for I believe  
(8-358)your shortest and best road will be to go straight to  
(8-358)Edinburgh from Glasgow and come from Edinburgh here  
(8-358)on Monday. There is another reason which is that a fair  
(8-358)is at present raging in Yarrow among the lower classes  
(8-358)and has occupied the only doghole called an inn where  
(8-358)you must change horses. Had I been with you I could  
(8-358)have avoided this risque by going to some of the Dukes  
(8-358)farmers but alone I think you had better not incur either  
(8-358)that or the chance of mistrusting post horses on a road so  
(8-358)lonely. If you should determine to come by the Loughs  
(8-358)you must appoint horses from Selkirk to meet you at the  
(8-358)top of the Kirkhill path where there is a shepherds hut  
(8-358)who can give you a tolerable breakfast ham eggs etc. but  
(8-358)you must take a loaf or two of wheaten bread. You sleep  
(8-358)at Beatoch Bridge and will get horses from there to carry  
(8-358)you on to meet those ordered from Selkirk. In this way  
(8-358)you will avoid the place where the fair is. But half this  
(8-358)hill scheme has lost its charms in my eyes since I cannot  
(8-358)come to be your escort and I strongly recommend in  
(8-358)preference Glasgow Edinburgh Abbotsford as you have  
(8-358)good inns and plenty of horses everywhere.

(8-358)You talk of your train as a mighty matter-you a  
(8-358)countess and have only five people to wait upon six-why  
(8-358)my friend Mrs Coutts 1 has nine to attend herself alone

(8-359)-no doubt a doctor and a companion are included and  
(8-359)Nature has made your Ladyship independent of the one  
(8-359)and the resources she has given in your own family makes  
(8-359)the other a superfluity also. Seriously you shall all be  
(8-359)most wellcome, nor will you in the least incommode us  
(8-359)as I am sure your people being yours will be easily  
(8-359)contented with the accomodations we can offer. Kindest

(8-359)compliments to Mrs Clephane, Anna Jane, Williamina  
(8-359)and the babes thof less known. We'll dine at half past  
(8-359)six on Monday to give you plenty of time.<sup>1</sup> Always with  
(8-359)kind regards from all here Most truly yours

(8-359)WALTER SCOTT

(8-359)ABBOTSFORD 30 August 1824

[Northampton]

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TO LORD MONTAGU

(8-360)MY DEAR LORD,-We will be delighted to see you on  
(8-360)Tuesday quot quot adestis-Tomorrow I will wait on you  
(8-360)to dinner & beg permission to bring my son Charles to  
(8-360)pay his respects to his chief-What is a much greater  
(8-360)freedom I will presume to bring his freind a very excellent  
(8-360)scholar & crack man at College by name Surtees by  
(8-360)condition a nephew of Lady Eldons and really an  
(8-360)uncommonly excellent young man. Always most truly yours

(8-360)We can easily return at night.                      WALTER SCOTT

[Undated]

[Buccleuch]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(8-360)DEAR SIR,-I beg you will make my most respectful  
(8-360)compliments and thanks where they are due for the  
(8-360)mourning ring receivd by the hands [of] Mr Leslie  
(8-360)yesterday.<sup>1</sup> I am only thus far entitled to such a  
(8-360)distinction that no man honourd the talents of Lord Byron  
(8-360)more while he lived or lamented more sincerely his

(8-360)untimely death at an age when the world might justly  
(8-360)have hoped for so many more fruits of his genius.

(8-360)I am very desirous to perfect my own set of his works &  
(8-360)have employd the Bearer John Stevenson to get me every  
(8-360)thing that he publishd. He has a list of what I already  
(8-360)possess and I beg you will have the goodness to assist him  
(8-360)in getting any articles that may be scarcer. I am always  
(8-360)Dear Sir Your most obedient Servant

(8-360)ABBOTSFORD [6th] September [1824]      WALTER SCOTT

(8-360)favoured by Mr. John Stevenson, Bookseller  
(8-360)Edinburgh

[Stevenson]

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      361

TO REV. R. POLWHELE, NEWLYN VICARAGE

(8-361)ABBOTSFORD, 6 Sept. [1824]1

(8-361)MY DEAR SIR,-I am so dreadful a correspondent that  
(8-361)with those I esteem most highly, and certainly Mr.  
(8-361)Polwhele ranks high among them, I very often am obliged  
(8-361)to declare a bankruptcy in the way of correspondence,  
(8-361)rather than make those small payments, which would at  
(8-361)least show a sense of the debt if they deal little towards  
(8-361)satisfaction. I am sure you could not wish to publish  
(8-361)any of my letters, containing in them matter not fit for  
(8-361)the public eye. At the same time, bearing no recollection  
(8-361)of the subjects at this distance of time, I should be glad  
(8-361)to have an opportunity of looking them over before  
(8-361)publication, as they may possibly regard topics on which  
(8-361)my more mature age may have induced me to change my

(8-361)mind, or perhaps opinions hastily and inaccurately  
(8-361)expressed in the confidence of private correspondence.  
(8-361)I will be therefore greatly obliged to you if you would  
(8-361)have the goodness to transmit me the letters under the  
(8-361)cover of Mr. Croker, of the Admiralty, who if the parcel  
(8-361)is addressed to him will forward them safely to me. I  
(8-361)have little reason to suppose that there will be any cause  
(8-361)to refuse compliance with your wishes, and certainly  
(8-361)shall be very little disposed to decline compliance with  
(8-361)any thing you can wish.

(8-361)I have to thank you, amongst other favours, for a copy of  
(8-361)Sermons, which from the nature of the subjects are  
(8-361)interesting and curious, though some of them may, I  
(8-361)suppose, be considered as conciones ad clerum, rather than  
(8-361)ad populum, from the abstruse disquisitions into which  
(8-361)they conduct the reader.

(8-361)I am writing in the midst of moor-fowl shooters and

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1824

(8-362)tourists, which occasions my hastening to subscribe  
(8-362)myself, dear Sir, your obliged humble servant,

(8-362)WALTER SCOTT

[Letters of Sir Walter Scott, 1832]

TO W. SHAW MASON 1

(8-362)SIR,-I beg to express my best thanks to you for your  
(8-362)very interesting catalogue of books on Irish History which  
(8-362)I will carefully preserve [as] a guide upon that interesting  
(8-362)department of bibliography. I received it about two days  
(8-362)since. I beg at the same time to thank you by anticipation  
(8-362)for your very kind present of Irish oak from the

(8-362)roof of St. Patricks. It will be particularly acceptable  
(8-362)at present as I have been making some old-fashiond  
(8-362)Scottish quaighs (small drinking cups) out of such scraps  
(8-362)of remarkable wood as I have chanced to collect-  
(8-362)Wallaces oak-Sir John the Graemes yew tree and the  
(8-362)like & I will certainly put it in my guests power if it be  
(8-362)in their inclination to drink a tasse of highland whiskey  
(8-362)out of Shilelah oak. I think you will judge from this  
(8-362)circumstance what value I will put on your gift and how  
(8-362)much cause I have to subscribe myself Sir your obliged  
(8-362)and thankful humble Servant                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-362)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 6 September 1824.  
[Owen D. Young]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO ALEXANDER PETERKIN, MAYFIELD LOAN, NEWINGTON

(8-363)DEAR SIR,-I have been much engaged with company  
(8-363)and have had little time to look over the enclosed 1 which  
(8-363)besides is in a type too small for my eyes. As far as it  
(8-363)goes it seems to contain in the latter part no gross error  
(8-363)but the former and earlier part of Buccleuch pedigree is  
(8-363)very inaccurate and could hardly be corrected without  
(8-363)the family papers were accurately inspected and as that  
(8-363)is impossible at present you must be content with trees  
(8-363)no worse than your fellows. I observe for example that  
(8-363)Sir Robert Scott son of Sir Walter is totally omitted  
(8-363)though his existence is proved by a deed to which his  
(8-363)father and he are parties ex[cambion] giving the lands  
(8-363)of Glenkerrie with the Merks of Melrosc for those of  
(8-363)Bellenden which the family and their clan afterwards  
(8-363)adopted for their gathering wood.<sup>2</sup> I am sorry I am able  
(8-363)to help you so little in this matter and shall be glad if any  
(8-363)opportunity occurs in which I can be more successful.

(8-363)I am Dear Sir your obedt servant                      WALTER SCOTT

[circa 6 September 1824]

[Rosebery]

364                                      LETTERS OF                                      1824

TO MRS. HARRIOT COUTTS 1

(8-364)MY DEAR MRS. COUTTS,-I am particularly happy to  
(8-364)commit to record that I had this day the pleasure of  
(8-364)introducing you to the antiquities of Melrose Abbey  
(8-364)which I hope have afforded you so much satisfaction as to  
(8-364)tempt you to revisit them again. Believe me dear Mrs.  
(8-364)Coutts With much respect Your most obedient humble  
(8-364)servt    WALTER SCOTT

(8-364)ABBOTSFORD 10 Sept 1824

(8-364)Mrs. Coutts &c &c.  
[Coutts and Co.]

[11th September 1824]

(8-364)Inscription on a tombstone in Melrose Churchyard

(8-364)The Earth goeth on the earth glistering like gold  
(8-364)The Earth goeth to the earth sooner than it wolde  
(8-364)The Earth builds on the earth castles & towers  
(8-364)The Earth says to the earth all shall be ours 2

[Robinson's Coutts: The History of a Banking House]

1824                                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                                      365

TO COLIN MACKENZIE

(8-365)MY DEAR MACKENSIE,-I am so unluckily situated as  
(8-365)not to be able to answer your kind invitation.(1) Here are  
(8-365)in possession of our house 1 Lady Compton. 2 Lady  
(8-365)Alvanley 3 last not least Mrs. Coutts, all good and old  
(8-365)friends but rather too many eggs in a basket-the last  
(8-365)has just left-the others drop off in the course of next  
(8-365)week like leaves in stormy weather. But then Canning is  
(8-365)to be here-time uncertain-and the young Buccleuch  
(8-365)also has promised a visit so that I doubt it will be October  
(8-365)before I can assure myself of looking up the water. The  
(8-365)same circumstance makes it very doubtful whether I can  
(8-365)be in town on the 1st October.(2) I will go however if I  
(8-365)possibly can but I would have you en cas prepared to make  
(8-365)a start in my stead for I have a sort of omening that one  
(8-365)of the above visits will be apt to light about the time.  
(8-365)I hope you will come down as you promised when  
(8-365)Canning comes of which you shall have due notice. I  
(8-365)am glad to [have] learned from our friend Sir Roberts  
(8-365)that he is much better. I believe the honest fellows  
(8-365)distresses arise all from that organ of evil the Stomach  
(8-365)which allows us to run a devilish long accot. with it in  
(8-365)youth and then when we get old comes down upon us for  
(8-365)principal and interest-none of your part payment in  
(8-365)morning headaches and night mares have gone as we  
(8-365)are apt vainly to suppose far to settle the debt but we  
(8-365)are compelled to attone for our overdraughts on the  
(8-365)constitution by substantial cramps, whizzing apoplexies

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(8-366)from all which dearest Colin the Lord defend all honest  
(8-366)fellows in particular yourself and yours always

(8-366)ABBOTSFORD 12 Sept. [1824]

WALTER SCOTT

[Brotherton]



TO MRS. HUGHES

(8-366)ABBOTSFORD 13 Sep. 1824

(8-366)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-Many thanks to you for all  
(8-366)your kindness.<sup>1</sup> I am not in the least disappointed about  
(8-366)the chimney piece nor surprised that Lord Craven should  
(8-366)(even without any apology) have declined a request  
(8-366)which a stranger had no title to make. Though a professed  
(8-366)pedlar in antiquarian [matters] I really feel none  
(8-366)of the paltry spirit of appropriation which induces men  
(8-366)of that class to disjoin curiosities from the place to which  
(8-366)they are fitted by association for the poor gratification of  
(8-366)calling them their own. The chimney piece at Stokesey  
(8-366)is of ten times the value which it can be any where else  
(8-366)and it was only the idea that it was neglected and going  
(8-366)to decay (which I am happy to understand is erroneous)  
(8-366)that could have induced me to accept of your tempting  
(8-366)offer to mediate for it in my favour.

(8-366)I had written thus far three weeks since when I was  
(8-366)involved in one of those currents of petty interruptions  
(8-366)and avocations in which it has been my frequent lot to  
(8-366)make shipwreck of much valuable time and which  
(8-366)particularly has occasioned frequent gaps in my  
(8-366)correspondence. All your valued drawings <sup>2</sup> (that is your son's)

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-367)came quite safe and will serve to do yeomans service in  
(8-367)illustrating my favourite Clarendon. The view of  
(8-367)Abbotsford is I think quite accurate except that perhaps  
(8-367)the belfry tower has rather more than its due share of  
(8-367)height & importance but this is a trifle.

(8-367)By the way I have discovered that the affecting ballad  
(8-367)about the Stuons 1 is not quite original. The great author  
(8-367)has not disdained to borrow the verse about my dog and  
(8-367)I from a song in D'Urfeys collection elegantly entitled  
(8-367)pills to purge melancholy. It shows that as a Justice of  
(8-367)Peace may be obliged to his kinsman for a man 2 as Slender  
(8-367)vaunteth so a great bard may sometimes be indebted for  
(8-367)a thought or a stanza.

(8-367)This letter has been written by installments like a man  
(8-367)in distressed circumstances endeavouring to pay his debts  
(8-367)honestly while your goodness has so far overwhelmed me  
(8-367)with further obligations that I am in no small danger of  
(8-367)complete Bankruptcy. So if you see my name in the  
(8-367)Gazette as a Defaulter in correspondence you must not  
(8-367)be surprized. The chief cause of this ungracious  
(8-367)insolvency has been Woman-Woman that seduces all  
(8-367)mankind.<sup>3</sup> The male animals I can leave to stray about

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(8-368)Abbotsford by themselves but my tenderness of heart  
(8-368)often leads me to wait on my lady visitors in their rambles  
(8-368)and this is a sad consumption of time.

(8-368)I am quite surprized at the dexterity with which Mr.  
(8-368)Hughes has made out our complicated mansion of  
(8-368)Abbotsford commonly called Conundrum Castle without  
(8-368)any disproportions which can indicate his not having  
(8-368)seen the place but I believe his Mama made a sketch  
(8-368)much fuller than she allowed us to see. The western  
(8-368)tower where the bell hangs is perhaps a little exalted in  
(8-368)height above the rest of the house although I am by no  
(8-368)means sure that this criticism is just. By the way I see  
(8-368)I made it in the first page.

(8-368)I should feel in despair at the idea of robbing you of  
(8-368)your Pallas 1 but that Dr. Hughes can so well spare Wisdom  
(8-368)or its prototype and that I on the other hand would be  
(8-368)much obliged to any one to improve the slender stock  
(8-368)which nature has given me and should therefore make  
(8-368)Minerva the goddess of my private chapel.

(8-368)I sincerely hope this will find the Dr. continuing in  
(8-368)the enjoyment of tolerable good health and your son  
(8-368)flourishing & prospering. Charles is approaching the  
(8-368)awful time which sends him to the banks of Isis and must  
(8-368)exchange moorfowl shooting and pony-trotting for reading  
(8-368)and studies. I hope some indulgence in the one has not  
(8-368)interfered with his propensities towards the other.

(8-368)The drawing of Mozley 2 Hall put me in mind of  
(8-368)Prior's lines

(8-368)Oh Morley, Oh Morley, if that be a Hall  
(8-368)The fame with the building will presently fall.

(8-368)I almost wish mine would fall too for it really keeps us a

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-369)little too full of company though almost all of them are  
(8-369)people whom I like to see too. But this is the go-about  
(8-369)time for our English friends and to make amends our  
(8-369)winters and springs are solitary enough. I expect Mr.  
(8-369)Canning here in about a fortnight. My kindest remembrances  
(8-369)& those of all this family attend Dr. Hughes & I  
(8-369)am with regard Dear Madam yours truly 1

(8-369)WALTER SCOTT

[Heffer and Wells]

TO DAVID LAING

(8-369)MY DEAR DAVID,-I reinclose the Dialogue 2 with a few  
(8-369)lines of Introduction and one note I believe. There are  
(8-369)one or two words in it worth Dr. Jamiesons attention.  
(8-369)I would like to see my stuff in proof as I do not write a  
(8-369)very distinct hand God knows.

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(8-370)I also send a curious Elegy on the first Earl of  
(8-370)Roxburghe with a few words of introduction it may be stuck  
(8-370)into any poetical miscellany. If it should be thought  
(8-370)adviseable to collect a selection of Naenia[e] or epitaphs &  
(8-370)elegies on Scotsmen of eminence it may be reserved for  
(8-370)such a work & I can add two or three more from  
(8-370)manuscripts and rare broadsides.

(8-370)I should be afraid that by paging each article of the  
(8-370)miscellany separately we might lead to some confusion  
(8-370)and risk of mislaying articles but you are a much better  
(8-370)judge than I am.

(8-370)I trust you have received some of Meermans 1 treasures  
(8-370)though I dare say Dutch controversy & civil Law made  
(8-370)no small part of the collection. Yours truly

(8-370)WALTER SCOTT

(8-370)ABBOTSFORD Wednesday [after 13th  
September 1824]  
[Mitchell]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-370)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-The books yesterday received

(8-370)are most wellcome and quite in my way.<sup>2</sup> The Mexican  
(8-370)curiosities came safe & I was at some loss to guess what  
(8-370)kind friend had rememberd my hobbyhorse only I suspected  
(8-370)you to be the benevolent fairy. Last week our  
(8-370)house was quite full but our visitors have now left or are

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-371)leaving us so if Mrs. Constable & you with Miss White  
(8-371)can come any day you please we will be most happy to  
(8-371)see you.<sup>1</sup> All my mighty works are I think now compleated  
(8-371)& such has been the curiosity of tourists that I  
(8-371)am obliged to shut my doors against all but friends  
(8-371)otherwise we should not have a moments quiet-In the hope  
(8-371)of seeing you one day soon I am very truly yours

(8-371)WALTER SCOTT

(8-371)ABBOTSFORD Saturday [PM 19 Sept 1824]  
[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-371)DEAR JAMES,-By my letter which you will have now  
(8-371)received you will find that I proposed something of the  
(8-371)kind undertaken so kindly by Mr Cadell so that great  
(8-371)witts always jump. I inclose the notes.

(8-371)Constable writes me he is coming here today with his  
(8-371)wife and Miss White-I suppose he will make an apology  
(8-371)for them since it would be too much to hope that they  
(8-371)had got the matter settled so hastily. If they have &  
(8-371)make this visit serve as one way of helping the thing off  
(8-371)handsomely I am sure I shall be most happy-I confess  
(8-371)I feel extremely curious on the subject and shall be most  
(8-371)anxious to see the chaise arrive Yours truly

(8-371)21 Sept [PM. 1824] ABBOTSFORD      WALTER SCOTT  
[Stevenson]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-371)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I received your letter and the  
(8-371)inclosures. Thank you for Olaus Mag: 2 which I will take  
(8-371)great care of and return safely. I will determine on the  
(8-371)Insurance when I come to town-much obliged for your

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(8-372)kind trouble. Inclosed is a list of books which I send in  
(8-372)a box to be bound according to your advice. The Box will  
(8-372)come to Princes Street by this weeks carrier. I have  
(8-372)added a very rare Collection of Songs the Kaempe Viser  
(8-372)which I would like rebound in antique preserving the  
(8-372)clasps.

(8-372)I hope Mrs Constable & Miss White are not the worse  
(8-372)of their flyaway visit. I send this by Ballantyne who has  
(8-372)been here for a brief visit. I am very truly yours

(8-372)W. S.  
(8-372)ABBOTSFORD Sunday [docketed September 1824]  
(8-372)Private  
[Stevenson]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(8-372)MY DEAR CHARLES,-The books came all safe 1 & your  
(8-372)kindness in accepting the trifles I sent will impose upon  
(8-372)you the trouble of inspecting a small box herewith sent  
(8-372)which contains a number of Duplicates from which I  
(8-372)intreat you to select all such as you are not provided with.

(8-372)Some I think are rather curious and may not be

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-373)undeserving a place on your shelves. Any which you are  
(8-373)provided with you can send down to John Stevenson or  
(8-373)give them room till I come to town.

(8-373)The box moreover contains at the bottom a drawing  
(8-373)and small painting of an old gamekeeper of mine by  
(8-373)Leslie to whom I have been sitting like Theseus himself 1  
(8-373)by condiddling the inclosd. Will you let your servant  
(8-373)give the two sketches into Fraser's with the inclosed note  
(8-373)and perhaps you will at the same time or when you pass  
(8-373)direct what sort of frame the painting should have.  
(8-373)There are besides four or five modern volumes which I  
(8-373)return for reasons stated in a note to Stevenson. It is  
(8-373)positively using you like Mrs Duguid but would you let  
(8-373)your servant deliver these also with the note.

(8-373)I am delighted to think Mrs Provost is to be on a par  
(8-373)With Lady Holland & emulate her Silver Po.2

(8-373)I have had a great disappointment expecting Canning  
(8-373)and being flung by the King of France's death. I never  
(8-373)thought to have cared a bean-cod about old Louis  
(8-373)L'Inevitable but I heartily wish he had died hereafter.

(8-373)I am sorry Mr Miller does not make himself happy with  
(8-373)Miss C.-the union would be admirable yet I have heard  
(8-373)said Bibliopolist is apt to be sluggish where ladies expect  
(8-373)promptitude & requires the aid of a little flagellation.  
(8-373)So at least his brother booksellers report. I suspect this  
(8-373)would suit the capital C very ill. Yours in jest & earnest

(8-373)WALTER SCOTT

(8-373)ABBOTSFORD Sunday [26th September 1824]

[Horne]

TO JAMES SKENE

(8-373)ABBOTSFORD, Monday [circa 26th September 1824]

(8-373)MY DEAR SKENE,-I did not answer your letter immediately

(8-373)because I could not exactly ascertain my own

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(8-374)motions. If Mr. Canning had come here, it would have  
(8-374)been impossible for me to have attended the meeting, but  
(8-374)as he is detained from his Scottish tour by the King of  
(8-374)France's exit,<sup>1</sup> my time is at my own disposal, and  
(8-374)therefore I put it at yours on the 1st October. I am, I own,  
(8-374)no particular friend to this species of blow-out,<sup>2</sup> though  
(8-374)humbug is so general nowadays that perhaps something  
(8-374)of the kind may be necessary. I will, however, be in  
(8-374)Castle Street on the night of the 30th and ready to receive  
(8-374)your commands, either that night or next morning. I  
(8-374)hope you expect no forenoon oratory.

(8-374)" Ego nunquam potui loquere jejunos,  
(8-374)Me jejunos vincere potest puer unus,"

(8-374)as sung my namesake, Walter de Mapes.<sup>3</sup> -Yours truly

(8-374)W. SCOTT

[Skene's Memories]

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO ROBERT SOUTHEY, KESWICK, CUMBERLAND

(8-375)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-I did not immediatly thank you  
(8-375)for your beautiful poem on the Kings visit,<sup>1</sup> because I  
(8-375)was afraid you might think that I was trespassing too  
(8-375)much on time which is always well employed. But I must  
(8-375)not let the ice settle again on the stream of our  
(8-375)correspondence, and therefore, while I have a quiet morning,  
(8-375)I employ part of it to thank you for the kindness you have  
(8-375)done me as a friend, and still more for the honour you  
(8-375)have bestowd on my country. I hope these verses are  
(8-375)one day to see the light, and am too much personally  
(8-375)interested not to expect that period with impatience.

(8-375)I had a letter from Gifford some time since, by which  
(8-375)I perceive with regret he renounces further management  
(8-375)of the Quarterly. I scarce guess what can be done by  
(8-375)Murray in that matter, unless he could prevail on you to  
(8-375)take the charge. No work of the kind can make progress  
(8-375)(though it may be kept afloat) under a mere bookselling  
(8-375)management. And the difficulty of getting a person with  
(8-375)sufficient independence of spirit, accuracy of judgement,  
(8-375)and extent of knowlege, to exercise the profession of  
(8-375)Aristarch, seems very great. Yet I have been so long  
(8-375)out of the London circles that new stars may have arisen,  
(8-375)and set too for aught I know, since I was occasionally  
(8-375)within the hemisphere.

(8-375)The King of France's death, with which one would  
(8-375)think I had wondrous little to do, has produced to me  
(8-375)the great disappointment of preventing Canning's visit.  
(8-375)He had promised to spend two or three days at Abbotsford  
(8-375)on his road to Edinburgh.<sup>2</sup> And it is the more provoking,  
(8-375)as I dare say, after all, there is no farther occasion for his  
(8-375)being at his post than arises from matter of mere form,

(8-376)since I suppose there is no reason to think that Charles X.  
 (8-376)will change the line of policy adopted by his brother.  
 (8-376)I remember him in Edinburgh about 1794, one of the  
 (8-376)most elegant men in address and exterior whom I ever  
 (8-376)saw. Strange times we have lived in! I am speaking  
 (8-376)of Charles X. as a Frenchman of 1661 might have spoken  
 (8-376)of Charles II. By the way, did you ever observe how  
 (8-376)easy it would be for a good historian to run a par[a]lell  
 (8-376)betwixt the Great Rebellion and the French Revolution,  
 (8-376)just substituting the spirit of fanaticism for that of soi  
 (8-376)disant philosophy. But then how the character of the  
 (8-376)English would rise whether you considered the talents  
 (8-376)and views of the great leaders on either side, or the  
 (8-376)comparative moderation and humanity with which they  
 (8-376)waged their warfare. I sometimes think an instructive  
 (8-376)comparative view might be made out, and it would afford  
 (8-376)a comfortable augury that the restoration in either case  
 (8-376)was followd by many amendments in the constitution.  
 (8-376)I hope Louis Baboon will not carry the matter so far as  
 (8-376)to require completing the paralell by a revolution but  
 (8-376)it would be very singular if the devotion of this King to  
 (8-376)the Catholic priests and forms should occasion such a  
 (8-376)catastrophe. Heber has promised to come down here,  
 (8-376)and if so, I will perhaps return with him as far as Rokeby, 1

(8-377)and, if we can, take Keswick on our way, were it but to see  
 (8-377)you for an hour. All this, however, is speculation. I am  
 (8-377)just sending off my younger son to Oxford. My eldest  
 (8-377)is an officer in [the] 15th Hussars, and I believe will soon  
 (8-377)get that object of every young officer's ambition, a troop,  
 (8-377)which would be great luck.-Believe me, dear Southey,  
 (8-377)always most truly yours,

(8-377)WALTER SCOTT

(8-377)BOWHILL 26 Sept. [1824]

[Owen D. Young and Lockhart]

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TO RICHARD HEBER

(8-378)MY DEAR HEBER,-I hasten to answer your kind token  
(8-378)of remembrance. Charles with his friend Surtees sets  
(8-378)off on 1st. October towards Oxford being to take a weeks  
(8-378)residence by the way at Dr Philpots in the Bishoprick.1  
(8-378)A thousand trifling engagements very like the ties which  
(8-378)kept down Gulliver each trifling in amount but irresistibly  
(8-378)compulsive in the aggregate prevent my purpose of going  
(8-378)south which I have therefor[e] postponed till Spring.  
(8-378)But if you will as you have long promised come to this  
(8-378)place I will convey you back again as far as Mauretania 2  
(8-378)which the moderns call Rokeby and that I think is a  
(8-378)pretty fair division of Labour.

(8-378)Lady S. begs a thousand kind compliments and will  
(8-378)rejoice to see you once more under her roof. Yours ever

(8-378)ABBOTSFORD 26 September [1824]      WALTER SCOTT

(8-378)12 November will carry me to Edinr necessarily.  
[Cholmondeley]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(8-378)MY DEAR WALTER,-I would have written long since  
(8-378)but time has worn away without bringing any thing much  
(8-378)worth writing about. I went for a day or two to

(8-378)Drumlanrigg as I proposed and now the little Duke is coming  
(8-378)down here. He dines with us today and abides all night.  
(8-378)Charles after a good deal of hard thumping at black  
(8-378)game and partridges is now about to leave us in order to  
(8-378)thump his greek and latin I trust to some purpose. He  
(8-378)has been rather successful in shooting bringing home I  
(8-378)think fully more than you used to do. I have cause[d]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-379)sow turnips on all the back of the drains besides  
(8-379)leaving out some patches of corn to encourage the game  
(8-379)which really seems to promise to be very plenty around us.  
(8-379)From what you write there is some doubt whether the  
(8-379)troop and the Ionian scheme be compatible : when I  
(8-379)have an opportunity or rather when you have gone  
(8-379)through your examination I will make enquiry on this  
(8-379)point at Head quarters. Meantime you will do wisely  
(8-379)to keep your own counsel. I will endeavour to be  
(8-379)prepared but the payment of 2000 odd pounds would be as  
(8-379)convenient for me some months hence as just now. I  
(8-379)would not therefore push an opportunity. Should one  
(8-379)offer the case is different. A young officer named  
(8-379)Carpenter (connected with Lord Tyrconnel) calld here  
(8-379)an old 15th man. He expressd some surprize at your  
(8-379)having been permitted to remain at Sandhurst. He was  
(8-379)very civil and offerd letters to some of the officers which  
(8-379)I said I would trouble him for when you should join. I  
(8-379)will expect you at all events at Xmas when we can arrange  
(8-379)further proceedings. I suspect some time service with  
(8-379)your regiment will be necessary before you can get off  
(8-379)to Greece. I am vilely afflicted with almost total deafness  
(8-379)in my left ear the infirmity came on very suddenly and  
(8-379)I hope will leave me with the same want of ceremony.  
(8-379)In the mean time it is very awkward for I am obliged to  
(8-379)bring round my right ear to every one that talks to me on

(8-379)the leftside. We have been harassd with company. Lady  
(8-379)Alvanley with two daught[er]s Mrs Maclean Clephane  
(8-379)with three and atop of all Mrs Coutts and suite which was  
(8-379)rather too much of a good thing. Believe me dear Walter  
(8-379)always very much your affectionate father

(8-379)ABBOTSFORD 28 Sept. [1824] (1)                      WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

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TO ROBERT SHORTREED, SHERIFF SUBSTITUTE, JEDBURGH

(8-380)MY DEAR SIR,-I received your letter and after much  
(8-380)consideration I am unfeignedly sorry to reply that I fear  
(8-380)there is little chance of my being useful at present in  
(8-380)procuring any India appointment. I was last year  
(8-380)instrumental in getting one for Peter Meek 1 and this  
(8-380)season I have been busy soliciting hitherto without success  
(8-380)a cadetship for my son-in-law's brother Richd. Lockhart  
(8-380)and besides that I cannot well make any other application  
(8-380)untill he is provided for I doubt I will be considered  
(8-380)even when that is the case as having overdrawn my  
(8-380)Indian credit for some time at least. I bethought myself  
(8-380)whether any thing could be done with the Board of  
(8-380)Controul but as that is now managed entirely by the  
(8-380)Wynnes with whom I have little acquaintance and who are  
(8-380)of course beset by Welch friends I have no hope of being  
(8-380)attended to. I spoke to Lord Montagu on the subject  
(8-380)but he is naturally unwilling by asking favours at this  
(8-380)moment to lay his Nephew under any peculiar or personal  
(8-380)obligations which might fetter him when he comes to act  
(8-380)for himself. I do not therefore see any chance at present  
(8-380)of my being able to assist you and I can only add that I  
(8-380)will be heartily glad if any thing (which I have no reason

(8-380)however to expect) should in the course of the winter put  
(8-380)it in my power.

(8-380)The Duke of Bedford has expressed a great wish to  
(8-380)get a copy of the Epitaph of Sir Thos Ker of Fairnihurst,  
(8-380)who is buried in the family vault at Jedburgh-  
(8-380)he died about 1585 or a year or two after.<sup>2</sup> The

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(8-381)inscription was legible when I was in the vault about  
(8-381)twenty years ago but is perhaps now decayed. If Tom  
(8-381)be in the way and restored to health I will beg the  
(8-381)kindness of him to copy the inscription which will be a job  
(8-381)after his own heart-I hope Pitcaithly has done him good.  
(8-381)You or he may be able to tell me where there occurs on  
(8-381)the English middle border a place called Oswyne middle  
(8-381)and near it on the Scottish side another place termed  
(8-381)Hexgate Pathhead. I can find neither in any map. . . .  
(8-381)Very Sincerely Yours  
WALTER SCOTT

(8-381)ABBOTSFORD 29th Sept [1824]

[Abbotsford Copies]

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TO WILLIAM RIDDELL,<sup>1</sup> OF CAMIESTON, CAVERS

(8-382)DEAR SIR,-Accept my best thanks for the very curious  
(8-382)collection of charters and seals which you have done me  
(8-382)the honor to transfer to my bookshelves. I shall set a  
(8-382)very high value on it both on account of the curiosity of  
(8-382)the collection & the kindness of the donor. I am very  
(8-382)truly Dear Sir Your obliged & humble Servt.

(8-382)WALTER SCOTT

(8-382)ABBOTSFORD Friday [Oct. 1824]

[Riddell Carre]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[ABBOTSFORD, October 1824]

(8-382)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,- Your philosophical friends  
(8-382)or friends' friends 2 arrived safe at Abbotsford and of  
(8-382)course were received as we would receive every friend  
(8-382)of yours. As the Gods have not made me philosophical  
(8-382)I was happy to invoke the assistance of my neighbour Dr.  
(8-382)Brewster an excellent fellow who talked geology and  
(8-382)mineralogy and all other ologies with them to their heart's  
(8-382)content. I have no doubt you have heard all this from

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(8-383)their own mouth as they left this with the purpose of  
(8-383)going to the Giants causeway and from thence to  
(8-383)Edgeworthstown. They seem to be amiable and intelligent  
(8-383)young men.

(8-383)We had as the innkeepers say a good deal of company  
(8-383)this season the worst of which was that too many came  
(8-383)at once and made less comfortable cheer than I could have  
(8-383)wished. The tide of English tourists seems now to have  
(8-383)abated and I see few but country neighbours. We have  
(8-383)been deprived of a visit from your distinguished  
(8-383)countryman and my old friend Mr. Canning. He had proposed  
(8-383)to be with us for two or three days on his proposed tour  
(8-383)through Scotland when behold poor old Louis l'inevitable  
(8-383)meets with Death a personage still more inevitable than

(8-383)himself and so ended my hopes of a good days laughing  
(8-383)with a Secretary of State after the manner of Auld  
(8-383)lang Syne.

(8-383)To mend this disappointment I have got so deaf in one  
(8-383)ear that I do not believe even Mr. Canning's sharpest  
(8-383)jests would pierce the organ. The affection came so  
(8-383)suddenly that I am told it will depart with as little  
(8-383)ceremony. Meantime I have to turn my head like a Mandarin  
(8-383)when any one speaks to me so as to get the organ  
(8-383)which still performs its duty within the line of conversation.  
(8-383)All the rest of our little household are as well as our  
(8-383)kind Irish friends could wish. Sophia is getting stout and  
(8-383)healthy which inferreth that little Johnie is getting stout  
(8-383)and healthy also for their good or indifferent health seems  
(8-383)to depend most regularly on each other. We have been  
(8-383)inundated by friends 1 all or most of whom were such as

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(8-384)are most welcome because they came to renew old  
(8-384)friendships. Such were Lady Alvanley and her two daughters  
(8-384)whom I had passed many a merry day with in Paris and  
(8-384)my friend and ward Lady Compton with her mother  
(8-384)sisters and children. On the back of this came the  
(8-384)Mistress of millions Mrs. Thomas Coutts whom I would  
(8-384)gladly have seen at some other time when I could have  
(8-384)made her Lady of the ascendant for her husband a relation  
(8-384)of my father had been at all times kind and liberal to me  
(8-384)in some dealings which I had with him. However I  
(8-384)could not help the matter so I een let rank and wealth  
(8-384)fight it out their own way. Then we had Leslie an artist  
(8-384)of great eminence to whom I had promised to sit for my  
(8-384)picture-a promise which he made me fulfil to the letter  
(8-384)so that I was as much tired of my chair as ever was  
(8-384)Speaker of the House of Commons.



(8-384)Your Irish Oratrix seems to have been a most  
(8-384)extraordinary personage. I wonder how green Erin comes  
(8-384)by that profusion of elegant expression which never leaves  
(8-384)them dry whether in mirth or in sorrow and differs so  
(8-384)much from the dry sarcastic shrewdness of the Scot and  
(8-384)the downright Bullishness of John Bull.<sup>1</sup> The Irish one  
(8-384)would think should at least have something akin to the  
(8-384)highlander who is decidedly of the same nation and speaks  
(8-384)the same language. Yet the highlander unless when his  
(8-384)spirits are roused by bodily exercise is a grave proud stiff  
(8-384)animal his language sometimes poetical but never by any

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(8-385)chance humorous and his demeanour often polite and  
(8-385)obliging but never intimating any sense or expression of  
(8-385)humour. Who can solve this difficulty if you cannot.

(8-385)Mrs. Fox will now have got accustomed to the novelty  
(8-385)of being called Mrs. Fox and must be in quiet possession  
(8-385)and exercise of all the privileges and authorities of  
(8-385)matrimony. I remember my wifes great plague for a  
(8-385)long time was the necessity of ordering dinner and divers  
(8-385)embarrassments about the geese and turkies of which she  
(8-385)used to complain heavily. Pray remember us both kindly  
(8-385)to her and to Miss Harriet. Would you think of Scotland  
(8-385)next year-if we could ensure such a season as the last  
(8-385)it would be truly enchanting. Anne sends kind love and  
(8-385)respects. Little Spice has got quite well again notwithstanding  
(8-385)Miss Harriets ominous dream.<sup>1</sup> She has the grace  
(8-385)to send a letter to Miss Harriet which I have the pleasure  
(8-385)to inclose. Always most respectfully and truly yours  
(8-385)[Butler]

WALTER SCOTT

TO DAVID LAING

(8-385)MY DEAR SIR,-I send you according to your desire a  
(8-385)few lines of Introduction to Elder.<sup>3</sup> I have said that his  
(8-385)Plot or Description of Scotland is not known to exist. Am  
(8-385)I accurate in this

(8-385)To the Conference I have added a few notes explaining  
(8-385)or trying to explain two or three words which are not in

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(8-386)Jameson or are used in a different sense. In this respect  
(8-386)the tract is worthy our reverend freinds attention. I  
(8-386)wonder if he can make ought of Strotchard. There [are]  
(8-386)some good brief notes on the persons of the Conference.  
(8-386)I hope they are not to be withdrawn.

(8-386)The Lays of the Lindsays have been recalld & cancelld.  
(8-386)Lady Hardwicke 1 having taken fright at the idea of  
(8-386)appearing in a printed though unpublishd shape. We  
(8-386)are however to have Auld Robin by himself and I wish  
(8-386)you would speak to Mr. Lizars about engraving on my  
(8-386)account the inclosed frontispiece drawn by Mr. Kirkpatricke  
(8-386)Sharpe & let me know the damage when you write again.

(8-386)I am glad you think of Sir Graysteel 2 which from whatever  
(8-386)reason has been at one time very popular in Scotland.  
(8-386)It puts me in mind of poor David Herd to whom we  
(8-386)used to give that chivalrous title.<sup>3</sup> How he would have  
(8-386)de[lighted] to have seen the present days.

(8-386)My eyes are so indifferent & my hand become so  
(8-386)cramp[ed] that I fear I must trouble you for a revise-  
(8-386)for to be inaccurate would be the very devil. I hope you  
(8-386)will excuse my numerous additions but things do not  
(8-386)occur to one all at once in such cases.



(8-388)I shall despatch this by a capable frank having only to  
(8-388)apologize [for] its length of arrival by informing you  
(8-388)I have [been] absent in Dumfriesshire for some time  
(8-388)waiting on my young Chief like a faithful clansman.  
(8-388)I am always most faithfully yours

(8-388)WALTER SCOTT

(8-388)4 October [1824] ABBOTSFORD

[Partington]

To MRS. HUGHES

(8-388)DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-I answer your kind letter 1  
(8-388)immediately not only to express my best-very best thanks

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(8-389)for all its contents but also that you may not remain  
(8-389)under the least doubt as to Broster. He is so far an  
(8-389)empiric that he has not been regularly educated to  
(8-389)medical practice being bred a bookseller at Chester.  
(8-389)But his powers of removing hesitation or rather his skill  
(8-389)in instructing persons how to avoid or subdue that painful  
(8-389)nervous affection are certainly wonderful. I have not  
(8-389)seen Lady Morton since he attended her but learn on all  
(8-389)hands that she is not like the same person in society. Her  
(8-389)hesitation was of a peculiar kind for she stop'd dead short  
(8-389)without any of those unpleasing attempts at pronouncing  
(8-389)the Shibboleth which generally accompanies hesitation  
(8-389)of speech. And there you stood or sate listening not  
(8-389)well knowing whether the speech had come to a natural  
(8-389)or violent conclusion. I am informed she now speaks  
(8-389)forward right like any other person. A Major Stisted 1

(8-389)of the Royal Dragoons who was inspecting our yeomanry  
(8-389)here the other day told me he had been under Mr.  
(8-389)Broster's care for a very embarrassing hesitation which  
(8-389)interfered a good deal with his giving the word of  
(8-389)command making reports etc. in the course of his profession.  
(8-389)I could scarce believe him so absolutely had all  
(8-389)appearances of the kind disappeared. Only watching  
(8-389)him very closely I saw when he was about to address the  
(8-389)Yeomanry a momentary embarrassment which instantly  
(8-389)passed off & would have been totally unnoticeable by  
(8-389)any one who was not watching very close. So much for  
(8-389)the feats of Mr. Broster whom I would certainly consult  
(8-389)if I had occasion. There can be no danger of harm to the

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(8-390)person for his instructions are not accompanied by drugs  
(8-390)or operations or to the purse for like those who cure  
(8-390)smoky chimnies he proceeds on the principle of no cure  
(8-390)no pay.

(8-390)I am ashamed to rob you of Lord Falkland 1 who besides  
(8-390)the very great value which every lover of Clarendon's  
(8-390)history must set upon his character and talents [seems to]  
(8-390)have been happy in an artist probably Oliver to convey his  
(8-390)features to posterity. It is absolutely a sin to accept so  
(8-390)valuable a present but then it would be an act of the most severe  
(8-390)self denial to decline and I fear we are seldom long in  
(8-390)hesitating when the choise is betwixt sinning & suffering.  
(8-390)I once published a very few copies of poems written during  
(8-390)the civil war by Patrick Carey a Catholic priest whom I  
(8-390)afterwards discovered to have been a brother of Lord  
(8-390)Falkland.2 I think I have two copies left and will beg  
(8-390)your acceptance of one by the first safe opportunity.

(8-390)Sophia poor soul has kept her bed for near a week

(8-390)dangerously ill at first with an inflammable complaint  
(8-390)which has of late been fearfully frequent. Luckily we  
(8-390)had near timely and skilfull medical help so that with  
(8-390)bleeding & care she is now better but still couchante as a  
(8-390)herald would say but I trust will soon be able to do honour  
(8-390)to the Stones which I think much improved by the  
(8-390)additions which Mr. Hughes has made to the ancient  
(8-390)fabric.<sup>3</sup> There is a John Bullishness about the whole <sup>4</sup> a  
(8-390)dogged honesty & stubbornness of good sense which make

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(8-391)honest George Ridler out to be a pattern of old English  
(8-391)Yeomanry.<sup>1</sup> We laughed till we were like to die at the  
(8-391)primitive display of Mr. and Mrs. Bull in the one horse  
(8-391)chay.<sup>2</sup> I give the bathers infinite credit for their address  
(8-391)in contriving so effectual a punishment for interlopers.  
(8-391)Many a man has been strip'd for being himself flog'd but  
(8-391)the situation of the honest Citizen must have been superb  
(8-391)while reserving the nakedness for his own part of the show  
(8-391)he transferred the flagellation to the back of old Nobbs.

(8-391)Leaving off the vagaries of this second Adam & Eve in  
(8-391)a tim-whisky I must tell you that I have had another  
(8-391)disappointment in an expected visitor of eminence. This  
(8-391)was no less than Canning who proposed rubbing up an  
(8-391)old acquaintance by a visit at Abbotsford when pop dies  
(8-391)yon old Louis le desire and Mr. Secretary of State must  
(8-391)go to his office to forward addresses of condolence and  
(8-391)congratulation and renew the bands of amity between  
(8-391)John Bull and Louis Baboon.

(8-391)I recollected the passage in Dr. Plott as I read it.<sup>3</sup> But  
(8-391)upon what authority comes the explanation-a very  
(8-391)natural and probable one and a sign that old Noll's saints

(8-392)were not quite so confident in their superiority to Satan  
 (8-392)as their gifted pretensions would have made one suppose.  
 (8-392)I think you mentiond there was some old pamphlet  
 (8-392)giving an account of the stratagem-I did not get the  
 (8-392)drawing of poor John Leyden 1 but I remember Heber  
 (8-392)saying he had got it for me but somehow he forgot to  
 (8-392)send it or it was mislaid. I will be much flattered  
 (8-392)by Mr. Berens letting me have a copy of it. I  
 (8-392)remember well sitting to him and Heber reading Milton  
 (8-392)all the while-Since that time my block has been traced  
 (8-392)by many a brush of eminence and at this very now while  
 (8-392)I am writing to you Mr. Landseer who has drawn every  
 (8-392)dog in the House but myself is at work upon me under all  
 (8-392)the disadvantages which my employment puts him to.  
 (8-392)He has drawn old Maida in particular with much spirit  
 (8-392)indeed and it is odd enough that though I sincerely wish  
 (8-392)old Mai had been younger I never thought of wishing the  
 (8-392)same advantage for myself. I am much obliged by Mr.  
 (8-392)Hughes' kind intentions in favour of Charles who will be  
 (8-392)at Brazen Nose at the term. My kindest Compliments  
 (8-392)attend the excellent Doctor & I am always Dear Madam,  
 (8-392)Your truly obliged & faithful WALTER SCOTT  
 (8-392)October 6 1824

(8-392)We will hear of Pallas & her travelling companions in  
 (8-392)due time & I will advise you of their arrival.<sup>2</sup>

[Heffer and Wells]

TO THE REV. R. POLWHELE, NEWLYN VICARAGE

(8-393)ABBOTSFORD, 6 Oct. [1824]<sup>1</sup>

(8-393)DEAR SIR,-I return the enclosed, and can have no  
(8-393)possible objection to your disposing of them as you  
(8-393)please. I would, however, submit to you that the greater  
(8-393)part of them are too frivolous to interest the public ; and  
(8-393)I hope you will be so good as to mention that I have  
(8-393)consented to your wish merely because it was your wish,  
(8-393)and without any idea on my part, that what was written  
(8-393)for your own eye deserved a more extensive circulation.  
(8-393)I am, with best wishes, always, dear Sir, very truly yours,

(8-393)WALTER SCOTT  
[Letters of Sir Walter Scott, 1832]

TO ALARIC WATTS,2 PARK SQUARE, LEEDS, YORKSHIRE

(8-393)SIR,-I have to make you many apologies for not  
(8-393)mor[e] early acknowleging your very obliging & acceptable  
(8-393)present of your poetical volume. I was very long

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(8-394)of receiving the first copy which your kindness designd  
(8-394)me and only got the second a few days since as it was  
(8-394)lying at my house in Edinburgh with which I have little  
(8-394)connection while residing at this place. The acknowledgement  
(8-394)of your first kindness to speak truth I had  
(8-394)procrastinated till my thanks could no longer have had  
(8-394)a graceful appearance and I really became ashamed of  
(8-394)intruding them on you so long after they were due. Your  
(8-394)continued attention has given me an opportunity of  
(8-394)thanking you for both copies with a better grace than I  
(8-394)deserve and at the same time expressing the pleasure  
(8-394)I have received from your poems. I am very happy to  
(8-394)see that the taste of the public has calld for a second &  
(8-394)ornamented edition. This is no small tribute to the



(8-394)merits of an author at a period when good poetry has  
(8-394)really become so general that whatever is not peculiarly  
(8-394)marked by excellence is sure to fall into neglect. I have  
(8-394)therefore to wish you joy of having obtained the attention  
(8-394)which is not always conferred upon desert. And begging  
(8-394)you once more to excuse my irregularities as a correspondent  
(8-394)I am very much Your most obedt. & obliging  
(8-394)Servant  
WALTER SCOTT

(8-394)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 12 October [1824]

(8-394)I am not accustomed to lay any weight on my own  
(8-394)judgement in poetical matters but I cannot help saying

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(8-395)that in my opinion the elegance both of expression &  
(8-395)conception in your poetry entitles it to rank very highly.<sup>1</sup>

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

(8-395)15 October 1824

(8-395)YOUR most acceptable packet my dear friend arrived  
(8-395)yesterday and as it contains much that is highly interesting  
(8-395)to me I answer it instantly and begin with that which  
(8-395)is most so. Pray go on with the Travellers-it cannot  
(8-395)but be delicious. Washington Irving has touched the  
(8-395)subject but I think not quite in his happiest manner-  
(8-395)at any rate a great part of what you will render most  
(8-395)entertaining is quite out of his way for his very quaint  
(8-395)and clever sketches border upon extravagance-at any  
(8-395)rate (for I love both the man and his works) they do not  
(8-395)go deeply into human character. So the field is free and

(8-395)John Bally is so uncommonly diverting in his travelling  
(8-395)frolics that he will furnish you with a rich variety of  
(8-395)matter. Will Clarke, whom you saw in Castle Street,  
(8-395)gave me an instance which I dare say you may make  
(8-395)your own use of. He fell in among other oddities of that  
(8-395)class with a certain London Cockney whom he nicknamed  
(8-395)Brother Martin, and who in the true spirit of stock-  
(8-395)jobbing, directed the course of his travels not by what was  
(8-395)best or most convenient far less by the course that was  
(8-395)most interesting but by the state of exchange with  
(8-395)England. Wherever the rate rose in favour of England  
(8-395)thither travelled Brother Martin, going off at a tangent

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(8-396)in the most extraordinary angles and making it his boast  
(8-396)that he supported his expenses entirely by following the  
(8-396)course of the Agio. Now this worthy had hooked himself  
(8-396)upon a party with an Italian antiquary-not a common  
(8-396)Cicerone but a gentleman of rank and education [who] had  
(8-396)undertaken to carry [them] to see the Pantheon, and to which  
(8-396)[party] Clarke belonged. The Italians, with little else left to  
(8-396)be proud of, are still proud of their works of ancient art, and  
(8-396)so their Conductor paused and showed a proper sense of  
(8-396)the dignity of the occasion, as he introduced them into  
(8-396)the immense Rotunda and said Ecco! there is the  
(8-396)Pantheon. All paid the proper tribut[e] of silent  
(8-396)admiration-all but Brother Martin who thrust his hands  
(8-396)into his breeches pockets and after looking round with  
(8-396)an air of the most critical impertinence and repeating the  
(8-396)interjections of " Ha ! Aye ! the pantheon-Umph ! the  
(8-396)Pantheon, O aye-the pantheon," concluded with, Pray  
(8-396)Senior did you ever see our pantheon in Oxford road.  
(8-396)Imagine the shame and horror of his countrymen.  
(8-396)Sudden death would have been too slight a punishment  
(8-396)for the vulgar dog-protracted and with tortures it might

(8-396)have been some petty expiation. Such are the frolics we  
(8-396)play in the face of Europe.

(8-396)I do not know what to say about my parental advice  
(8-396)to Lady Compton.<sup>1</sup> I think there could be no objection  
(8-396)provided no one knew the parties with whom it originated.  
(8-396)But my fear would be that if it were once to get abroad  
(8-396)there are many folks so extremely liberal that they would  
(8-396)identify all the diverting variations and additions with  
(8-396)which your fancy adorned the groundwork, and that  
(8-396)might be disagreeable to the Northampton family who are  
(8-396)matter of fact sort of aristocratical folks and as the

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(8-397)consequences of their taking any little affront however  
(8-397)causelessly might light on Lady Compton I think it will be as  
(8-397)well not to hazard it. If she were in Britain I would  
(8-397)consult her but she is on the continent at present and we  
(8-397)ought not to stir at least without her consent.

(8-397)I was really vexed about Lord Forbes's politeness  
(8-397)being so ungraciously requited,<sup>1</sup> but the truth is that  
(8-397)owing to some omission in the communication betwixt  
(8-397)Abbotsford and Castle St., I did not receive the card with  
(8-397)which he honoured me till a general gaol-delivery of all  
(8-397)parcels and letters at the latter place, when it arrived with  
(8-397)a whole lot of tradesmen's advertisements, intimations  
(8-397)of public meetings, petitions to the charitable, and other  
(8-397)affairs belonging to the twopenny post-bag, with which  
(8-397)the stupidity of our old housekeeper had most unworthily  
(8-397)associated it. The time assigned for Lord Forbes leaving  
(8-397)Edinburgh was long past and so Anne lost her opportunity  
(8-397)of returning Miss Harriet's shawl, and I, that of

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(8-398)begging to have the honour to see Lord Forbes here. In  
(8-398)fact during the time he was in Edinburgh I was constantly  
(8-398)on the point of renewing some acquaintance which I had  
(8-398)with his Lordship long since when Lord Hastings was  
(8-398)Commander in Chief in Scotland, and I had made two  
(8-398)appointments with a mutual friend for the purpose of  
(8-398)calling upon [him] both of which were prevented. I referd  
(8-398)myself then to the chance of our meeting in society, for  
(8-398)I have a great reluctance to imitate the intrusive  
(8-398)hospitality of my fellow citizens of the Northern Awthens who  
(8-398)perpetually intrude their persons and their parties (like  
(8-398)my darling Mrs O'Rafferty) upon any man of distinction  
(8-398)who comes among them. I am always ashamed of this  
(8-398)and feel as I did the other morning when Reynard passed  
(8-398)with Mr Baillie's hounds after him, much less inclined  
(8-398)to "join in the loud talliho " than to commiserate the  
(8-398)object of the chase. As I have every respect to Lord  
(8-398)Forbes for many different reasons, may I request you will  
(8-398)express to him my sincere regret for not having seen him,  
(8-398)and my sorrow for the unlucky circumstances which made  
(8-398)me appear thankless to his courtesy. I intended to have  
(8-398)mentioned this affair at the end of my last letter but it  
(8-398)escaped me, for which I am very sorry as I wish my  
(8-398)excuse had anticipated Lord Forbes's complaints. I have  
(8-398)been always particularly intimate with the Forbeses from  
(8-398)my infancy, since the excellent old Lord (Scottish Lord  
(8-398)I mean) with his wife and most of his family used weekly  
(8-398)to dine at my father's always of a Sunday, and on the  
(8-398)same bill of fare, which would now be thought a curious  
(8-398)one to invite a nobleman to. In the first place there was  
(8-398)sheep's head broth, and said sheep's head itself, the reason  
(8-398)being that the sheep's head, which requires much boiling,  
(8-398)was put on the night before and the dressing of the  
(8-398)beef-steaks occupied the least possible time, and thus the  
(8-398)necessity of employing servants on the Sabbath-day was

(8-398)diminished as much as possible. Then there was a bottle  
(8-398)or two of special wine, which no wine-merchant had

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(8-399)fitted for the market, and there was a sermon read,  
(8-399)during which one part of the children were sleeping and  
(8-399)the other pinching and kicking them to make them keep  
(8-399)awake. And there is an old Presbyterian Sabbath for  
(8-399)you in Edinburgh.

(8-399)The beautiful inkstand arrived safe and I know not  
(8-399)by what exertion of successful conjecture the name  
(8-399)of the kind fairy who bestowed it was already a  
(8-399)certainty. There was a great contest where it should be  
(8-399)placed as I gave the vote for my own study and Lady  
(8-399)Scott stood out for the drawing room. At present it  
(8-399)is on the chimney piece of the parlour as a sort of neutral  
(8-399)ground. It is singular that the inkstand dish of Petrarch  
(8-399)should have such a resemblance to that of Ariosto-only  
(8-399)as Ariosto never told his lady-love's name, his Cupid is  
(8-399)prettily represented with his finger on his lip. Petrarch  
(8-399)might have as well been silent on the subject too, for all  
(8-399)he has said about the matter has left commentators to  
(8-399)battle who Laura was, and strange to tell whether there  
(8-399)was any Laura at all in the case. The cast of his ink stand  
(8-399)is extremely beautiful.

(8-399)I am much flattered by your ingenuous young friend, I  
(8-399)who falling into the general error of charging me with  
(8-399)offences not my own has not only forgiven but rewarded

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(8-400)them. I do not envy youth their strength of limbs or  
(8-400)their powers of mental and bodily labour, but I do look

(8-400)with some feeling of regret on that elasticity of mind  
(8-400)which can be delighted and rendered enthusiastic upon  
(8-400)matters of taste and literature, and I hope Miss Harriet's  
(8-400)correspondent who seems as warm hearted as he is  
(8-400)ingenuous will long enjoy such feelings and the power of  
(8-400)expressing them in appropriate and picturesque language.

(8-400)Now for a grand mischance-I will be very angry if  
(8-400)you laugh at it. A certain most respectable gentleman 1  
(8-400)and man of letters who wrought thirty years since a poem  
(8-400)which gained him considerable reputation, partly owing  
(8-400)to its real merits, partly to the dearth of poetical talent  
(8-400)at the time, has ever since been trying by a number of  
(8-400)hops skips and jumps to equal his great leap at Rhodes, or  
(8-400)as Horace [says] to raise himself from the ground and into  
(8-400)notoriety 2 by any means whatsoever, but hitherto without  
(8-400)the least success. Several of these things he sent to me,  
(8-400)and one he inscribed to me. I sent the necessary civilities  
(8-400)in return and thought it was all over. But he has recourse  
(8-400)to what may be called the Author's last stake and is  
(8-400)coming out with a history of his life and times and begs  
(8-400)(the Lord preserve us) permission to publish my letters.  
(8-400)I remembered nothing of what I had written to him ten

(8-401)or twelve years ago and as he had intimated he would  
(8-401)take silence for consent I was obliged to speak out and  
(8-401)request to see what I had written-And to be sure my own  
(8-401)epistles are sent to me wherein there are only apologies  
(8-401)for not writing and thanks for his various favours and  
(8-401)(what must have [been] the origin of his wish to lay this  
(8-401)trash before the public) my disproportioned commendations  
(8-401)of his effusions and particularly of my god-child  
(8-401)the poetical romance or romantic poem. Now to say  
(8-401)the truth I never even looked at the poem and my

(8-401)commendations were as much upon trust as those of the  
(8-401)purblind old lady at the Christening, who when a salver  
(8-401)of cake was handed round took it for the child and paid  
(8-401)her compliments with " dear sweet little thing mighty like  
(8-401)its papa." And now is this old goose instead of eating his  
(8-401)sweetmeat quietly at home come out in a slobbering bib  
(8-401)and tucker and mounted a stage to eat it in the public  
(8-401)eye-while little Jack Horner " sate in the corner," I  
(8-401)observed, that is, a decent reserve when he gobbled up his  
(8-401)Christmas cheer and cried in self-applause " how good a  
(8-401)boy am I." No excuse will serve so instead of trying what  
(8-401)reason would do with him I must een let the honest man  
(8-401)go the vole 2 and play his cards in his own way, which I  
(8-401)have been fool enough to put into his hand-this is worse  
(8-401)than sitting for ones picture. There is no print from  
(8-401)Leslie's picture-it goes to America.

(8-401)Again to the publication-I have no idea you can  
(8-401)publish anonymously-your stile is so very well known  
(8-401)and so inimitable-and then your respectable and willing  
(8-401)publisher does not I think make many experiments upon  
(8-401)the public taste. I think you will be detected at once  
(8-401)and then you will have sacrificed the great advantage of  
(8-401)your name to no good purpose. The advantage is very  
(8-401)great whether considered commercially or [from] a

(8-402)literary point of view, for the magic impress M. E.  
(8-402)dispenses a whole edition to the public at once and criticism  
(8-402)however malignant comes halting after and tells its tale  
(8-402)of misrepresentation and depreciation to those who have  
(8-402)judged already for themselves, whereas they sometimes  
(8-402)get the start of an anonymous publication and take the  
(8-402)wind out of its sails ere it gets fairly afloat.

(8-402)Our domestic concerns are but so and so. Sophia has  
(8-402)had a terribly wasting attack of her old bilious [complaint]  
(8-402)luckily the child has kept remarkably well. We all  
(8-402)go to Chiefswood to-day to dinner, and to-morrow they  
(8-402)come to the Hall House for (I hope) the remainder of our  
(8-402)autumn vacation. When weather turns chilly and nights  
(8-402)long, it is best to follow the example of the black-cocks,  
(8-402)who always pack together in October.

(8-402)All our loves attend you and Miss Harriet, and I trust  
(8-402)they will bear water carriage even if you send them across  
(8-402)the sea to Mrs Fox. If you are bent on your anonymous  
(8-402)plan you may rely on any action or assistance I can offer  
(8-402)and above all on my keeping your counsel. But it will  
(8-402)be impossible for you long to maintain your Incognita.

(8-402)Adieu my dogs are impatient to see me take my  
(8-402)pilgrim's staff, and the sun is smiling fairly though the  
(8-402)snow lies sprinkled on the glens. Who cares for snow  
(8-402)So yelp not, Ginger and Spice, and keep out of the way  
(8-402)of that which is hotter than yourselves, the hot sealing-wax  
(8-402)which I will presently make use of. Little Spice is quite  
(8-402)recovered but as yet only a quadruped-I cannot forget  
(8-402)Miss Harriet's dream.

(8-402)By the way I dare [say] you know where my coz Peggie  
(8-402)Dallas, by marriage Lady Foulis,<sup>1</sup> may be found and I

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(8-403)[would] be greatly obliged by your forwarding the  
(8-403)inclosed as I will get a frank from Freeling or Croker to  
(8-403)cover the whole kitt. Always yours

(8-403)WALTER SCOTT

(8-403)ABBOTSFORD 15 October [1824](1)



[Butler and Familiar Letters]

TO DAVID LAING

(8-403)MY DEAR MR DAVID,-You are obliged (if it be an  
(8-403)obligation) to a rainy day for a few notes on the proofs  
(8-403)which I now return. You mention the Earl of Gowrie's  
(8-403)death but it should take precedence of the Mr 2 of Grays  
(8-403)narrative. He was beheaded in 1584 and the Raid of  
(8-403)Stirling took place the year after. I have made one or  
(8-403)two errata on the text p. 23 Towhill twice repeated Lege  
(8-403)meo periculo Cowhill a celebrated name among the Maxwells:  
(8-403)p. 42 Reneil read Keneil in Linlithgowshire a seat  
(8-403)of the Hamiltons which Arran usurped, p. 44 you will  
(8-403)see some punctuation corrected.

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(8-404)There are two or three Galloway places which I cannot  
(8-404)ascertain though I have glanced over [ ] Simsons book &  
(8-404)(8-404)lookd at the map. These are Barbarasle,1 Dawherne,  
(8-404)Makneth. If the following be the name of a man not a  
(8-404)place which the sense will bear it might be MacNaught a  
(8-404)common name in Galloway.

(8-404)Quere. What is the meaning of a Common-Cluner-the  
(8-404)word is not in Jamieson & it is new to me-it occurs p. 17.

(8-404)I will be very glad to have Mr Lizars set about the  
(8-404)engraving with all dispatch.

(8-404)The notes now added or replaced to the Conference are  
(8-404)I think much to the purpose. These little sketches  
(8-404)should be accompanied by whatever is necessary to make  
(8-404)them easily understood or point out their connection with

(8-404)general history.

(8-404)Adieu dear Mr Secretary and as Ophelia says God be

(8-404)with your labour. I remain Very truly yours

(8-404)WALTER SCOTT

(8-404)ABBOTSFORD friday [late October 1824](2)

[Edin. Univ. Lib.]

TO CHARLES ERSKINE

(8-404)MY DEAR CHARLES,-I enclose Mr Ushers 200,, and

(8-404)beg Mr Curl to favour me with a [sight] of the balance

(8-404)due.

(8-404)I trust this will find you so far recovered that you may

(8-404)venture to the Hunt or at least to the dinner on Monday

(8-404)25th inst. You shall eat & drink as you please. I

(8-404)enclose a note for Mr Usher & Mr Curl. Pray get the

(8-404)former forwarded & beg him to bring dogs as they may be

(8-404)scarce. Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

(8-404)ABBOTSFORD 18 October [1824]

[Curle]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-405)MY DEAR JAMES,-It was very attentive & kind to send

(8-405)me the melancholy particulars of Constables unhappy

(8-405)affair. I should have been both surprised and shocked had

(8-405)I heard of them accidentally. It is a sad thing that our

(8-405)irritability should increase as age and infirmity render

(8-405)our judgement & power of selfrestraint less strong. I  
(8-405)think it probable they may come together again as she  
(8-405)has very young children from which women are not easily  
(8-405)torn. Pray let me know what you hear.

(8-405)I send proofs & copy-the last written by driblets as I  
(8-405)can catch a moment-but all our friends are now off  
(8-405)today & tomorrow & I shall work hard.

(8-405)About finance matters I should at another time have  
(8-405)proposed to Mr Cadell to contract for a new affair. I  
(8-405)would propose however at present that he should make  
(8-405)the same arrangement as on the former occasion we  
(8-405)taking up the bills when due 3000 or thereabout is thus  
(8-405)levied with ease and credit You can adjust this with Mr  
(8-405)Caddell & let me know when you have done so.

(8-405)For december I think as I am rather behind with my  
(8-405)pen I had better ease these affairs by borrowing perhaps  
(8-405)for two or three years the sum of 5000 or 6000 as  
(8-405)proposed by Hogarth. Money is here so plenty that it is  
(8-405)to be had even for 3 per cent. there would be in my case  
(8-405)a saving on bank renewals in giving 4 1/2 or 5 though I think  
(8-405)it might be had for the former sum.

(8-405)About November I shall want to pay off John Usher  
(8-405)now reduced to about 1000 from 16000. I trusted to  
(8-405)the 4th. volume of Crusades for this & still think I will get  
(8-405)it forward by the end of that month or beginning of  
(8-405)December. I have however been dreadfully interrupted  
(8-405)these seven weeks past.

(8-405)I hope to see Hogarth & you here one day-Would the  
(8-405)25th next Saturday suit you for a drive out hitherward.  
(8-405)You will see my improvements all finishd & I will not  
(8-405)stick my fingers into mortar again while I live.

(8-406)I inclose two small accompts & a cheque for the amount  
(8-406)on Sir W. F. in case cash be scarce with you for next  
(8-406)month. I must break off to write a damnd song before  
(8-406)any one is stirring

(8-406)I shall want some Bramahs pens-some sealing wax and  
(8-406)gilt writing paper also some uncut of the usual size.

(8-406)I expect Canning about the first of next month but am  
(8-406)rather uncertain. Yours truly W. S.

(8-406)20 October (1) [1824]  
[Stevenson]

TO DAVID LAING

(8-406)MY DEAR SIR,-I have received your full collection of  
(8-406)treasures & I suppose you have my parcel returning the  
(8-406)former sheets. I see Mr Thomsons local knowlege has  
(8-406)cleard up all the galloway names in the Expedition  
(8-406)excepting Barbush which I dare say he can also interpret.

(8-406)I do not find I can add any notes to the other article  
(8-406)sent but certainly a few words concerning Mr Patrick  
(8-406)Galloway & his history would be desireable.<sup>2</sup> I am obliged  
(8-406)to you for pointing out the sonnet which had escaped me-  
(8-406)it is very striking I think & should be introduced.

(8-406)I am afraid I can assist you but little in the Mon[t]gomery

(8-407)matter. I am a terribly impatient reader of poetry more

(8-407)is the shame for me.

(8-407)I inclose an autograph containing I believe the only  
(8-407)unprinted lines I have in the world.<sup>1</sup> Constable wanted  
(8-407)them for some purpose or other so I send him the copy &  
(8-407)you the autograph. I am sorry I have not the lines you  
(8-407)want. I recollect them being written after I had been so  
(8-407)long ill on the pressing request of some one or other.

(8-407)Adieu most potent grave & reverend Secretary. Yours  
(8-407)very much W. SCOTT

(8-407)ABBOTSFORD 22 October [1824]

(8-407)The inclosed is a prima cura. I never wrote any  
(8-407)thing over clean as it is calld. It is an Epilogue for a  
(8-407)play on the Subject of Queen Mary which was not acted.  
(8-407)Mrs H. Siddons coaxed it out of me.

(8-407)By the bye I think Mr Patrick Galloway fell away from  
(8-407)the right path and became an Episcopalian.

[Edin. Univ. Lib.]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-407)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I recoverd the above with great  
(8-407)difficulty. I believe it was never spoken but written for  
(8-407)some play afterwards withdrawn in which Mrs H:  
(8-407)Siddons was to have spoken it in the character of Queen  
(8-407)Mary. It is at your service if you think it worth while  
(8-407)to insert it.<sup>2</sup>

(8-408)I am curious to see Medwins account of Lord Byron 1

(8-408)which seems to be as authentic as such recollections can

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-409)be though full of inaccuracies from imperfect  
(8-409)remembrance or communication. One always looks to what  
(8-409)concerns themselves. He says very truly that I received  
(8-409)much instruction from poor Mat Lewis but it related  
(8-409)almost entirely to the rhymes in which he was justly  
(8-409)superior and to the structure of versification for which  
(8-409)the poor Monk had a most excellent ear. He wrote no  
(8-409)part of the Fire King which I finishd in one evening  
(8-409)after dinner with Heber & Leyden sitting beside me  
(8-409)nor do I think he ever helpd me to a line save one in  
(8-409)which I had made a false quantity sounding July-July-  
(8-409)But poor Mat wrote many better things. I will send the  
(8-409)autograph of the Epilogue to David the Secretary to  
(8-409)redeem an old promise.

(8-409)Farewell my good friend. I hope this will find you well  
(8-409)& hearty. I am always truly yours     WALTER SCOTT

(8-409)ABBOTSFORD 22 October [PM. 1824]

(8-409)private  
[Stevenson]

TO LIEUT. WALTER SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS, R.M. ACADEMY,  
SANDHURST, BAGSHOT, LONDON

(8-409)MY DEAR WALTER,-I am afraid I can hardly write you  
(8-409)a letter without much use of the obnoxious vowel I or  
(8-409)at least the personal We which is scarce less egotistical.  
(8-409)All has joggd on in the old way since you left us without  
(8-409)any event of consequence unless it be the death of poor  
(8-409)old Mai,1 who departed quietly and without a struggle

(8-410)just when I became apprehensive it would be necessary  
(8-410)from the failure of his limbs to have helped him from the  
(8-410)stage. The other dogs are all well and Spice quite recovered.

(8-410)Yesterday we had our grand hunt. I left them early  
(8-410)Sybil 1 being rather troublesome for want of exercise and  
(8-410)the day showery. But they had excellent sport killing 14  
(8-410)hares and having some fine courses. A dog of Sir Adams  
(8-410)broke her leg and was necessarily executed on the field.  
(8-410)We dined twenty four and had a very pleasant jollification  
(8-410)with all the old songs &c.

(8-410)Mama and Anne are very well and Sophia much better  
(8-410)since I prevailed on Lockhart to come here with John[ie].  
(8-410)She doctors herself too much when alone and takes too  
(8-410)many of Mr Rosss goodies as he used to call them. He  
(8-410)is an excellent creature Ross but he would not willingly  
(8-410)consent that any one should live unless par ordonnance  
(8-410)du medecin. Next fortnight will take us all to town to my  
(8-410)sorrow but what can be done. When you can make a  
(8-410)start upon Charles I dare say it will give him great  
(8-410)pleasure but I suppose that can only be after your  
(8-410)examination.

(8-410)Orman 2 has got his appointment on one of the great  
(8-410)roads-Norwich I think-and tells Capt. Lockhart that  
(8-410)he makes from 10/6 to 20/ a day but works hard for it  
(8-410)which is not amiss.

(8-410)Here is Maidas epitaph inscribed under his figure at  
(8-410)the door beneath which he now lies buried. I hope you  
(8-410)are still classical enough to construe it

(8-410)Madae marmorea dormis sub imagine Mada

(8-410)Ad janua Domini Sit tibi terra levis.<sup>3</sup>

(8-410)George Thomson said grace yesterday and gave us it

(8-410)like a tether <sup>4</sup> not forgetting something about the dominion

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-411)which was given us over the fowls of the air and beasts of

(8-411)the field which was a kind of Apology for the business of

(8-411)the day.<sup>1</sup>

(8-411)About your preferment and so forth I think it will be

(8-411)prudent to say little till your examination is over and till

(8-411)I shall learn exactly how we stand at the War-office. You

(8-411)have got on well hitherto and I have no doubt will

(8-411)continue to receive as I hope you will merit the Dukes <sup>2</sup>

(8-411)patronage on fitting occasions.

(8-411)I will owe you 50., next month the receipt of which

(8-411)I presume will not be altogether disagreeable or

(8-411)superfluous. I am always yours affectionately

(8-411)WALTER SCOTT

(8-411)ABBOTSFORD 22 October [PM. 1824]

[Law]

TO CHARLES SCOTT, BR: N. COLLEGE, OXFORD

(8-411)MY DEAR CHARLES,-I am glad to learn that you are

(8-411)safely settled at College I trust with the intention of

(8-411)making your residence there subservient to the purposes

(8-411)of study without which it will be only a waste of expence

(8-411)and of leisure. I believe the matter depends very much



(8-411)on a youth himself and therefore hope to hear that you  
(8-411)are strenuously exerting yourself to hold an honourable  
(8-411)situation amongst the students of your celebrated  
(8-411)university. Your course will not be unmarkd as something is  
(8-411)expected from the son of any literary person and I  
(8-411)sincerely hope in this case those expectations will be  
(8-411)amply gratified.

(8-411)I am obliged to Mr Hughes 3 for his kind intentions in  
(8-411)your favour and I dare say that any one to whom he  
(8-411)introduces you will be an acquaintance worth cultivating.

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(8-412)I will be glad to hear how you take up your ground at  
(8-412)College and who are like to compose your set. I hope you  
(8-412)will make your way to the clever fellows and not put up  
(8-412)with Doldrums. Every man soon falls behind that does  
(8-412)not aspire to keep up with the foremost in the race.

(8-412)I have little domestic news to tell you. Old Maida died  
(8-412)quietly on his straw last week after a good supper. This  
(8-412)considering his weak state was rather a deliverance. He  
(8-412)is buried below his monument on which the following  
(8-412)epitaph is engraved : though it is great audacity to send  
(8-412)Teviotdale Latin to Brazen nose

(8-412)Maidae marmorea dormis sub imagine Maida  
(8-412)Ad januam domini sit tibi terra levis.1

(8-412)Thus Englishd by an eminent hand

(8-412)Beneath the sculptured form which late you wore  
(8-412)Sleep soundly Maida at the masters door.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-413)Yesterday we had our solemn hunt and killd fourteen  
(8-413)hares. But a dog of Sir Adams broke her leg and was  
(8-413)obliged to be put to death in the field.

(8-413)Walter talks of paying you a visit at Oxford but I  
(8-413)suppose it will be after his examinations in December  
(8-413)when you will be something less of a fresh-man though I  
(8-413)hope you [will] not be quite pickled neither.

(8-413)The Lockharts are now staying with us. Little Johnie  
(8-413)talks the strangest gibberish I ever heard by way of repeating  
(8-413)his little poems. I wish the child may ever speak plain.  
(8-413)Mama, Sophia, Anne and Lockhart send best love. I  
(8-413)am always your affectionate father

(8-413)WALTER SCOTT

(8-413)ABBOTSFORD 22d Octr. [1824]

(8-413)I shall be very anxious to hear how you took your new  
(8-413)situation.

[Law]

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TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT 1

(8-414)MY DEAR MRS SCOTT,-I have left your letter too long  
(8-414)unanswerd which should not have been the case if I could  
(8-414)have materially assisted your deliberations. I am not  
(8-414)indeed able to suggest any thing better than you yourself  
(8-414)have proposed. If the accompts were once closed at the  
(8-414)war office and some other events had taken place I could  
(8-414)have the pleasure of mending your situation as I am very

(8-414)desirous for my nieces own sakes as well as that I may see  
(8-414)you often to bring Edinr. within your facilities. However  
(8-414)at present I fancy the Ayr scheme is the best. I do not  
(8-414)wonder at Anne finding the country a little dull but I  
(8-414)think she would like Edinburgh better.

(8-414)I beg Eliza may have music for which old uncle will be  
(8-414)quite happy to be responsible and she shall sing him a  
(8-414)song in return. Where there is a natural turn this way  
(8-414)as she distinctly possesses it is a great pity not to cultivate  
(8-414)it. There [is] such a thing as singing the evil spirit out  
(8-414)of others or oneself in fact I think music (not cultivated  
(8-414)to excess or made the introduction to too much idleness  
(8-414)or in men conviviality) has a moral effect on the spirits  
(8-414)and temper. So pray let Eliza have a harpsichord and  
(8-414)beat away upon it with all speed. When you are settled  
(8-414)I will give her one.

(8-414)If you want cash to help out the Books make me your  
(8-414)banker. I hope you will arrange your matters so as to  
(8-414)be with us at Christmas when all that yet belongs to poor  
(8-414)old Georges Square will I hope meet together for your  
(8-414)Walter and mine will both have got over their examinations.  
(8-414)Charles however will I believe remain at his  
(8-414)College though I am not quite certain.

(8-414)The trees are fading fast about us and warn me to think  
(8-414)of town-no very pleasant subject of reflection but what  
(8-414)must be must be.

(8-415)Remember me kindly to Anne and Eliza. My wife  
(8-415)and daughters send kind love. Believe me always Your  
(8-415)affectionate Brother  
WALTER SCOTT

(8-415)ABBOTSFORD 22 Oct. [1824]

(8-415)Walter writes seldom but he has not much time. I have  
(8-415)not heard of him lately. I hope Mr David Macculloch  
(8-415)is better. He has so much the power of pleasing others  
(8-415)it is pity that he should suffer himself.

[Owen D. Young]

TO [UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT] 1

(8-415)DEAR SIR,-At Mr Woods request I beg to hand you  
(8-415)the enclosed. Could it be managed I should like there  
(8-415)were a separate master for English reading orthography  
(8-415)geography and history. He could have such a course  
(8-415)for each class as would carry them on according to their  
(8-415)gradual advance in years and understanding that the  
(8-415)gytes would attend a preliminary class-the 2nd class one  
(8-415)more advanced and so on-I doubt whether this could  
(8-415)be managed by taking half the time of the Master of the  
(8-415)first class and I am convinced that by this mixing the  
(8-415)knowledge of the English language and modern history  
(8-415)with classical instruction the most useful impression would  
(8-415)be made on the youthful mind. We still carry the  
(8-415)pedantry of former times a little too much into education  
(8-415)and boys are apt to think that learning latin is the  
(8-415)exclusive business of life and that all other acquisitions  
(8-415)are of little consequence in comparison. Now though I  
(8-415)am quite aware of the value of a classical education yet

(8-416)I would not have it like Aarons serpent swallow up all  
(8-416)other attainments and in my opinion in order to form the  
(8-416)Vir bonus domestic history and an acquaintance with our  
(8-416)own language should be kept abreast of the acquisitions

(8-416)to be made in classical knowledge.1 Always very much  
(8-416)yours W SCOTT

(8-416)You can send this to Mr Ayton-

[Autumn 1823]

[Thomson]

TO SIR THOMAS DICK LAUDER, ST. CATHERINES

(8-416)MY DEAR SIR THOMAS,-We will have the greatest  
(8-416)pleasure in receiving Lady Dick, Miss Grant and you upon  
(8-416)Saturday 6th instant as you kindly propose and if the  
(8-416)Advocate can meet you it will add to the gratification of  
(8-416)the visit. I hope Lady Rae will be of the party. I am  
(8-416)always Dear Sir Thomas Your truly obliged

(8-416)WALTER SCOTT

(8-416)ABBOTSFORD 1st November [1824]

[Dick-Lauder]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-416)MY DEAR JAMES,-I received yours with the inclosure.  
(8-416)I fear I will need a little more of my namesake Sir Walter  
(8-416)Blunt 2 at this term but I can provide for it without  
(8-416)interrupting the course of matters at the N. Year when I have  
(8-416)to receive 1000. I will therefore want another 500 to  
(8-416)go to Coutts but this can be done when I come to town on  
(8-416)Monday & I will thank you to call after dinner that day.

(8-416)I am not very apprehensive of [not] finding some remedy  
(8-416)for the failure which you very justly announce but I greatly  
(8-416)doubt your recipe. Whatever has happend may happen

(8-417)again under the same circumstances. Constable I fear  
 (8-417)had mor[e] shrewdness than either of us when he recommended  
 (8-417)a fallow. But we will talk over this. In the mean  
 (8-417)time be assured that sincerity is the quality I most value  
 (8-417)in a friend or critic & though I think you are sometimes  
 (8-417)fastidious about trifles I never fail to consider your opinion  
 (8-417)as completely authoritative upon general results especially  
 (8-417)when as in the present case it completely coincides with  
 (8-417)my own for you must not think thus as Dorax says to  
 (8-417)Sebastian

(8-417)Thou hast dared  
 (8-417)To tell me what I durst not tell myself.<sup>1</sup>

(8-417)I have been often slow to see merits which others have  
 (8-417)discoverd-never so to acknowlege defects-I meant to  
 (8-417)be in town yesterday but having beat the little Duke in a  
 (8-417)match at coursing I stay till Saturday at his request to  
 (8-417)" do it over again." He promises to be a credit & blessing  
 (8-417)to all around him. About Six or Seven on Monday  
 (8-417)Evening I hope to see you. Yours truly

(8-417)ABBOTSFORD 11 Novr. [1824] (2)

W SCOTT

[Stevenson]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING POST

(8-417)ABBOTSFORD, Nov. 12, 1824

(8-417)SIR,-As I am a friend to truth, even in trifles, I cannot  
 (8-417)consent to shelter myself under the classical mantle which  
 (8-417)Mr Lionel Berguer and some unknown friend have chosen  
 (8-417)to extend, in their charity, over my faults in prosody.<sup>3</sup>

(8-417)The two lines were written in mere whim, and without  
(8-417)the least intention of their being made public. In the

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(8-418)first line, the word jaces is a mistake of the transcriber  
(8-418)(whoever took that trouble ;) the phrase is dormis, which  
(8-418)I believe is good prosody. The error in the second line,  
(8-418)ad januam, certainly exists, and I bow to the castigation.  
(8-418)I must plead the same apology which was used by the  
(8-418)great Dr Johnson, when he misinterpreted a veterinary  
(8-418)phrase of ordinary occurrence-"ignorance-pure ignorance "  
(8-418)was the cause of my blunder. Forty years ago,  
(8-418)longs and shorts were little attended to in Scottish  
(8-418)education ; and I have, it appears, forgot the little I  
(8-418)may then have learned. I have only to add, that I am  
(8-418)far from undervaluing any branch of scholarship because  
(8-418)I have not the good fortune to possess it, and heartily wish  
(8-418)that those who succeed us may have the benefit of a more  
(8-418)accurate classical education than was common in my  
(8-418)earlier days.

(8-418)The inscription cannot now be altered ; but if it remains  
(8-418)a memorial of my want of learning, it shall not, in  
(8-418)addition, convey any imputation on my candour. I  
(8-418)should have been ashamed, at a more stirring time, to  
(8-418)ask admission for this plea of guilty ; but at present you  
(8-418)may think it worth a place in your paper. Pugna est de  
(8-418)paupere regno.-I remain your obedient servant,  
(8-418)WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET,  
EDINBURGH 1

(8-418)DEAR JOHN,-I some time ago wrote to inform his  
(8-418)Fat worship of jaces, misprinted for dormis ;  
(8-418)But that several Southrons assured me the januam  
(8-418)Was a twitch to both ears of Ass Priscian's cranium.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-419)You, perhaps, may observe that one Lionel Berguer,  
(8-419)In defence of our blunder appears a stout arguer.  
(8-419)But at length I have settled, I hope, all these clatters,  
(8-419)By a rowt in the papers-fine place for such matters.  
(8-419)I have, therefore, to make it for once my command, sir,  
(8-419)That my gudeson shall leave the whole thing in my hand,  
(8-419)sir,  
(8-419)And by no means accomplish what James says you  
(8-419)threaten,  
(8-419)Some banter in Blackwood to claim your dog-Latin.  
(8-419)I have various reasons of weight, on my word, sir,  
(8-419)For pronouncing a step of this sort were absurd, sir.-  
(8-419)Firstly, erudite sir, 'twas against your advising  
(8-419)I adopted the lines this monstrosity lies in ;  
(8-419)For you modestly hinted my English translation  
(8-419)Would become better far such a dignified station.  
(8-419)Second-how, in God's name, would my bacon be saved,  
(8-419)By not having writ what I clearly engraved  
(8-419)On the contrary, I, on the whole, think it better  
(8-419)To be whipped as the thief, than his lousy resetter.  
(8-419)Thirdly-don't you perceive that I don't care a boddle  
(8-419)Although fifty false metres were flung at my noddle,  
(8-419)For my back is as broad and as hard as Benlomon's,  
(8-419)And I treat as I please both the Greeks and the Romans ;  
(8-419)Whereas the said heathens might rather look serious  
(8-419)At a kick on their drum from the scribe of Valerius.  
(8-419)And, fourthly and lastly-it is my good pleasure  
(8-419)To remain the sole source of that murderous measure.  
(8-419)So stet pro ratione voluntas-be tractile,



(8-419)Invade not, I say, my own dear little dactyl;  
 (8-419)If you do, you'll occasion a breach in our intercourse :  
 (8-419)To-morrow will see me in town for the winter-course,  
 (8-419)But not at your door, at the usual hour, sir,  
 (8-419)My own pye-house daughter's good prog to devour, sir.  
 (8-419)Ergo-peace!-on your duty, your squeamishness throttle,  
 (8-419)And we'll soothe Priscian's spleen with a canny third  
 (8-419)bottle.

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(8-420)A fig for all dactyls, a fig for all spondees,  
 (8-420)A fig for all dunces and dominie Grundys ;  
 (8-420)A fig for dry thrapples, south, north, east, and west, sir,  
 (8-420)Speates and raxes 1 ere five for a famishing guest, sir ;  
 (8-420)And as Fatsman 2 and I have some topics for haver, he'll  
 (8-420)Be invited, I hope, to meet me and Dame Peveril,  
 (8-420)Upon whom, to say nothing of Oury and Anne, you a  
 (8-420)Dog shall be deemed if you fasten your Jama.

(8-420)P.S.-Hoc jocose-but I am nevertheless in literal  
 (8-420)earnest. You incur my serious displeasure if you move  
 (8-420)one inch in this contemptible rumpus. So adieu till  
 (8-420)to-morrow.-Yours affectionately, W. S.

[Lockhart]

TO MRS. HUGHES

(8-420)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-I owe you a thousand  
 (8-420)acknowledgements for Pallas 3 who arrived as if steer'd by  
 (8-420)her own superior intelligence in the most perfect safety.  
 (8-420)It seems a very great curiosity and has been admired as a  
 (8-420)piece of art by Wilkie and other good judges who have  
 (8-420)seen it here. I have hung it over the chimney in the  
 (8-420)little armoury where surrounded by all man[ner] of

(8-420)military implements Minerva has the appearance of being  
(8-420)quite in character & where also her metallic frame  
(8-420)corresponds in great effect to the different weapons with  
(8-420)which she is associated. The cheese is most excellent &  
(8-420)considering the shape 4 of it came in peculiar good time

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-421)to a great coursing match followed by a dinner which I  
(8-421)always give to my friends among the neighbouring  
(8-421)yeomanry once a year to promote kindness & good  
(8-421)fellowship amongst neighbours. What would I give to  
(8-421)be able to sing them 1 "the Stuons "-I am sure they  
(8-421)would be extremely delighted. The cheese was allowd  
(8-421)to be excellent 2 and we eat up its very whiskers.

(8-421)I am very much indebted to Mr. Hughes for his kindness  
(8-421)to Charles of which I hope the youngster will endeavour  
(8-421)to deserve the continuance.<sup>3</sup> Charles is clever enough but  
(8-421)has alternations of indolence [of] which I am somewhat  
(8-421)afraid knowing from experience how fatal it is to the  
(8-421)acquisition of knowledge even when associated with the  
(8-421)power of working hard at particular times.

(8-421)Pray when you [see] Dr. Stoddart recommend me to  
(8-421)him very kindly. You would see in Byrons conversations  
(8-421)that I was led to imitate the stile of Coleridge's Christabelle  
(8-421)in the Lay of the last Minstrel-it is very true and  
(8-421)Dr. Stoddart was the person who introduced to me that  
(8-421)singular composition by reciting some stanzas of it many  
(8-421)years since in my cottage at Laswade. Byron seems to

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1824

(8-422)have thought I had a hand in some ill-natured review of  
(8-422)Coleridges wild & wondrous tale which was entirely a

(8-422)mistake. He might have remembered by the way that  
(8-422)it was I who first introduced his Lordship to the fragment  
(8-422)with a view to interest him in Coleridge's fate and in the  
(8-422)play he was then bringing forward.<sup>1</sup> I agree with you  
(8-422)that Lord & Lady Byron were not well suited yet I am not  
(8-422)much disposed to throw blame exclusively on either.  
(8-422)Unhappily Byron's distinguished talents and high imagination  
(8-422)were mixed with inequality of spirits increased  
(8-422)by early habits of uncontrouled indulgence of every whim  
(8-422)which occur'd to him at such moments. This is a bad  
(8-422)ingredient for family happiness where after all Bear and  
(8-422)Forbear must be the Mottoe. From what I saw personally  
(8-422)of Lord Byron I was always of opinion that if a great and  
(8-422)worthy object capable and deserving to engross his  
(8-422)attention should ever occupy his mind should present  
(8-422)itself to his pursuit-in other words if an ill-directed love  
(8-422)of pleasure had been exchanged for a well directed love of  
(8-422)action he would have made a figure as distinguished in  
(8-422)the page of history as he must make in that of literature.  
(8-422)He pursued the freedom of Greece as I am well assured  
(8-422)upon the truest and most rational principles desiring to  
(8-422)unite the whole efforts of the country in the task of  
(8-422)liberating them from the rod of their oppressor instead of  
(8-422)dividing them into factions by insisting upon all persons  
(8-422)subscribing some fantastic political creed. It pleased  
(8-422)God to cut off this wonderful man before he could  
(8-422)accomplish anything very considerable in the task he had  
(8-422)undertaken: The night has come upon him in which no  
(8-422)man can work and so much to teach us to improve our  
(8-422)time. After all I have not yet seen these celebrated  
(8-422)conversations but from what I saw in the papers and from  
(8-422)what I knew of Lord Byron I conceive Capt. Medwin to  
(8-422)have been an accurate reporter. But all men talk loosely  
(8-422)in their ordinary conversation and of course much will

(8-423)remain to be corrected and deducted both in matters of  
(8-423)opinion & matters of fact.

(8-423)Here is a long stupid letter. I have been sitting  
(8-423)to Wilkie these two days past. Sedet et in eternum  
(8-423)sedebit.<sup>1</sup> Ask the Doctor for the English. But this  
(8-423)was a very particular occasion being by royal command  
(8-423)[to be] introduced as a personage at the reception of  
(8-423)Holyrood. Carey shall attend you the instant I get  
(8-423)to town. Lockhart, spouse & baby left us yesterday for  
(8-423)Edinburgh where we all go on Monday first. Believe me  
(8-423)with kind compliments to Dr. Hughes in which Lady Scott  
(8-423)and Anne cordially join to be very truly yours

(8-423)WALTER SCOTT  
(8-423)ABBOTSFORD, Thursday [Novbr. 11, 1824]

[Heffer and Wells]

TO MESSRS. JOHN AND THOS. SMITH,<sup>2</sup> BUILDERS, DARNICK,  
MELROSE

(8-423)GENTLEMEN,-I enclose the bills accepted which  
(8-423)concludes our long accompt for Abbotsford House. I am  
(8-423)obliged to you for your handsome discount and for the  
(8-423)great attention you gave to all the various troublesome  
(8-423)matters in which you were engaged on my accompt. We  
(8-423)should have been very unjust to have complained of  
(8-423)unavoidable inconveniences during the progress of so

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(8-424)large & long a work since so much care was taken to avoid  
(8-424)all that could be avoided. I am gentlemen your obedient  
(8-424)Servant

WALTER SCOTT

(8-424)EDINR. 16 November [1824]

[Macpherson Smith]

TO HIS SON WALTER, AT SANDHURST

(8-424)MY DEAR WALTER,-I am writing after witnessing a most  
(8-424)melancholy spectacle. A fire I broke out last night in the  
(8-424)High Street of Edinr. just to the eastward [of] where the  
(8-424)former fire took place and adjacent to the ruins. It raged  
(8-424)all night and did much damage burning many houses  
(8-424)downward to the Cowgate and also eastward down the  
(8-424)street. This morning it was so far from being abated that  
(8-424)the blazing combustibles which were born[e] by the wind  
(8-424)in the Eastward direction attachd themselves to the Tron  
(8-424)Kirk and set both church and steeple on fire. The upper  
(8-424)part of the former 2 was of wood which blazed tremendously  
(8-424)and fell in about two o'clock. I stood for an hour  
(8-424)witnessing its progress and conclusion. I wish I could say  
(8-424)the mischief is at an end but the wind is high and the  
(8-424)people not very handy so I fear we are scarce done with it.  
(8-424)No lives are yet known to have been lost in this dreadful  
(8-424)combustion.

(8-424)I have written to Messrs. Coutts & Co to honour your  
(8-424)draught for 50,, concluding term day will render that  
(8-424)sum acceptable. As your examination takes place on  
(8-424)the 15th I shall expect you down some days sooner than  
(8-424)you talk of, for I should be very much disappointed did  
(8-424)we not see you when our holidays commence. I wish to  
(8-424)have all my family then about me and you must arrange  
(8-424)matters with your other friends so as not to disappoint me.

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-425)I saw Major McDonald at Abbotsford on Friday who

(8-425)tells me that his son is like to be coupled up with a Miss  
(8-425)Bacon whom you used to talk about, however the match  
(8-425)was to depend on the Ancient Bacon coming down with a  
(8-425)little of his grease which he may not care to part with.

(8-425)If you can make a run down to see Charles I dare say  
(8-425)you will make him very happy and there are some old  
(8-425)friends of mine at Oxford who would be civil to you if they  
(8-425)heard of your coming.

(8-425)I hope the examinations do not look very terrible-  
(8-425)Robert MacDonald writes his father you are studying  
(8-425)hard the only way to look them in the face.

(8-425)On Wednesday we had some fine coursing at Bowhill.  
(8-425)I backed a dog of Mr Brydone at Crosslee against the best  
(8-425)in the Dukes kennel and beat his Grace after five courses  
(8-425)two of which were drawn. On Saturday we tried the  
(8-425)same dogs and I lost so the match is a drawn one but my  
(8-425)protege Will had a tread from a horse and did not run  
(8-425)quite so fine as I have seen him.

(8-425)We left these funny doings on Monday and here I  
(8-425)we are to amuse ourselves with scandal and lawpapers  
(8-425)varied by the occasional relief of a conflagration.

(8-425)Mama and Anne are very well. So are the Lockharts and  
(8-425)little Johnie. All join in kindest love. Believe me always  
(8-425>Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

(8-425)EDINR. 16 November [PM. 1824]

[Law]

TO HIS SON CHARLES

(8-425)MY DEAR CHARLES,-I have your letter setting forth  
(8-425)your wants and wishes. Messrs. Coutts & Coy,2 Strand,  
(8-425)London have my directions to answer your drat. for 80,,  
(8-425)which will put you out of debt and leave you a handsome  
(8-425)reversion to carry on with till quarter day. I beg you

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(8-426)will use all wise and comely oeconomy and keep a note  
(8-426)of your expences which is a sure road to independence.

(8-426)I observe what you say of your present state of Society  
(8-426)and shall be pleased to know what sort of youths you are  
(8-426)most like to settle with. Hard readers and young men  
(8-426)determined to follow the studies for which they are at  
(8-426)college are those you will find most useful.

(8-426)I hope to see you at Oxford in Spring which will I take  
(8-426)it be our first meeting as it would be a foolish expence  
(8-426)to bring you down at Xmas and would only interrupt  
(8-426)you just when you were buckling with your labour. I am  
(8-426)sorry for your absence however from our Christmas  
(8-426)festivities which if God sends us good health we hope to  
(8-426)hold with much glee.

(8-426)There has been a most dreadful fire here which I am sorry  
(8-426)to say is not yet extinguishd. It embraced the houses to  
(8-426)the eastward of those lately burnd and on the same side  
(8-426)of the high Street. Many houses are destroyd and I fear  
(8-426)many families left destitute. About twelve the Tron  
(8-426)Kirk was observed to be on fire whether by some combustibles  
(8-426)and sparks carried into it with the furniture of  
(8-426)the poor expelld wretches which the doors had been  
(8-426)opend to receive or whether from the sparks and blazing  
(8-426)materials blown against the steeple the upper part of  
(8-426)which was of wood I cannot learn distinctly.1 On fire

(8-427)however it was and no power of man could save it. The  
(8-427)whole body of the Church was filld with flames which  
(8-427)burst from every aperture and the wooden part of the  
(8-427)steeple was soon in one blaze of fire.-Beam and rafter  
(8-427)fell blazing down one after another and about half past  
(8-427)one the whole gave way except the stone part of the  
(8-427)tower. I am just come from seeing the spectacle.

(8-427)I have little heart to write more at this moment. We  
(8-427)came from Abbotsford yesterday and are all well. Dine  
(8-427)with Sophia and Lockhart who are also quite well. All  
(8-427)join my dear Charles in kind love to you and we wish we  
(8-427)could have Alnaschars chest or Hosseins tapestry to visit  
(8-427)you in your chambers and see what sort of house you  
(8-427)keep. I am always your truly affectionate father

(8-427)WALTER SCOTT

(8-427)ABBOTSFORD [should be EDINBURGH]

(8-427)16 Novr. [PM. 1824]

[Law]

TO LORD MONTAGU

(8-427)MY DEAR LORD,-Since I came here on Monday night 1  
(8-427)I have witnessd a horrible calamity-a fire broke out on  
(8-427)that night in the high Street raged all night and great part  
(8-427)of the next day catching to the steeple of the Tron Church  
(8-427)which being wood was soon in a blaze and burnd like  
(8-427)regular fire works till all was consumed. All this while  
(8-427)the flames were spreading down to the Cowgate amongst  
(8-427)those closes where the narrowness of the access and the  
(8-427)height of the houses rendered the approach of engines



(8-427)almost impossible. On Tuesday night a second fire broke out  
(8-427)in the Parliament square greatly endangering the courts  
(8-427)of Justice and the Advocates more than princely library.<sup>2</sup>

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1824

(8-428)By great exertions it was prevented approaching this  
(8-428)public building and Sir William Forbes's bank also  
(8-428)escaped. But all the other houses in the Parliament  
(8-428)square are totally destroyd and I can conceive no sight  
(8-428)more grand or terrible than to see these lofty buildings  
(8-428)on fire from top to bottom vomiting out flames like a  
(8-428)volcanoe from every aperture and finally crashing down  
(8-428)one after another into an abyss of fire which resembled  
(8-428)nothing but hell for there were vaults of wine and spirits  
(8-428)which sent up huge jets of flame whenever they were  
(8-428)calld into activity by the fall of these massive fragments-  
(8-428)Between the corner of the Parliament Square and the  
(8-428)South Bridge all is destroyd excepting some new buildings  
(8-428)at the lower extremity & the devastation has extended  
(8-428)down the closes which I hope will never be rebuilt on  
(8-428)their present I should say their late form. The general  
(8-428)distress is of course dreadful.

(8-428)Young Hay calld on me when going to canvass Selkirk  
(8-428)& I mentiond to him that I thought he should not divide  
(8-428)the Dukes interest there as it was a kind of poaching on  
(8-428)his Grace's manor which could not be of any real service  
(8-428)to him I Accordingly I find he did not canvass or ask any  
(8-428)votes but gave his dinner & speechd the worthies telling  
(8-428)them his only purpose was to cultivate a general good  
(8-428)understanding & that he did not desire any one to come  
(8-428)under obligations or promises &c. This was all right &  
(8-428)handsome. I understand since I came here that he has  
(8-428)secured Lithgow.<sup>2</sup> Of course he has the election holding

(8-429)Peebles the Returning Burgh. But there is much between  
(8-429)the cup and the lip especially as there must be one if not  
(8-429)two Michaelmas elections before a dissolution. I suspect  
(8-429)Menteath is not very serious to sit again if he can get what  
(8-429)he wants which I believe to be a baronetcy.

(8-429)I was three times up at Bowhill coursing as my young  
(8-429)Chief was very keen about a little match of greyhounds  
(8-429)which we had together. He is really a fine youth active  
(8-429)bold and courteous. I was struck with the observation  
(8-429)of George Brydone whose greyhound I backd against the  
(8-429)Dukes favourite and who as owner of the dog was of  
(8-429)course zealous in his cause. He told me the young Duke  
(8-429)would be a just master as he had rejected some partial  
(8-429)representations of Fletcher in favour of his own dog  
(8-429)though keen enough too. I am rather surprized however  
(8-429)on this more intimate acquaintance with my young freind  
(8-429)to find that with so much apparent steadiness of character  
(8-429)there should be a little deficiency in that species of general  
(8-429)information which is required in Society. Mr Blakeney  
(8-429)seems admirably qualified to supply this defect which I  
(8-429)suppose arises partly out of the system of the great English  
(8-429)schools which while they teach classical learn[ing] in the  
(8-429)highest degree of perfection leave little time for other  
(8-429)acquisitions. Good conversation has the best effect in  
(8-429)making young people interest themselves in the points of  
(8-429)knowlege upon which they turn and increase[s] the desire  
(8-429)of information just as the sensibility of the nerves is  
(8-429)restored by friction.

(8-429)I trust Bath has done its duty and trusting to the News  
(8-429)papers conclude this will find your Lordship at Ditton.  
(8-429)I am sorry I have not seen Lady Montagu this season  
(8-429)and beg my most respectful Compliments. Always my

(8-429)dear Lord Montagu most sincerely yours

(8-429)WALTER SCOTT

(8-429)EDINBURGH 18 Novr. 1824

430                                      LETTERS        OF                                      1824

(8-430)The Duke & Mr Blakeney expressed a wish I would go  
(8-430)with them as far as Alnwick on their journey south and  
(8-430)as I have long owed a visit to the Duke & Duchess of  
(8-430)Northumberland I will certainly if the weightier matters  
(8-430)of the Law will permit me have the pleasure of attending  
(8-430)the meeting of these two great Border Chiefs.

[Buccleuch]

TO MR. DOBIE, SCHOOLMASTER, LOCKERBIE

(8-430)SIR,-I have deferred returning my thanks for the  
(8-430)obliging trouble which you have taken on my account  
(8-430)until I should return to this place, where I can get a frank,  
(8-430)as it would be really unjust to add expense to your trouble.  
(8-430)I have reason to think the traditions concerning the Battle  
(8-430)of Dryfe-sands are upon the whole very accurate. The  
(8-430)precise date, as I learned from Johnstone's History, is the  
(8-430)winter of 1593. As to my clan, I find Scotstarvet, in his  
(8-430)Staggering State of Scots Statesmen, mentions the fact  
(8-430)that Sir Gideon Murray of Elibank carried the Laird of  
(8-430)Buccleuch's banner, on that occasion, and was followed by  
(8-430)500 [men] of the name of Scott. He was chamberlain upon  
(8-430)the Buccleuch estate during the absence of the proprietor,  
(8-430)who was at that time (not disabled by age as you apprehended,  
(8-430)but) absent upon his travels in France or Italy.  
(8-430)Sir William Scott of Harden, the leading man among the  
(8-430)Scotts, was married to the daughter of this Sir Gideon

(8-430)Murray under very peculiar circumstances if family  
(8-430)tradition speak truth.<sup>1</sup> When Lord Maxwell, son of him who  
(8-430)was slain at Dryfe-sands, was afterwards forfeited for  
(8-430)treason, this Sir Gideon Murray, then Treasurer of  
(8-430)Scotland, got a share of his forfeiture-I have heard or  
(8-430)read somewhere that the popular phrase of a Lockerby

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

431

(8-431)Lick 1 had its origin from the blows given by the  
(8-431)Annandale men on this memorable occasion.

(8-431)I am much obliged to you for the trouble you have so  
(8-431)kindly taken on my account. Should you at any time  
(8-431)pick up any old Border tales or songs I will be much  
(8-431)gratified by your sending them to me. If you address  
(8-431)to Edinr. your letter will always come safe. My wife and  
(8-431)daughter desire their compliments, and I am, Sir, Your  
(8-431)obliged servant, WALTER SCOTT

(8-431)EDINR., 20th Nov. [ 1824]  
[Lockerbie Public Library]

TO HIS SON WALTER, AT SANDHURST

(8-431)MY DEAR WALTER,-I received your letter 2 on Saturday  
(8-431)and consulted on the subject which it refers to with  
(8-431)Colonel Stanhope (Duke of Yorkes Aid de camp) now in  
(8-431)Scotland and with Lord Chief Commissioner. In the event  
(8-431)of your going to the Ionian islands it seems to them &  
(8-431)also to me that you would lose the whole benefit of a troop  
(8-431)of cavalry and that I should pay a very large sum at a  
(8-431)time when it is rather inconvenient without your deriving  
(8-431)any proportionate advantage. The better plan in this  
(8-431)case would be to purchase a company of infantry either

(8-432)in a regt. at Gibraltar or at Malta which you could join  
(8-432)for a short space as the regulations require on your way  
(8-432)to the Ionian islands and then proceed to Corfu where  
(8-432)you could remain till you get the important step of Major.  
(8-432)But to take the best authority on the subject the Lord  
(8-432)Chief writes by this post to Sir Herbert Taylor as to the  
(8-432)most adviseable plan. I suspect from what Stanhope  
(8-432)says that the Duke of Cumberland will not spare a Captain  
(8-432)from the 15th to the staff but we will learn soon how that  
(8-432)matter will fadge. In the mean time I will endeavour to  
(8-432)prevent anyone striking in over your head. If there were  
(8-432)any chance of our friend Justice Shallows plan taking  
(8-432)effect of course the troop would be the most desireable  
(8-432)thing but that is very contingent. If you think of it at  
(8-432)all it will be necessary to keep tryste at Christmas.

(8-432)In the mean time you may be assured I would rather  
(8-432)suffer inconvenience myself than you should not have  
(8-432)your promotion in the way which you may find most  
(8-432)effectual though the infantry plan would at this moment  
(8-432)be most convenient to me and as it appears equally  
(8-432)effectual to your advancement in your profession. Let  
(8-432)me hear from you what you think of all thes[e] matters  
(8-432)and believe me your affectionate father

(8-432)WALTER SCOTT

(8-432)EDINBURGH 21 Novr. [PM. 1824]

(8-432)The cause of the black seal is the sudden at least  
(8-432)unexpected death of Mrs. Rutherfor[d] 1 widow of my uncle  
(8-432)Dr. Rutherford. She had been long poorly and died with  
(8-432)little ceremony.

[Law]

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

433

TO WILLIAM GODWIN, 195 STRAND, LONDON

(8-433)EDINR. 22 Novr. 1824-Please address Edinburgh

(8-433)DEAR SIR,-I did not answer your letter of the 20th

(8-433)August 1 being prevented by something at the moment

(8-433)and intending to do so whenever I should come to

(8-433)Edinburgh for in the country I had little opportunity of

(8-433)procuring the information you wanted. I came here only

(8-433)on the 15 of this month and since that time we have been

(8-433)visited by a succession of the most tremendous fires with

(8-433)which this city has ever been afflicted. A very large

(8-433)portion of the Old Town of Edinburgh the dwelling of

(8-433)our ancestors is at present a heap of ruins. Every body

(8-433)was obliged to turn out the young to work the old to

(8-433)give countenance and advice & to secure temporary

(8-433)refuge & support to upwards of 200 families turned naked

(8-433)in many instances into the streets & I had my share of

(8-433)labour & anxiety. We are now thank God in quiet

(8-433)again. Our princely library (that of the Advocates)

(8-433)worth commercially at least half a million but in reality

(8-433)invaluable as containing such a mass of matter to be

(8-433)found nowhere else escaped with the utmost difficulty

(8-433)& in consequence only of the most strenuous exertions.

(8-433)This will I am sure be an apology for my not writing

(8-433)sooner what I now have to say.

(8-433)Your letters are a little vague in respect to the precise

(8-433)nature of the information you require. In Thurlows

(8-433)state papers 2 (Vol 4th. as I think) you will find an accurate

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(8-434)list of the Council of State by which Cromwell governd  
 (8-434)Scotland. But his well disciplined army under Monk  
 (8-434)was the real force of his government & they were exercised  
 (8-434)as they would have termd it by more than one insurrection  
 (8-434)particularly that headed first by Glencairn & afterwards  
 (8-434)by Genl Middleton and by the constant though useless  
 (8-434)harassing manoeuvres of the cavaliers and discontented  
 (8-434)Scottish forming a kind of guerillas termd Mosstroopers  
 (8-434)who seem to have existed in all the wilder districts & to  
 (8-434)have carried on a war rather of a harassing than an  
 (8-434)effectual character. A person of the name of Nichol kept  
 (8-434)a large & copious diary of the events of the period 1 which  
 (8-434)I caused to be transcribed some years since. The  
 (8-434)transcriber I am sorry to say was rather careless-in fact  
 (8-434)a person to whom I had given the task more out of  
 (8-434)consideration to his wants than his competence. If this  
 (8-434)transcript could be useful to you I will with pleasure give  
 (8-434)you the use of it begging only you will take care of it.  
 (8-434)It is voluminous & contains much trash (as diaries usually  
 (8-434)do) but there [are] some curious articles of information  
 (8-434)which occur no where else. Some of the Diurnals of the  
 (8-434)day also contain curious minutiae but these you have in  
 (8-434)the Musaeum more complete than we. I picked up some  
 (8-434)weeks ago a contemporary account of the battles of  
 (8-434>Kilsyth & Philiphaugh. I am particularly interested [in]  
 (8-434)the last as the scene lies near my door & as my own  
 (8-434)ancestor was engaged in it-at that time a keen covenanter.

(8-434)I think of publishing or rather printing a few copies of  
 (8-434)these tracts and if you wish it I will send you one. Brodie  
 (8-434)of Brodies diary 2 has also some interest though stuffd with

(8-435)fanatical trumpery. The Lord as he expresses himself

(8-435)at length intimated to his staunch presbyterian that he  
(8-435)should in conformity to the views of Providence for our  
(8-435)Scottish Israel embrace the cause of the Independent  
(8-435)Cromwell & he became one of our Judges. His diary is  
(8-435)very rare but I have a copy & could cause any extracts to be  
(8-435)made which you want. I am not aware that our records  
(8-435)could add much to the mass of information containd  
(8-435)in Thurloes collection where there are many letters  
(8-435)from Lord Broghill 1 & Monk on the state of the country.  
(8-435)The haughty and stubborn character of the Scottish  
(8-435)people lookd back on the period of Cromwells domination  
(8-435)with anger & humiliation & they seem to have observed  
(8-435)a sullen silence about its particular events. There is no  
(8-435)period respecting which we have less precise information.  
(8-435)If however you will shape your inquiries more specifically  
(8-435)respecting any points which interest you I will be happy to  
(8-435)make such researches as may enable me to answer them  
(8-435)or to say that I cannot do so.-I made a scandalous  
(8-435)blunder in my prosody sure enough in doing honour to a  
(8-435)deceased friend.<sup>2</sup> I should have rememberd I had been

(8-435)Long enamoured of a barbarous age  
(8-435)A faithless truant to the classic page.<sup>3</sup>

(8-435)Any thing however is pardonable but want of candour  
(8-435)and my comfort is that of Miss Priscilla Tomboy.<sup>4</sup> "I am  
(8-435)too old to be whip'd " transeat cum ceteris erroribus.-I  
(8-435)remain dear Sir Your most obedt Servant  
(8-435)WALTER SCOTT

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]



(8-436)DEAR SIR,-I am favoured with your obliging letter  
(8-436)and although I have no title to the compliment your  
(8-436)kindness proposes me in inscribing your Grecian travels  
(8-436)with my name yet I cannot decline out of a sense of my  
(8-436)own demerits what you so handsomely offer. If the  
(8-436)travels be as interesting as the specimens which you had  
(8-436)the goodness to give us at Abbotsford they cannot but  
(8-436)command the general attention of the publick. I am,  
(8-436)Sir, Your obliged humble Servant,

(8-436)WALTER SCOTT

(8-436)EDINH. 23 Novr. [PM. 1824]  
[Brotherton]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW, KAESIDE, NEAR MELROSE

[Fragment]

(8-436)MY DEAR WILLIE,-Will you look into the Library & in  
(8-436)the folio shelves of Presses A. or B. I am not sure which  
(8-436)you will find a folio volume of Scottish miscellaneous  
(8-436)tracts bound together containing a good many pamphlets  
(8-436)about the business of Green the pirate & other matter but  
(8-436)in particular a broadside sheet giving an account of the  
(8-436)burning in the Parliament square in the beginning of last

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-437)Century.1 Pray forward it per first Blucher & let me  
(8-437)know how you all come on. The book is bound in brown  
(8-437)leather broken a little at one corner & in the inside of the  
(8-437)board has a small copperplate representing a hand holding  
(8-437)a rose the crest of the late George Paton of the Custom  
(8-437)House, [the remainder of the MS. has been cut away]

[PM. 23 November 1824]

[Ballantyne]

TO MRS. HUGHES

(8-437)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-If I have been late in  
(8-437)expressing my sense of your kindness I have a formidable  
(8-437)excuse. Our Good Town as Edinburgh has been fondly  
(8-437)denominated was on fire for three days in the course of  
(8-437)last week and much of what your zeal and activity  
(8-437)investigated will never more be seen by human eye. The  
(8-437)whole of the Parliamt square excepting that building  
(8-437)occupied by our supreme courts has been either burned  
(8-437)to the ground or ruind by the means necessarily resorted  
(8-437)to to prevent the fire spreading to the Courts and the  
(8-437)princely Library of the Faculty of Advocates. The  
(8-437)tenements destroyed were (excluding castles & towers)  
(8-437)probably the highest houses in the world built for human  
(8-437)accomodation and the sight of them in a full blaze while  
(8-437)spirit vaults and the like sent a strange wild unearthly  
(8-437)flame from the caverns of the earth to aid the grosser fires  
(8-437)which were fed by the timber of the buildings made a  
(8-437)sight unequald on earth whatever it may be in the place  
(8-437)that is never mentioned " to ears polite." The South  
(8-437)side of the High Street is burnd through two thirds of its  
(8-437)extent and to add to the horror of the scene the steeple  
(8-437)of the Tron Church caught fire though 300 yards from the  
(8-437)conflagration and the upper part which was of wood

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(8-438)burnd to ashes before our eyes without the possibility of  
(8-438)saving it. Many hundred families lost all but the charity  
(8-438)of their fellow citizens has flow'd in such a stream that  
(8-438)we justly fear it may prove rather too large a premium  
(8-438)for future carelessness unless managed with more discretion

(8-438)than our awakend feelings are like to be in unison  
(8-438)with. Poor Will Allan the painter is burnd out but has  
(8-438)fortunately saved most of his paintings particularly a  
(8-438)noble picture of the death of Regent Murray which he was  
(8-438)just finishing for the Duke of Bedford. James Hall  
(8-438)brother of Capt. Basil Hall, made some sketches of this  
(8-438)extraordinary scene which are to be lithographized 1 and  
(8-438)I will send you a copy though it can suggest but a faint  
(8-438)idea of the horrible original. The means used to bring  
(8-438)down the ruins which continued to stand menacing a fall  
(8-438)every moment was also a very striking scene. Part were  
(8-438)mined & blown up part pull'd down by a combination  
(8-438)of mechanical powers operations on which I attended  
(8-438)with deep interest. Upon the whole I believe the  
(8-438)conflagration will be followed by its own advantages as such  
(8-438)evils usualy are. A large space is cleared which though in  
(8-438)old times it form'd the abode of the learned the noble and  
(8-438)the gay has latterly become the cells of misery and often  
(8-438)of vice. I trust a good use will be made of the opportunity  
(8-438)and might say something about the phoenix, but  
(8-438)the emblem has been rather worn out by the prologues  
(8-438)to the opening of Drury Lane.

(8-438)I owe you an hundred 2 thanks for the transcript

(8-439)respecting poor Byron's conversation 1-he was much of a  
(8-439)Crammer i.e. sometimes told his bottle holders a sort of  
(8-439)romances for which he seriously claimed no credit. I  
(8-439)always suspected the duels to be escapades of this kind  
(8-439)if Capt. Medwin rightly understood what he said & if  
(8-439)Lord Byron was not speaking of boxing matches at school.  
(8-439)We must have heard if he had fought twice or been second  
(8-439)in many affairs of honour. They do not occur amongst  
(8-439)men of note so frequently as to escape notice and the world

(8-439)had been long anxious to learn all they could of Byron.  
(8-439)I know he was like to have fought at Malta but it went  
(8-439)off as these things often do. Mr. John Hughes has shown  
(8-439)up Mr. Bull in fine stile.<sup>2</sup> The Lay of the one horse shay  
(8-439)was certainly an event to be celebrated by the fine arts  
(8-439)in poetry and in painting.<sup>3</sup> Careys poems are with  
(8-439)Blackwood to be forwarded by the first opportunity.<sup>4</sup>  
(8-439)I wish Mr. John Hughes could have seen Lockhart on  
(8-439)duty on the morning of the fire-wet to the skin and elegant  
(8-439)with a naked broadsword in his hand the very picture of  
(8-439)a distressed hero in a strolling party's tragedy. For my  
(8-439)part I felt rather sorry for myself when I heard the Rouse  
(8-439)of the Yeomanry blown at dead of night which I had so  
(8-439)often obeyed on similar occasions and saw my old corps  
(8-439)drawn up

(8-439)By torch and trumpet fast array'd.

(8-439)It is when we find ourselves unable to do our more  
(8-439)youthful feats that we feel our better days are gone bye.

(8-439)Lady Scott and Anne join in kind Compliments to the

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(8-440)excellent Doctor. I have not heard from my young  
(8-440)Oxonian lately. My Hussar is in great strength and I  
(8-440)hope to see him at Christmas. Believe me always dear  
(8-440)Mrs. Hughes Your much obliged & faithful servant

(8-440)WALTER SCOTT

(8-440)26 November [1824] EDINBURGH.

[Heffer and Wells]

TO JAMES SKENE

(8-440)CASTLE STREET, Sunday

(8-440)DEAR SKENE,-Will you come without preface and take  
(8-440)your dinner here today at half past five. I wish to  
(8-440)consult you about a letter I have from Lord Aberdeen  
(8-440)about the Castle Hill antiquities.<sup>1</sup> Yours truly,

(8-440)W. SCOTT

[circa end of November 1824]

[Skene's Memories]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO HIS SON CHARLES

(8-441)MY DEAR CHARLES,-I write chiefly at present to say  
(8-441)that with every wish to yield to whatever suits your  
(8-441)comfort I do not think it adviseable that you should  
(8-441)leave Oxford in the short Christmas vacation as you  
(8-441)propose in a letter to Sophia. Nothing suffers so much  
(8-441)by interruption as a course of study-it is in fact just  
(8-441)stopping the stone while it is running down hill and  
(8-441)giving yourself all the trouble of putting it again in  
(8-441)motion after it has lost the impulse which it had acquired.  
(8-441)I am aware you propose to read in Wales but as the only  
(8-441)object of your leaving college would be to find amusement  
(8-441)I rather fear that to that amusement study is in  
(8-441)much danger of being postponed-You will meet with  
(8-441)many men and these by no means such as can be termd  
(8-441)either indolent or dissipated who will conceive their  
(8-441)business at College well enough done if they can go  
(8-441)creditably through the ordinary studies. This may  
(8-441)do very well for men of independent fortune or who  
(8-441)have a direct entree into some profitable branch of

(8-441)business or are assured from family connection of  
(8-441)preferment in some profession. But you my dear Charles  
(8-441)must be distinguishd it will not do to be moderate. I  
(8-441)could have got you a good appointment in India where  
(8-441)you might have had plenty of field sports and made  
(8-441)money in due time. But on your affording me proofs  
(8-441)when under Mr. Williams that you were both willing  
(8-441)and able to acquire knowlege I was readily induced to  
(8-441)change your destination. God knows if I have chosen  
(8-441)for the best but this I am certain that you like every

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(8-442)youth of sufficiently quick talent have the matter much  
(8-442)in your own power. Solitude and ennui you must endure  
(8-442)as others have done before you and there is this advantage  
(8-442)in both that they make study a resource instead of a  
(8-442)duty. The greatest scholars always have been formed  
(8-442)in situations where there was least temptation to  
(8-442)dissipation. I do not mean that which is mischievous and  
(8-442)criminal but the mere amusements in themselves  
(8-442)indifferent or even laudable which withdraw the mind  
(8-442)from serious study.

(8-442)I beg you therefore to remain inter silvas academi  
(8-442)although they are at the present season both lonely and  
(8-442)leafless. We shall think of you with regret at Christmas  
(8-442)but we will be comforted with thinking that you are  
(8-442)collecting in your solitary chambers the means of making  
(8-442)yourself an honour to us all and are paying an apprentice  
(8-442)fee to knowlege and distinction.

(8-442)We begin to look up again after our fiery trials but the  
(8-442)Good Town has sufferd much. My aunt-your grand  
(8-442)Aunt Mrs. Rutherford 1 died rather suddenly last week

(8-443)though [it] was the close of a long and wasting disorder  
(8-443)which left at last so little existence between existence and  
(8-443)death that she sleepd away her life without any perceptible  
(8-443)pang. If you have black clothes you will of  
(8-443)course wear them. At the distance you are it would be  
(8-443)unnecessary for you . . . [Part of MS. cut out affecting last  
five lines.]

(8-443)EDINR. 1st December [PM. 1824]  
[Law]

TO ELIZA SKENE 1

(8-443)CASTLE STREET, 2nd December 1824

(8-443)I HAVE been much pressed for time lately, my dear  
(8-443)young friend, or I would not so long have neglected a  
(8-443)letter so interesting as yours, and when I began to answer  
(8-443)your simple and sensible question, I assure you, my dear,  
(8-443)I do not know, for excepting what is called Littleton's  
(8-443)Letters on English History (in reality written by Goldsmith),<sup>2</sup>  
(8-443)and which you have read, I know no work on British  
(8-443)history of an elementary nature. In ancient history you  
(8-443)have Ferguson and Gibbon for the Roman history, and  
(8-443)Mitford for that of Greece. But I believe you are rather  
(8-443)looking to the history of Britain, and then I am pretty  
(8-443)much at a loss, for a complete acquaintance with the  
(8-443)subject is only to be derived from a perusal of different  
(8-443)works, some of them very ill-written. You have often,  
(8-443)I dare say, tried to wind a puzzled skein of silk : the work  
(8-443)goes on very slowly till you get the right end of the thread,  
(8-443)and then it seems to disentangle itself voluntarily and  
(8-443)as a matter of course. It is just so with reading history,

(8-444)you poke about at first and run your nose against all  
(8-444)manner of contradictions till a little light breaks in and  
(8-444)then you begin to see things distinctly. I venture to  
(8-444)recommend to you to commence with Lord Hailes'  
(8-444)Annals, which, in some places a dull and heavy work, is  
(8-444)lively and entertaining in others, and has the advantage of  
(8-444)the most genuine statement of facts. After this I am  
(8-444)afraid you have no resource but John Pinkerton to lead  
(8-444)you through the James's reigns. It is a book intolerably  
(8-444)ill-written ; still, however, it cannot be dispensed with.  
(8-444)The reigns of James iv. and v. are told with great spirit  
(8-444)and naïveté by the ancient Scottish historian Pitscottie,  
(8-444)but the earlier reigns are not authentic in his book. If  
(8-444)you tire extremely of Pinkerton you may read a more  
(8-444)agreeable but less correct account of the same period in  
(8-444)Drummond of Hawthornden's history of the four James's.  
(8-444)He writes a good, firm, old-fashioned style, and is not very  
(8-444)tedious. Having got through the James's you come to the  
(8-444)reign of Mary, the most important in Scotland, and  
(8-444)happily written by an author equally distinguished for  
(8-444)taste and philosophy, the late Dr. Robertson.

(8-444)When you have once got the general facts of history,  
(8-444)whether English, Scottish, or any other country fixed in  
(8-444)your head, you can read memoirs or detached histories  
(8-444)of particular areas or incidents with use and pleasure,  
(8-444)but a traveller must first be sure of his general landmarks  
(8-444)before he has any disposition to stop for the purpose of  
(8-444)admiring any particular point of view.

(8-444)Adieu, my dear young friend. Do not neglect to  
(8-444)cultivate your taste for reading just now, for go the world  
(8-444)how it will, and I hope it will go most happily with you,  
(8-444)you will always find that with a taste for useful knowledge



(8-444)you will have happiness in this, of which scarce any  
(8-444)course of events can deprive you. Perhaps I should have  
(8-444)used a less strong word, and said comfort and amusement,  
(8-444)but alas! my dear, you will know one day that our  
(8-444)utmost allotment of happiness in this world means little

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-445)more. I would have written more about history, but I  
(8-445)am interrupted. You must come and tell me how you  
(8-445)get on. Give my love to your papa and mamma.-  
(8-445)Always your affectionate friend,           WALTER SCOTT

[Skene's Memories]

TO HIS SON WALTER, AT SANDHURST

(8-445)DEAR WALTER,-I received your letter yesterday and  
(8-445)at the same time one from Sir Herbert Taylor who seems  
(8-445)to think that the troop would be a very great point and  
(8-445)as your inclinations and his advice tend to the same  
(8-445)purpose we must make an effort to carry them into  
(8-445)execution. My lack of cash is only temporary-partly  
(8-445)owing to my house partly because a large sum ( 1000)  
(8-445)is kept hanging over my head as security for my unfortunate  
(8-445)brother]-and partly I have thought it advantageous  
(8-445)to lay out a few hundreds here in shares of stock  
(8-445)companies which promise a large return. But a few  
(8-445)months will I trust bring me quite round. In the meanwhile  
(8-445)I am looking out to borrow the 3150,, which I have  
(8-445)no doubt I can do in a week or two. I shall wish it for  
(8-445)the present to stand as a debt against you when you come  
(8-445)to your share of Mrs Carpenters succession being a larger  
(8-445)sum than I at present think it just to lay out on my eldest  
(8-445)son who will have my landed estate besides the value of  
(8-445)his present commissions. But I will pay the interest while

(8-445)I live and if you survive me as please God you will I trust  
(8-445)you will find enough to make it no very important  
(8-445)burthen till time enables you to clear it. Perhaps the  
(8-445)lender may expect your security as well as mine. It is a  
(8-445)very regular transaction because it is only bringing  
(8-445)forward and rendering available for your immediate  
(8-445)preferment a part of funds to which you must afterwards  
(8-445)be entitled.

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(8-446)I fear the purchase of the Troop will effectually interfere  
(8-446)for the present with the Ionian plan. But Lord Chief  
(8-446)Commissr. always kind writes to his son his particular  
(8-446)request that he will endeavour to get you out on the  
(8-446)regular staff and not as a supernumerary-the former it  
(8-446)seems may be managed though the latter cannot-But  
(8-446)of course this cannot be till an opening occurs-  
(8-446)therefore your joining in Ireland when you have made  
(8-446)your visit here will be indispensable and may now  
(8-446)be considered as settled. I should think you had better  
(8-446)send your horse servant and heavy baggage straight to  
(8-446)Corke without the expence and risque of bringing them  
(8-446)here.

(8-446)Two o'clock

(8-446)Constable assures me he can get the cash upon such an  
(8-446)arrangement as above so you may commence your  
(8-446)negotiation with the Captain if you like the terms. You  
(8-446)must not however close it till you write me. It is needless  
(8-446)to say that 1000 will do better than 1150. I hope this  
(8-446)will reach you before you break off the negotiation and  
(8-446)beg you to write by return of post. Your truly affectionate  
(8-446)father

WALTER SCOTT

(8-446)EDINBURGH 3rd december [PM. 1824]

(8-446)We will be at Abbotsford on the 18th. Shall be glad  
(8-446)to see you as soon thereafter as may be. I hope to hear  
(8-446)you have gone through a clever examn.

[Law]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

(8-446)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-On the opposite side you will  
(8-446)find a cheque for 25 which will pay a years interest on  
(8-446)one of the girls notes of five hundred pounds.

(8-446)I was much obliged by your letter with Jessies hopeful  
(8-446)statement of the Accompts but I see Mr. Robert Macculloch

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-447)is still desponding on the subject.<sup>1</sup> We must take our  
(8-447)chance and the skaith as my poor mother used to say  
(8-447)cannot be deadly.

(8-447)I have met occasionally with Ld & Ldy. Dalhousie who  
(8-447)were full of enquiries after you. If they are at Dalhousie  
(8-447)Castle when you come to us I think you should wait on  
(8-447)them-there is some chance of their being in E. Lothian.  
(8-447)I never saw a man less changed than Lord D. not a white  
(8-447)hair in his head not a dark one left in mine his  
(8-447)contemporary. And yet he has been in every quarter of the  
(8-447)world and I scarce out of Britain. I begin to think the  
(8-447)fagg of the mind is more exhausting than the labours of  
(8-447)war and travel.

(8-447)I think of your long journey with some pain though of  
(8-447)the pleasure of seeing you and my dear nieces with much

(8-447)pleasure. Both the Walters will be down immediatly  
(8-447)after their examinations & Charles will be the only absent  
(8-447)member of our now contracted family circle. We will  
(8-447)be at Abbotsford on the 18th or 19th current and nothing  
(8-447)will so much reconcile me to the folly of having built a  
(8-447)large house as to see you all in it.<sup>2</sup> I think Anne and Eliza  
(8-447)will give me credit for finishing it handsomely.

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1824

(8-448)Give my kindest love to both in which Lady Scott and  
(8-448)Anne sincerely join and believe me ever Dear Mrs. Scott  
(8-448)Your affectionate Brother

(8-448)WALTER SCOTT

(8-448)EDINR. 6th Decr. [1824]

[Huntington]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH 1

(8-448)MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I was vex'd enough before at  
(8-448)not getting to Northumberland and here is the most  
(8-448)beautiful day for seeing the park at Alnwick to make me  
(8-448)more mortified still-A handsome dash of rain or a liberal  
(8-448)peppering of snow would have reconciled me better to  
(8-448)my destiny. But the frogs are still busy in my freind  
(8-448)Mr. Ferriars stomach

(8-448)So what's impossible can't be  
(8-448)And very rarely comes to pass.

(8-448)It is very kind of your Grace to think of the singed  
(8-448)rufles of poor auld Reekie. The wealthy classes in Edinr.  
(8-448)subscribed from ten to thirty guineas a piece. Lord Melville

(8-448)& one or two noblemen 50,, and two or three in their  
(8-448)munificence gave 100,, for example the Diva Pecunia  
(8-448)whom mortals call Mrs Coutts. There is fully as much  
(8-448)money subscribed as is necessary for most of the sufferers  
(8-448)are of the lowest class and we must take care not to give  
(8-448)them such excess of charity as may be a bounty for

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-449)carelessness if not a proemium for future fires. In these  
(8-449)circumstances I would say that 50 or 50 guineas from  
(8-449)the Duke of Buccleuch not yet sui juris) would be considerd  
(8-449)as very handsome & quite sufficient to express his  
(8-449)good will to the metropolis of Scotland the old neighbour  
(8-449)of Dalkeith. Less perhaps your Grace could not well give  
(8-449)and more would I think be quite unnecessary. I askd  
(8-449)the presidents opinion who thinks it would be quite  
(8-449)enough.

(8-449)As for your exploits upon the person of the fox do not  
(8-449)tell them in Quorn or publish them in Melton Mowbray.  
(8-449)My kind compliments to Mr Blakeney and I beg my  
(8-449)particular respects to Lord Ravensworth and family  
(8-449)with whom this letter will find you. Your Grace will have  
(8-449)a high treat in the music at Ravensworth castle.<sup>1</sup> I wish  
(8-449)you would be so good as tell me how you like Alnwick  
(8-449)Always your Graces truly faithful & obedt

(8-449)WALTER SCOTT

(8-449)EDINR. 7th Decemr. [1824]

(8-449)Were there pipers at Alnwick.<sup>2</sup>  
[Buccleuch]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

(8-449)EDINBURGH December 10 1824

(8-449)MY DEAR MRS CLEPHANE,-I am fast at moorings here  
(8-449)till Saturday 18th December when our vacation begins,  
(8-449)and in most cases can be at your command any day from  
(8-449)one to two o'clock onwards. The best and kindest way  
(8-449)will be to come to a family dinner with Anna Jane.<sup>3</sup>

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(8-450)Perhaps we will be able to prevail on you to give us some  
(8-450)part of the daft days at Abbotsford, where I can expect  
(8-450)like a patriarch to assemble all my family, Charles  
(8-450)excepted. We shall junket about untill after Christmas-day,  
(8-450)which by ancient custom we spend at Mertoun when the  
(8-450)Scotts are in the country. We shall then be stationary,  
(8-450)and perhaps Anna Jane and you will add to our family  
(8-450)party.

(8-450)I heard from Lady Compton lately 1 and am glad to  
(8-450)find Lord Compton stood the passage of Mount Cenis so  
(8-450)well. I am, with much regard, and best wishes, in which  
(8-450)Lady Scott and Anne sincerely join, always my dear  
(8-450)Mrs Clephane, Very truly yours,

(8-450)WALTER SCOTT

(8-450)The Lockharts dined with us yesterday-all well. They  
(8-450)will be with us at Xmas. Lady Scott says I have not made  
(8-450)my invitation half pressing [enough]. I can only say in  
(8-450)addition, I trust you are sensible that there is no society  
(8-450)we set more value on than Miss Clephane's and yours,  
(8-450)and that if I am not urgent, it is because urgency is  
(8-450)sometimes not kind. But if urgency can make your  
(8-450)motions suit with our wishes, you must suppose I have

(8-450)used all the superlatives the language affords to induce you  
(8-450)to spend at Abbotsford the space between Christmas and  
(8-450)Twelfth-night, when hey-ho! we must return to dirty  
(8-450)weather, and dirty streets-

[Northampton]

TO HIS SON WALTER, AT SANDHURST

(8-450)EDINBURGH 11 December 1824

(8-450)My DEAR WALTER,-I will proceed to provide the  
(8-450)ready if possible in the manner proposed and doubt not  
(8-450)to make it up though Mrs Carpenters divisible fund  
(8-450)proves rather less than I supposed about 1500 4 per

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-451)cents 1 a good thing however at the present price of Stocks  
(8-451)but if they fall it will be less.

(8-451)I approve greatly of your going to London do not  
(8-451)fail to see old Greenwood and Sir Herbert Taylor and  
(8-451)H.R.H. if possible. You must not however think of  
(8-451)going to Ireland at present it would be almost an affront  
(8-451)to Sir Adam my old friend and your very affectionate  
(8-451)well wisher.<sup>2</sup> There is no occasion for the thing going  
(8-451)farther than your own inclinations may lead you but I  
(8-451)assure you I shall be rather unhappy till it be off or on.  
(8-451)You will meet without observation or opportunity of  
(8-451)remark as the families naturally meet in the country and  
(8-451)you can regulate yourself accordingly. Anne Page 3 is to  
(8-451)be at Gattonside where you may be as little or as often as  
(8-451)you please and the affair may go off or on as you and she  
(8-451)may stand affected on further acquaintance. So we 4 shall  
(8-451)expect you to come straight down from London when

(8-451)your business there is finishd which cannot take above a  
(8-451)day or two.

(8-451)Walter is to be examined on the 15th and hopes confidently  
(8-451)to get an appointment to the Engineers. He comes  
(8-451)down straight to Edinburgh. I suppose it would be difficult  
(8-451)for you to arrange your own matters so as to travel  
(8-451)together which would otherwise be comfortable.

(8-451)I have had the good luck to get Richard Lockhart a  
(8-451)Cadetship which gives Lockhart much pleasure.

(8-451)Charles intended to go down to Wales when his  
(8-451)examination is over for he also is to be examined on the  
(8-451)15 which seems set apart for a day of general searching  
(8-451)into the qualifications of my family. But upon mature  
(8-451)consideration he like Tom Purdie takes my advice 5  
(8-451)and continues quiet in College during the Christmas  
(8-451)vacation.

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(8-452)Amid the general promotion of my friends and family  
(8-452)Bruce the piper has returnd Pipe Major of the 72d. He  
(8-452)came to see us in his fine new dress and informs me he  
(8-452)has renounced Whisky entirely and refused a dram in  
(8-452)proof of his resolution. If he keeps it he will do well.  
(8-452)He brought me a cane which he had cut for me in China  
(8-452)from the Tea tree a very smart affair. I was pleased to  
(8-452)see that the poor fellow had made a rally.

(8-452)As you will call on Miss Dumergue when you are in  
(8-452)London you are within a few doors of the Duke of  
(8-452)Wellington who wishes to send me down a parcel.1 I  
(8-452)inclose a few lines to his Grace which you can give him or  
(8-452)leave them with your card if he is not at home.



(8-452)My draught for 25,, in your favour on Messrs Coutts  
(8-452)is inclosed as you seemd in a former letter to think you  
(8-452)would be hard run. You can write a few lines to let me  
(8-452)know your motions and also that the m[oney reached]

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(8-453)safe. The less time you lose in coming down for [MS.  
(8-453)torn] may be absolutely necessary to bestow in London  
(8-453)th[e] more acceptable will your presence be to your  
(8-453)affectionately

(8-453)WALTER SCOTT

(8-453)I have just seen Constable who says the cash will be got.  
(8-453)It is an additional reason for your coming down instantly  
(8-453)that deeds &c must be signd which will be most  
(8-453)conveniently done at Abbotsford. I think you had best  
(8-453)address at Abbotsford Melrose as I will be there on the  
(8-453)18th and it is not likely you will write till the 15th be over.

[Law]

454                      LETTERS OF                      1824

TO [SIR ROBERT PEEL] 1

(8-454)NOTHING could be kinder my dear Sir than your  
(8-454)interposition with Mr Wynne in favour of the young Lockhart  
(8-454)and it gives the greatest pleasure to my son-in-law and  
(8-454)his family as well as to me. I trust the appointment may  
(8-454)do some credit to those who have so kindly interested  
(8-454)themselves in the lads fortunes for excepting perhaps my  
(8-454)late friend John Leyden I have never met with any person  
(8-454)who showd so extraordinary a facility in acquiring

(8-454)languages for although he is only fifteen he chose two  
(8-454)years since to study Hebrew for his own amusement and  
(8-454)became extremely troublesome in consequence to his  
(8-454)own father and some other divines and professors of  
(8-454)Glasgow who had not the same appetite for the Chaldaic  
(8-454)roots. I conceive such a turn for languages may make  
(8-454)him useful in the East.<sup>2</sup>

(8-454)I have often [been] thinking of late on our walk up the  
(8-454)High Street 3 of Edinburgh when we saw what in more

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      455

(8-455)respects than one can never be seen again. The greater  
(8-455)part of the Parliamt. Square and half of the southern  
(8-455)side of the High Street have been totally ruind by the  
(8-455)late dreadful fires and whatever manner these buildings  
(8-455)may [be] replaced it is very unlikely that the substituted  
(8-455)architecture will have the effect of the lofty old buildings  
(8-455)which are now totally destroyd.

(8-455)I think it likely that I will be in town in the ensuing  
(8-455)spring and will be most happy to subject my weather  
(8-455)beaten visage to any artist whom you may be pleased to  
(8-455)select 1 and I heartily wish there was anything else by  
(8-455)which I could shew my sense of your great kindness being  
(8-455)very sincerely My dear Sir Your obliged and thankful  
(8-455)humble Servant                                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-455)EDINBURGH 11th December [1824]  
[Owen D. Young]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

(8-455)CASTLE STREET Nov. 15 (2) [15th December] 1824  
(8-455)MY DEAR MRS CLEPHANE,-I have so little certainty

(8-455)of being at home before four tomorrow that I am under  
(8-455)the necessity to name that late hour for business. It will  
(8-455)give Lady Scott and me particular pleasure if you will  
(8-455)come with Miss Clephane and take pot-luck in bonnets, or  
(8-455)what you will-I am, in Anne's phraseology, terribly  
(8-455)disappointed that you cannot postpone your return to  
(8-455)your lonely isle till after 1825 has commenced. Take care,  
(8-455)there be storms on the wing, though I hope they will not  
(8-455)come your way. Yours most faithfully and respectfully

(8-455)WALTER SCOTT  
[Northampton]

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LETTERS OF

1824

TO MRS. LOGAN, WILLDOWN, COLDINGHAM 1

(8-456)MADAM,-I hope you will excuse some delay in answering  
(8-456)your letter. My eyes do not of late serve me well at  
(8-456)Candlelight which I am afraid my writing at present will  
(8-456)testify and my forenoons are occupied by my official  
(8-456)duties.

(8-456)You may rest assured that the trust you have reposed  
(8-456)in me shall be sacred though I had already heard of Miss  
(8-456)Logan as the author of a well-esteemd novel calld Saint  
(8-456)Johnstoun.<sup>2</sup> I have not yet had the good fortune to read  
(8-456)it for the reasons I have already mentiond. Those who  
(8-456)have read & written much when young must be contented  
(8-456)to listen to the report of others as they begin to grow old.

(8-456)I know almost nothing of your celebrated namesake <sup>3</sup>  
(8-456)of Restalrig except what the history of the Gowrie

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-457)Conspiracy tells. The late historian Malcolm Laing undertook  
(8-457)a scrutiny into the business with the belief that the  
(8-457)letters produced by Sprott were forgeries but ended with  
(8-457)believing them strictly genuine.<sup>1</sup> I may notice a strange  
(8-457)error which has got into most histories. It is said that  
(8-457)Logans trial took place after death in order that his  
(8-457)property might fall into the Kings hands by forfeiture  
(8-457)and be conferrd on a needy favourite and this favourite  
(8-457)is said to have been the Kings cousin the Earl of Moray.  
(8-457)But many years ago when for a very different purpose  
(8-457)my friend Mr Colin Mackenzie of Portmore and I went  
(8-457)through a careful examination respecting the transmission  
(8-457)of Logans property it appeard that he had sold the lands  
(8-457)of which E. Moray got possession afterwards before his  
(8-457)death-consequently that motive could not exist-You  
(8-457)are probably aware that in Cobbitts state Trials there is  
(8-457)the fullest account of the Gowrie affair. A Mr Scott  
(8-457)of Perth <sup>2</sup> and the Editor of the Book calld Threnodia  
(8-457)(popularly Gall's Gabions) have labourd very hard to  
(8-457)prove the King was the conspirator & the Ruthvens  
(8-457)the victims-as far as I can judge they are mistaken  
(8-457)and only oppose popular rumour to facts which though  
(8-457)not very intelligible are undeniable. My reasons are  
(8-457)that James was far from bloodthirsty and was constitutionally  
(8-457)very timid. I think he was not likely to have  
(8-457)undertaken such a business at all-certainly the last man  
(8-457)in the world to have exposed his own person in the

(8-458)execution and that it was seriously exposed there can be  
(8-458)no doubt-

(8-458)Concerning Logan himself I must beg pardon in speaking  
(8-458)to a lady of his name perhaps descended from him but  
(8-458)his letters indicate a wild schemer not likely to suff[e]r

(8-458)his conscience to stand in the way of his projects. I have  
(8-458)seen a contract of his with the celebrated discoverer of the  
(8-458)Logarithms ancestor of Lord Napier 1 setting forth that  
(8-458)from apparitions & otherwise it was evident there was a  
(8-458)treasure conceald in Logans house of Fastcastle-and  
(8-458)Napier engages to discover the same by lawful rules of  
(8-458)art-the treasure to be divided betwixt the parties in  
(8-458)certain proportions. But Napier anxiously stipulates a  
(8-458)certain escort of barons with their followers to convoy  
(8-458)him & his proportion of the treasure safe out of Logans  
(8-458)power when the research should have succeeded. I think  
(8-458)you will see something of this in the article Napier in  
(8-458)Woods edition of the Scottish peerage.

(8-458)These are the only particulars which occur to my  
(8-458)recollection as belonging to the story you propose to  
(8-458)treat of-A friend of mine long since made some progress  
(8-458)in a fiction on the same subject but I dare say would never  
(8-458)interfere with you or at least allow you full time to try  
(8-458)your lot with that capricious animal calld the public.

(8-458)You are aware that Logan resided at Gunsgreen 2  
(8-458)near Eymouth & not far I should suppose from your  
(8-458)present place of residence. Fast Castle where he boasts to  
(8-458)have harboured Earl Bothwell 3 was probably only used

(8-459)as a tower of strength and retreat. I have a beautiful  
(8-459)picture of the ruins by the reverend Mr Thomson of  
(8-459)Duddingston.1

(8-459)I should think popular tradition might preserve  
(8-459)something of his stirring and mutinous spirit in the vicinity  
(8-459)of his former mansion but this is all I know.2 If you  
(8-459)should wish any further explanation my address for the

(8-459)next three weeks will be Abbotsford, Melrose-when I  
(8-459)shall return to this place. I remain madam Your most  
(8-459)obedient Servt WALTER SCOTT

(8-459)EDINR. 18 Decr. [1824]  
[Gordon]

460 LETTERS OF 1824

TO LADY COMPTON

[circa 21st December 1824]

(8-460)MY DEAR FRIEND,-I have been looking round with all  
(8-460)the wish I must ever have to gratify any desire of yours to  
(8-460)see if I could espy anything in this land of projects which  
(8-460)might suit your friend and protege Signer Bertolini.<sup>1</sup> There  
(8-460)are you know plenty of young men in Scotland gaping for  
(8-460)employment who are quite sure to anticipate a foreigner  
(8-460)in all the ordinary lines of occupation. And although the  
(8-460)present rage for Stock Companies have made various  
(8-460)openings for Clerks secretaries and such persons yet there  
(8-460)are also sharp men of the quill ready to grasp at such  
(8-460)pickings for them or theirs and the foreigner who should  
(8-460)enter into competition besides the risque of his being  
(8-460)really indifferently qualified for an office which might  
(8-460)require some previous knowledge of the subject to which  
(8-460)it related would scarce be rated as capable even if he  
(8-460)were so.

(8-460)There are but two professions in which foreigners are  
(8-460)readily employed in Scotland the one is as Teachers of  
(8-460)music or the continental languages which I suppose Mr.

(8-461)Bertolini might think beneath his station-the other that  
(8-461)of consul or vice consul at some of our seaports. This it  
(8-461)appears to me would be the best object for Mons Bertolini  
(8-461)to aim at but his attaining it must depend on his interest  
(8-461)with ministry. I knew M. Sebastian of Lathrisk long ago  
(8-461)indeed he was a brother trooper of mine when I had horse  
(8-461)to ride and weapon to wield but I have not heard of him  
(8-461)for many years nor do I know what interest the family are  
(8-461)possessed of. My own credit is quite crackd and only  
(8-461)mended like a china saucer with a little [indecipherable] glue  
(8-461)so trust nothing to that. Lord Northampton I should  
(8-461)suppose might easily carry such a point.

(8-461)I am delighted to hear that you passed Mount Cenis  
(8-461)easily considering the charge that you had with you and  
(8-461)Lord Comptons delicate state of health. You I suppose  
(8-461)are enjoying balmy breezes through [indecipherable] while  
(8-461)we have such a killing frost that Nova Zembla is a joke  
(8-461)to it. This has succeeded to pestilent tempests and  
(8-461)hurricanes.

(8-461)With all the ills so much improved  
(8-461)Of this rough quarter of the year  
(8-461)That even you so much beloved  
(8-461)We would not now wish with us here.

(8-461)To reenforce the radical heat I suppose we set Auld  
(8-461)[Reekie] on fire. The old witch continued burning for  
(8-461)three days and the [sight] was equally sublime and  
(8-461)horrible. You cannot but remember the corner house  
(8-461)in the Parlt. Square-the highest in the world I suppose  
(8-461)counting those which are built exclusively for domestic  
(8-461)accomodation-imagine it on fire from top to bottom the  
(8-461)flames rushing out at the roof and every window-imagine  
(8-461)the front walls giving way suddenly and with a most tremendous  
(8-461)crash [indecipherable] in the vaults beneath occupied

(8-461)as spirit stores and these catching fire and sending forth  
(8-461)as from a volcanoe a flame of a blue unnatural complexion  
(8-461)which rose like a column sixty or seventy feet into  
(8-461)the air contrasting strangely with the red yellow glare of

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LETTERS OF

1824

(8-462)the grosser element-imagine all this my dear Lady and  
(8-462)dont talk to me of your volcanuses as I heard a travel'd lady  
(8-462)call them. There was the blowing up of the tottering  
(8-462)ruins very great in its way and the pulling down of others  
(8-462)with chain cables by a windlass to the tune of a boatswains  
(8-462)whistle and by the arms of a hundred seamen-then the  
(8-462)omni-presence of James Hall with all the activity of all  
(8-462)the families I accomodated with a little campstool and  
(8-462)making sketches among smouldering ruins and kindling  
(8-462)ruins. He has really made some excellent sketches which  
(8-462)have been lithographised. I would send you a set did I  
(8-462)know how-All this as the man says in the Old Bachelor  
(8-462)is very fine but I would rather go plain all my life than  
(8-462)wear such finery again.<sup>2</sup>

(8-462)The Mr. Colquhoun your Ladyship asks for is the only  
(8-462)son of the late Lord Register 3-very wealthy-in delicate  
(8-462)health-and a very good and even able young man with  
(8-462)the modern exception of being a little too sanctified. I take  
(8-462)some interest in him as he is nephew by the mothers side  
(8-462)of poor Will. Erskine my best and dearest friend. He and  
(8-462)his mother asked me much for introductions for him when  
(8-462)he went abroad and I believe I did not succeed in  
(8-462)convincing them that I could not oblige them because  
(8-462)literally I knew no one whose acquaintance could be  
(8-462)useful to him. So that if you can conveniently shew him  
(8-462)a little countenance and place it to my account who am

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-463)already so much indebted to you it will be of consequence  
(8-463)to the young gentleman who is really intelligent and  
(8-463)accomplished though when I saw him there was risque of  
(8-463)his riding on the rigging of the Kirk. You can draw on  
(8-463)me for the amount of the like civility to any Signor or  
(8-463)Monsr. who may have a fancy for knowing how the air  
(8-463)feels when the thermometer is down at the hard zero and  
(8-463)whether whiskey can keep out the frost.

(8-463)I would have been delighted could we have persuaded  
(8-463)Mrs. Clephane and Anna Jane to have Christmassed with  
(8-463)us at Abbotsford. They could have been nowhere where  
(8-463)there would have been a greater wish to receive and make  
(8-463)them happy but there seemed some objections which as  
(8-463)I did not understand I could not combat. I wish Mrs.  
(8-463)Clephane for her own good and Anna Janes sake would  
(8-463)just remember the old proverb " Better a finger off as aye  
(8-463)wagging." On my word I believe the best way to deal  
(8-463)with unfriendly friends is to give them a handsome affront  
(8-463)at once and deprive them of the title to make us  
(8-463)uncomfortable since they have no desire to render us happy.  
(8-463)Did I show you among my other rattle-traps a dirk with  
(8-463)the mottoe " Better kind fremit as fremit kind "1-it has  
(8-463)a good deal of sense in it.

(8-463)I have scarce left to say all the kind wishes which we  
(8-463)would waft to Lord Compton and babies. Pray when you  
(8-463)honour me with a letter say particularly how he is now  
(8-463)that you have been some time in the land of promised  
(8-463)health.

(8-463)Morritt is in his domain of Rokeby which Rose calls  
(8-463)Mauretania-Miss Morritt pretty much as usual-  
(8-463)Governess dead-I am sorry for she was a good woman  
(8-463)but I cannot cry for it was a dreadful tax on Morritt. But

(8-463)he is a saint in temper-My philanthropy like Corporal

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1824

(8-464)Nyms patience would have sagg'd long since.<sup>1</sup> All our allies  
(8-464)are well-Lockharts especially. Mother and baby had  
(8-464)both bad colds in the end of the year-God bless you my  
(8-464)dear Lady Compton with all the blessings of the New  
(8-464)Year now approaching. Once more my best respects  
(8-464)wait on Lord C. Always most respectfully yours

(8-464)WALTER SCOTT

(8-464)I only use a black seal in consequence of the actual  
(8-464)death of a relation long since dead to the world.<sup>2</sup> I  
(8-464)mention this for mourning seals and paper always make  
(8-464)me nervous.

[Northampton]

TO DAVID LAING

(8-464)DEAR MR DAVID,-I return all your proofs to which  
(8-464)I have made little or no addition excepting the  
(8-464)introductory sentences you wanted. There is quite enough  
(8-464)of illustration for of making notes there is no end.

(8-464)I will bring the Manuscript of Mr Ellis to town if it  
(8-464)contains the Romance you want.

(8-464)I send by this same opportunity the copy for Ballantyne  
(8-464)to begin setting up Auld Robin Gray. The etching is  
(8-464)very cleverly done & I hope it will make a neat little  
(8-464)Bannatinean volume.

(8-464)I charge you on your allegiance to Black Letter not to

(8-464)depart before the 24. Yours truly W SCOTT

(8-464)ABBOTSFORD Monday [1824] (3)

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 465

(8-465)I am glad to see Sir Eger on hand. It is pity we  
(8-465)cannot get an older copy.

[Mitchell]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE 1

(8-465)DEAR JAMES,-I return the proof and more proof. Be  
(8-465)it for good or for evil I am glad to be once more in full  
(8-465)motion.

(8-465)I inclose also the new Insurance for 3000 more which  
(8-465)please to complete by paying the premium as there  
(8-465)advised. Mr. Cadell will I dare say manage this as the  
(8-465)other for me.

(8-465)I have witnessed a terrible inundation here in part but  
(8-465)as I went down to eat my Christmas dinner at Mertoun  
(8-465)it was much worse. My haugh was quite overflowd the  
(8-465)water four feet deep in the offices to unite two inconsistent  
(8-465)calamities the water getting at some unslaked lime their  
(8-465)union set fire to a straw heap & nearly to my offices.  
(8-465)Besides about a hundred yards of my flood dike is destroyd  
(8-465)or damaged. The Tweed was fifteen inches higher  
(8-465)than in the 1806 which was one of the highest floods in  
(8-465)human memory. Yours truly W. S.

(8-465)ABBOTSFORD Sunday evening [26th December 1824](2)  
[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-465)DEAR JAMES,-That I may take up my stitches I wish  
(8-465)to see the intermediate copy from page 64 print being  
(8-465)sheet D. the last sent to the copy sent yesterday. I shall only

466                      LETTERS      OF                      1824

(8-466)want it for ten minutes. I suppose you receivd my copy  
(8-466)yesterday. I now send four leaves more to p. 31 inclusive.  
(8-466)I must crawl to the court but will be at home by two when  
(8-466)I shall expect the copy wanted the boy can wait & I will  
(8-466)return it. Any disappoint[ment] in this would make great  
(8-466)delay & blundering. Yours truly

(8-466)W SCOTT  
(8-466)Saturday [1824]

(8-466)If you don't bestir your presses there will be a long stop  
(8-466)as I must take something else in hand. I would be glad  
(8-466)to have running copy from the beginning at more leisure.

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-466)MY DEAR JAMES,-I return the proofs and will send copy  
(8-466)tomorrow. Sandies offer is a very fair one and I should  
(8-466)be happy to do him a kindness in any way. But in the  
(8-466)present day when money is so difficult to be disposed of  
(8-466)to tolerable advantage I find no wish to part with one of  
(8-466)the few funds which seems to be very profitable without  
(8-466)labour on my part and I really think Hogarth & you [as]  
(8-466)near connections could make Sandie up a 4th between  
(8-466)you at a less sacrifice than I can. I will take care to get  
(8-466)the notes done. Yours truly

(8-466)W SCOTT

(8-466)Pray forward the inclosed quam primum.

[1824]

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-466)DEAR JAMES,-I send you more copy having got the  
(8-466)missing sheets. It now runs from p. 20 to p. 30. Please  
(8-466)to see if it unites. You do not say you have receivd

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-467)Copy for a Roxburghe Tract which was sent on Saturday I  
(8-467)think. I saw a glimpse of you at Bannatyne yesterday but  
(8-467)you fled from me like Quicksilver. Yours truly

(8-467)W. S.

[1824]

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-467)DEAR JAMES,-I return your sheaf of bills-I wish we  
(8-467)could have got the accompts balanced before you went  
(8-467)away. I should also like to have [a] specific idea of the  
(8-467)advantages Constable & Co propose to the P.O. besides  
(8-467)giving us the printing of the works which are ours already  
(8-467)in a new form & at great expence to us-In short I would  
(8-467)like to see my way very clear in the matter-If they were  
(8-467)to talk of stereotyping the Encyclopedia I would  
(8-467)understand it-But what works but ours do they propose to

(8-467)stereotype or do they mean to give us a large share of  
(8-467)additional business in the ordinary way-I would like all  
(8-467)this well weighd. Yours truly

(8-467)W SCOTT

(8-467)CASTLE STREET Tuesday [1824]

(8-467)I send more copy Hamilton being well.  
[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-467)MY DEAR JAMES,-I did not write because contrary to  
(8-467)my wont I had destroyd some manuscript which I had  
(8-467)finishd and wanted to try back a little. I do not think I  
(8-467)shall send anything this week-next week I will be in  
(8-467)town and

(8-467)We ll try again-I dinna ken-  
(8-467)We ll aiblins happen better.

468                                      LETTERS    OF                                      1824

(8-468)I send copy for the prefatory Memoir to Bag[e]1 -  
(8-468)incomplete also that part of Lady Anne Lindsays poems  
(8-468)which is to be reprinted as my contribution to the  
(8-468)Bannatyne Club. We must have it set up in a handsome type  
(8-468)on which you are to consult with David Laing.

(8-468)My occasions for cash this term are    500 more heavy  
(8-468)than I expected owing to my having purchased for that  
(8-468)sum three small parks which square my property at  
(8-468)Huntly Burn and render it considerably more valuable.  
(8-468)You will therefore be so good as send me two bills payable  
(8-468)on London @    500 each & one for Galashiels. The

(8-468)former must be three months the latter may be four. I  
(8-468)must make a rally to get the Crusrs out by the new year  
(8-468)& the 4th volume will meet these-I am always truly  
(8-468)yours

(8-468)W. S.

(8-468)But send the Bills by post. Gordon brings this who will  
(8-468)tell you of my well fare.

(8-468)ABBOTSFORD, Monday [circa end of 1824]  
[Stevenson]

1824                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      469

TO SIR WALTER SCOTT 1

(8-469)SIR,-The encouragement you held out, and the assistance  
(8-469)you afforded me, some years ago, in publishing in the  
(8-469)Edinburgh Annual Register, a small poem entitled the " Vision  
(8-469)of Belshazzar," induces me at the present moment to present  
(8-469)you herewith with a Copy of a Poem, printed but not published.  
(8-469)Your influence in the Republic of Letters will at once  
(8-469)decide the fate of this attempt & my object in now addressing  
(8-469)you is to petition you to exert that influence in my behalf.  
(8-469)I remain, Sir, Yrs most respectfully                      W. K. WESTLY

(8-469)LEEDS May 12th 1824  
[Walpole Collection]

1825                      LETTERS                      470

TO CHARLES MARJORIBANKS,1 BRIGHTON

(8-470)MY DEAR SIR,-I was just favoured with your letter as  
(8-470)I was about to sit down for the purpose of wishing our

(8-470)kind friend Mrs Coutts a good new year and troubling  
(8-470)her with my best thanks for having completely carpeted  
(8-470)with Gothic & corresponding covering the apartments  
(8-470)here. It is very hard there is no better way of enjoying  
(8-470)such a valued gift than by treading it under foot but I  
(8-470)shall [never] step upon it-since tread on it I must-  
(8-470)without recollecting Mrs. Coutts' kindness.

(8-470)We have had perils here by flood & fire the Tweed came  
(8-470)down in emulation of the Neva I suppose coverd all my  
(8-470)haugh & took away 100 yards of a good flood dyke-but  
(8-470)what is still more extra [ordinary] after standing two feet  
(8-470)deep in my stable yard and offices the malicious river  
(8-470)contrived to set them on fire. Strange as it may seem this  
(8-470)was actually the case for the water got at some unslaked  
(8-470)lime which was deposited in a shed and generating fire of  
(8-470)course caught to some straw and but for ready help would  
(8-470)have burnd the premises like a ship at sea. Talk to me of  
(8-470)setting the Thames on fire after this ! Pray tell this to  
(8-470)Mrs Coutts as I think it will entertain her and make at  
(8-470)the same time Lady Scotts best wishes and mine for all  
(8-470)good things during this new year. Accept them yourself  
(8-470)my dear Sir and believe me Most truly yours

(8-470)ABBOTSFORD, 1 January 1825.                      WALTER SCOTT  
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

1825                      LETTERS OF SIR WALTER SCOTT                      471

TO SIR ADAM FERGUSSON

(8-471)MY DEAR ADAM,-You will forgive my anxiety but  
(8-471)Master Slender's impatience has spread itself to me. We  
(8-471)are quite at a loss how to steer and you must be pilot.  
(8-471)He is particularly anxious to plead his own cause to Anne  
(8-471)Page before she comes to any positive explanation with her



(8-471)mother but he is a little afraid of embrogling[ ]l matters  
(8-471)by coming forward till Lady Fergusson and you approve.  
(8-471)He is anxious to take his cue from you and will meet you  
(8-471)anywhere tomorrow morning if you cannot conveniently  
(8-471)receive him at Gattonside. He is by no means desirous  
(8-471)to precipitate anything above all he feels too grateful for  
(8-471)Anne's generosity to desire to hurry her resolutions-  
(8-471)only he naturally wishes to be heard for his interest on a  
(8-471)point where his feelings are so deeply concerned.

(8-471)Mrs. Scott of Harden gave him the enclosed letter of  
(8-471)introduction for a lady of distinction near Corke. All  
(8-471)who know Mrs. Scott must consider her to be a very  
(8-471)severe judge of character and the last person to patronize  
(8-471)a roue or even a coxcomb. She read me the letter in  
(8-471)which she gave some character of Walter whom she has  
(8-471)known his whole life and as she has thought proper to  
(8-471) dwell on some points upon which Anne or her mother  
(8-471)may be anxious I think it no breach of confidence to put  
(8-471)her testimony to a different purpose from that Mrs. Scott  
(8-471)intended and so enclose it to you to be shewn to Anne or  
(8-471)Mrs. J. if you think proper. Being written by a  
(8-471)comparative stranger a lady of shrewd sense and knowledge  
(8-471)of the world it may have perhaps more weight than  
(8-471)the praise of a partial friend like you or a father like  
(8-471)myself.

(8-471)I cannot help thinking it very hard that a lad who has  
(8-471)been all his life joked for being rather too timid and quiet  
(8-471)should suffer from a bad opinion adopted of his habits of

(8-472)thinking and behaviour being in the other extreme.  
(8-472)I am always Dear Adam, Most truly yours

(8-472)WALTER SCOTT

(8-472)ABBOTSFORD Sunday [2nd or 9th January 1825]

[Miss E. N. Ferguson]

TO SIR ADAM FERGUSSON, KNIGHT KEEPER ETC ETC ETC,  
GATTONSIDE, MELROSE

(8-472)MY DEAR ADAM,-I mentiond to you when we parted

(8-472)I would trouble you with a letter and I fear it must be a

(8-472)long one but you will excuse my anxiety as a friend and

(8-472)remember that I am a parent.

(8-472)I have been much mortified and grieved to understand

(8-472)that Mrs Jobson 1 disapproves of the encouragement which

(8-472)Miss Jobson has been so good as to give to my son and

(8-472)which I had presumed to think would not have been so

(8-472)displeasing to her. I am fully aware of the severity which

(8-472)must attend the temporary separation of an only child

(8-472)from her mother and well aware of the right which Mrs.

(8-472)Jobson possesses to scrutinize minutely the character and

(8-472)condition of any who approach her daughter as a suitor.

(8-472)But I thought that that separation might be regarded as

(8-472)an event which was to be lookd for at some period or

(8-472)other and the evils of which were like others in life to be

(8-472)weighed against its appropriate advantages and as I hope

(8-472)to satisfy Mrs Jobsons natural apprehensions on the

(8-472)subject of my sons disposition and character I cannot but

(8-472)hope that Mrs. Jobson will be disposed to reconcile herself

(8-472)to his proposals.

(8-472)I will take the liberty of supposing though there may

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(8-473)be vanity in doing so that there is nothing objectionable

(8-473)in Walters family or circumstances. Miss Jobson might  
(8-473)no doubt look much higher and to greater wealth and  
(8-473)rank. But my son is not so deficient in either as to make  
(8-473)him unworthy of her favour if on other accounts she can  
(8-473)honour him by conferring it.

(8-473)It may be supposed that Miss Jobsons wealth is the  
(8-473)principal object of his pursuit & my encouragement but  
(8-473)slightly as we are acquainted I do not think Mrs. Jobson  
(8-473)would willingly attribute mercenary motives to us & I  
(8-473)am conscious we do not deserve them. Miss Jobsons  
(8-473)independent fortune is thus far [useful] that it enables  
(8-473)my son to marry without imprudence the object of  
(8-473)his choice and affords me the chance before I am very  
(8-473)old to see my eldest boy settled in the world & to  
(8-473)look forward with Gods blessing to the continuance of  
(8-473)my name and family. This great advantage I would  
(8-473)endeavour to meet by every reciprocal compensation in  
(8-473)my power and as my fortune is easy I trust I might  
(8-473)without injustice to the rest of my family make very  
(8-473)suitable settlements. You have the rent-roll of Abbotsford  
(8-473)& may consult agriculturists about it if you will-it  
(8-473)rates altogether at 1680,, which in the present day  
(8-473)might sell for upwards of 50,000. I know it has cost  
(8-473)me more than that same. My very successful literary  
(8-473)undertakings engage me in cash transactions of considerable  
(8-473)extent but from these I have made large sums of  
(8-473)money and I have no doubt that I will add greatly to the  
(8-473)value of the landed property which must support my name  
(8-473)& the rank with which my Sovereign honoured me before  
(8-473)I am called to part with it. I should also say that my  
(8-473)younger children have a provision of about 5000 under  
(8-473)liferent of their maternal aunt & that I have insured my  
(8-473)life for 10,000 & upwards in case of sudden death. I  
(8-473)hope it may be considered that this state of my affairs  
(8-473)enables me to do by my daughter in law what is just &

(8-473)proper. Besides this Walter has 5000 alongst with the

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(8-474)others & his commission which including 2037 laying in  
(8-474)Courtts for purchase of the first troop vacant may amount  
(8-474)to as much more 10,000 in all independant of me  
(8-474)entirely.

(8-474)I hope Mrs. Jobson will not consider that any slight was  
(8-474)intended by my son in mentioning this matter to the  
(8-474)young lady in the first instance-it is I believe the usual  
(8-474)proceeding that the suitor should endeavour to know the  
(8-474)state of a young ladys affections before consulting the  
(8-474)parents excepting in cases of extreme youth. The  
(8-474)extremely short time in which his leave of absence expired  
(8-474)renderd it necessary that he should be explicit and I  
(8-474)suppose opportunity rather quickend his purpose. To pay  
(8-474)every possible respect and deference which Mrs Jobson  
(8-474)will accept from us will be his duty & inclination as well  
(8-474)as mine.

(8-474)Of Walters character I can truly speak in high terms  
(8-474)and refer to the most unexceptional vouchers. Notwithstanding  
(8-474)the gaiety of his dress and the seducing advantage  
(8-474)of a handsome person-notwithstanding also the great  
(8-474)notice which has been taken of him he is still the same  
(8-474)simple affectionate and steady character which he has  
(8-474)been from childhood. His character at one time approachd  
(8-474)so much to shyness & reserve that I was not sorry  
(8-474)to throw him into a showy regiment where he would be  
(8-474)compelld to exert himself. His three years service in the  
(8-474)18th. which he enterd when a mere boy was a severe trial  
(8-474)for a young man. There were quarrels & parties in the  
(8-474)regiment. Walter never mixd with them and was  
(8-474)respected by both sides-there were instances of moral

(8-474)misconduct among the officers-Walter stood exculpated  
(8-474)at all hands from any access to them. His religious  
(8-474)principles in which he is deep and sincere were assailed by  
(8-474)no less a person than the witty Lady Morgan 1 who made

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(8-475)him the subject of her raillery because he went regularly  
(8-475)to church and would not attend musical parties on  
(8-475)Sunday. He was asked to many gay parties at Dublin but  
(8-475)was very moderate in his attendance on them and though  
(8-475)I do not pretend to say he kept himself entirely free from  
(8-475)follies yet Colonel Murray his commanding officer gave  
(8-475)him the highest character for his behaviour as an officer  
(8-475)and a gentleman and will repeat it more particularly to  
(8-475)any who chuses to take the trouble to enquire.

(8-475)Mrs. Jobson may probably have heard of Sir George  
(8-475)Rose formerly our minister at Berlin or have seen his  
(8-475)pamphlet on converting the negroes to Christianity 1  
(8-475)which work he effected on his own estates in the West  
(8-475)Indies with singular success & the highest advantage to  
(8-475)the poor slaves both spiritual and temporal. He is a man  
(8-475)as much respected for his worth & piety as for his talents.  
(8-475)I consulted him about sending Walter for a year or two  
(8-475)to Berlin when he was thrown idle by his regiment being  
(8-475)reduced. He advised me by no means to do so unless I  
(8-475)was confident that the young mans steadiness could  
(8-475)withstand the temptations which beset every youth of  
(8-475)rank at the Prussian capital where the dissolute manners  
(8-475)of the people of higher condition [words dropped here] 2 and  
(8-475)although he offered to take some charge of my son yet he  
(8-475)seemd rather to consider the task as an unpleasant one  
(8-475)from the great chance of his charge's going wrong. I was  
(8-475)very sorry for all this but having great confidence in  
(8-475)Walter and in Sir George Rose I at length sent him to

(8-475)Berlin as you know. He resided there and at Dresden  
(8-475)for near two years and lived like a son in Sir Georges  
(8-475)family. He was much taken notice of at Court both in  
(8-475)Prussia and Saxony enough indeed to spoil any young  
(8-475)man yet he returnd to us with improved manners but  
(8-475)with [the] same simple candid character which is proper

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(8-476)to him & with a warm letter from Sir George Rose  
(8-476)congratulating me on the steadiness of his conduct in a path  
(8-476)so slippery.

(8-476)When he returnd instead of going to idle his time at  
(8-476)Dublin and figure at the balls in a fine uniform I obtaind  
(8-476)leave from the Duke of York that he should attend the  
(8-476)advanced class of students in the Military Academy at  
(8-476)Sandhurst. Mrs. Jobson must not confound the studies  
(8-476)which he has been engaged in with those imposed on the  
(8-476)young cadets. They consist of the higher branches of  
(8-476)mathematics fortification astronomy & the like and are  
(8-476)pursued by officers who have served at least three years  
(8-476)in the army-Captains & Majors are students there and  
(8-476)indeed two of them who attended with Walter were  
(8-476)married men. He studied here with great severity of  
(8-476)attention for he has a serious love of his profession not as  
(8-476)a coxcomb who is captivated with the license which it  
(8-476)affords but because he studies it scientifically. He brought  
(8-476)an excellent certificate of his character and I must needs  
(8-476)say stands as fair a chance of rising to eminence in the  
(8-476)army as any of his rank. His Royal Highness the Duke of  
(8-476)York has shewn him repeated marks of patronage.

(8-476)It is almost time to relieve you but I have still some thing  
(8-476)more to say. If Walter had been a dissipated or even a  
(8-476)thoughtless character he must have been extravagant.

(8-476)Now when warning him against extravagance I have  
(8-476)often told him that his allowance being fixd at a sum  
(8-476)which Col. Murray thought barely adequate to keep him  
(8-476)abreast with other officers in the regiment he should  
(8-476)acquaint me with any difficulties that might occur and  
(8-476)never on any account run into debt. He never used this  
(8-476)permission except when he had a horse destroyd in a  
(8-476)battle with some insurgents in Ireland in which by the  
(8-476)way the young soldier behaved with great courage &  
(8-476)humanity.<sup>1</sup>

(8-476)I cannot help thinking that if Mrs. Jobson would

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(8-477)permit Walter to become acquainted with her she would  
(8-477)find him a very natural and guileless character affectionate  
(8-477)& domestic & one with whom she might trust even such  
(8-477)a treasure as her daughters happiness without apprehension  
(8-477)of the consequence so far as he is concernd. He  
(8-477)must be considerd as one who at an early age has seen a  
(8-477)great deal of the world and I must add has been very  
(8-477)little spoild by what would have spoild most young men  
(8-477)and I think Mrs. Jobson's knowledge of the world will  
(8-477)induce her to allow that virtue which has stood a trial is  
(8-477)more to be confided in than that which has never been  
(8-477)tempted. There are profligates and hardhearted selfish  
(8-477)debauchees in black coats as well as red ones and though  
(8-477)the profession of a soldier presents alarms to wives &  
(8-477)relatives I trust the time is far distant when we will have  
(8-477)to fear on his account.

(8-477)I should not perhaps be disposed to press this matter  
(8-477)so much but rather to leave it to its own fate without  
(8-477)intruding explanations which may be disagreeable but [I]  
(8-477)take a very deep interest in Miss Jobson whom I am very

(8-477)desirous to take to my family & heart from the prudence  
(8-477)and at the same time the affectionate simplicity of her  
(8-477)character. Perhaps Mrs. Jobson may think I have  
(8-477)formd so strong an opinion on slight grounds but she  
(8-477)ought to excuse my thinking highly of her daughter even  
(8-477)on short acquaintance since I can freely forgive her  
(8-477)maternal anxiety though it has led her to misconstrue  
(8-477)the character of my son. I am as much afraid of a  
(8-477)dashing daughter in law as Mrs. Jobson can be of a  
(8-477)dashing son. I have seen enough of the world to know  
(8-477)that a correspondence of temper and mutual affection  
(8-477)are the principal ingredients requisite to matrimonial  
(8-477)happiness. I am sure with an accomplishd young woman  
(8-477)of domestic habits & good principles & cheerful temper  
(8-477)who will make his home happy Walter will be a kind  
(8-477)affectionate & faithful husband. I would [not] answer for  
(8-477)him if he was joind to a selfish woman of fashion who

(8-478)engaged in constant dissipation & was always demanding  
(8-478)flattery & admiration. My eye has been on Miss Jobson  
(8-478)during her life in Edinburgh and amid the various  
(8-478)temptations to which heiresses are exposed, and I can  
(8-478)say with truth that had she been the least of a flirt or  
(8-478)coquette though possessd of Abbotsford & Lochore and  
(8-478)all that lies between, her mother would have been free  
(8-478)from any importunity on my part at least.

(8-478)The young ladys frank simple confidence & sincerity  
(8-478)lay me under the greatest possible obligation to love and  
(8-478)protect her should ever I possess the right of doing so and  
(8-478)if I thought my son capable of rewarding her generosity  
(8-478)with ingratitude I would rather wish him dead at my  
(8-478)feet than married to her. I am sure the sight of his dead  
(8-478)body would not give me so much pain as his degeneracy.



(8-478)This letter must have an end-I would fain hope its  
(8-478)contents may not be unacceptable and may induce Mrs  
(8-478)Jobson to reconsider this matter in a manner more  
(8-478)favourable to my wishes. My most respectful compliments  
(8-478)attend her and Miss Jobson to whom as well as  
(8-478)to your kind lady I beg to be affectionately rememberd.  
(8-478)I think if Mrs Jobson would condescend to know Walter  
(8-478)a little she would entertain a more favourable opinion &  
(8-478)all time & opportunity that could be afforded for that  
(8-478)important purpose I would endeavour to procure by a  
(8-478)direct application to His Royal Highness. I am always  
(8-478)my dear Adam most truly yours

(8-478)WALTER SCOTT

(8-478)EDINR. 11 January 1825

[Glas. Univ. Lib.]

TO LORD MELVILLE

(8-478)MY DEAR LORD,-The late and approaching changes  
(8-478)in Scotland amongst official people induce me to remind  
(8-478)your Lordship of the situation of my son-in-law and to  
(8-478)request your patronage and countenance for him in the

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(8-479)course of a general promotion which must necessarily  
(8-479)reach young men of his standing. When I have said that  
(8-479)Lockhart is my son-in-law it would be affectation to add  
(8-479)that I do not reckon upon that circumstance as some  
(8-479)recommendation to your Lordships kindness besides being a  
(8-479)very strong motive with myself for troubling you.

(8-479)But really it is long since I pointed out Lockhart to your  
(8-479)Lordship as a man of most uncommon talents & my  
(8-479)subsequent intimacy with him has given me ground to  
(8-479)appreciate them still more highly. I am convinced he will  
(8-479)be of the highest use to Government in any situation in  
(8-479)which he may be placed and the more active the better.  
(8-479)His habits are temperate reserved and domestic but he  
(8-479)possesses high spirit and firm principles wherever action  
(8-479)is proper or requisite. I think it was much owing to  
(8-479)him and Wilson that a great revolution has taken place  
(8-479)among the young men here and that the prestige of Jeffrey  
(8-479)and the Edinr Review has been much broken. When  
(8-479)the Whigs thought proper to unite with the radicals I  
(8-479)think it was as much owing to Lockharts exertions as those  
(8-479)of any one else that it became a matter rather of public  
(8-479)ridicule than public danger. To be sure he has made  
(8-479)himself the object both of fear and hatred by our Whigs  
(8-479)here who I daresay would rather see the devil get  
(8-479)preferment. But I would only remind your Lordship of the  
(8-479)issue of Wilsons business whom you supported with so  
(8-479)much spirit 1 through good report and bad report  
(8-479)notwithstanding all the giddy frolics of a wild youth which  
(8-479)malignant faction could rake together against him & what  
(8-479)has been the consequence      You have given the University  
(8-479)the best and most eloquent lecturer they have had  
(8-479)for many years and so popular with the public that he has  
(8-479)this season 30 pupils more than his predecessor had in the  
(8-479)most favourable years & this great advantage has been  
(8-479)gained by your Lordship an advantage which is now as

(8-480)clear and undeniable as the daylight merely because  
(8-480)you did not suffer idle and selfish clamour to block up  
(8-480)the way of a man of real genius. Lockhart is in a different  
(8-480)situation his life being studious & unimpeachable. This I

(8-480)can say for him that whatever countenance is now shown he  
(8-480)will repay it tenfold before many years are over his head.  
(8-480)His head is singularly clear and well fitted for business  
(8-480)and with a mind fertile in itself and richly stocked by  
(8-480)reading & learning with a ready fancy and great facility  
(8-480)of language he wants but a little practice to become a most  
(8-480)powerful speaker.

(8-480)I do not presume to say anything about particular views.  
(8-480)He is nearly related to the best families of Lanarkshire  
(8-480)as Sir James Stuart Denham Maxwell [of] Calderwood  
(8-480)Lockharts of Carnwath & Cambusnethan etc 1 and perhaps  
(8-480)I might make some interest with the Bothwell Castle  
(8-480)family.<sup>2</sup> But however tempting that situation might be  
(8-480)I would rather see him a Depute Advocate because it  
(8-480)would force him more into the exercise of his talents.  
(8-480)Beggars however must not be chusers and I only venture  
(8-480)to request that your Lordship will turn a favourable eye  
(8-480)upon my young friend at this time when it is probable  
(8-480)that more than one of his own standing must needs get  
(8-480)promotion. I will venture to say you will find no one  
(8-480)of them whom Nature and Education have done more  
(8-480)to qualify for deserving it. Make him your own my dear  
(8-480)Lord by your countenance & patronage as your father <sup>3</sup>  
(8-480)made me his many years ago with much less pretension  
(8-480)on my part for such distinction. It was what he had  
(8-480)never reason to repent of and I can engage you will have

(8-481)much less so-It is a common prejudice much inculcated  
(8-481)by formal blockheads whose purpose it serves that  
(8-481)literature incapacitates a man for common business but  
(8-481)the contrary of this has been very frequently proved-in  
(8-481)fact it is only saying that the workman who can make a  
(8-481)razor cannot for that very reason make a tenpenny gully.<sup>1</sup>

(8-481)I find Walter has been sharing the hospitality of the  
(8-481)Admiralty-I have some anxiety in listening to this  
(8-481)tempest[u]ous wind and thinking that he is probably at sea.  
(8-481)My best respects wait upon Lady Mellville with thanks for  
(8-481)her kind letter. Believe me always My dear Lord Very  
(8-481)truly yours

(8-481)WALTER SCOTT

(8-481)EDINBURGH 15 January [1825]

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

[Circa 20th Jany. 1825]

(8-481)MY DEAREST CHARLES,-I have had the singular  
(8-481)anxiety for four or five days past of superintending poor  
(8-481)Lady Alvanley's funeral-Colonel Arden being incapable  
(8-481)from distress to do anything-and making preparations  
(8-481)for an event which will take place next week of a nature  
(8-481)very different. I have had double share of the Court  
(8-481)business, so that, though I have every day proposed a  
(8-481)call to you, I have never made it out.

(8-481)You will not, I hope, doubt that I will be delighted with  
(8-481)the dedication, and happy, these matters being off my  
(8-481)hands, to co-operate about this ballant-book. I really  
(8-481)think you should use both pen and pencil to remove the  
(8-481)res angusta. Why should you not profit by your literary  
(8-481)talents, which are so peculiar and so distinguished  
(8-481)Why are these things hid in you or shown as a high

(8-482)prize margarite only to your private friends      Everybody  
(8-482)now makes the best of their literary profits.

(8-482)" Oh, if it were a dirty thing,  
(8-482)The gentry would deny it,  
(8-482)Or if it were ungodly  
(8-482)The clergy would defy it.  
(8-482)Then sure it is a fine thing," &c.

(8-482)If you can look in to-day, a l'ordinaire, there will be only  
(8-482)the Lockharts and the poor wounded Hussar.- Yours  
(8-482)ever,

(8-482)W. SCOTT

[Hornel and Sharpe's Letters]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW

(8-482)My DEAR WILLIE,-Since I left you I have been much  
(8-482)harrassd in spirit by an incident unhappy at any time  
(8-482)but doubly so as chancing when I had agitating affairs  
(8-482)of my own family to attend to. Poor Lady Alvanley  
(8-482)whom you saw at Abbotsford well and happy was taken  
(8-482)very ill at Edinr. in the beginning of Winter-underwent  
(8-482)two excruciating operations which her strength was  
(8-482)unable to support & finally died at the British Hotel here  
(8-482)about six days since quite exhausted.1 I was the only  
(8-482)intimate friend in Edinburgh having had much kindness  
(8-482)from her when Lady Scott & I were in London 25 years  
(8-482)ago young people to whom her countenance & delicate  
(8-482)attentions were most kindly afforded. We were then  
(8-482)unknown to the world as it is calld & she in the first  
(8-482)rank-things not to be forgotten by honest minds. Many  
(8-482)painful details devolved on me and particularly the duty

(8-482)of supporting the two affectionate girls who were in a  
(8-482)state of absolute distress & desolation. You may suppose

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-483)I discharged so sacred a duty to the best of my power  
(8-483)but the wild and incoherent transitions from their deep  
(8-483)domestic affliction to perplexities and embarrassments of a  
(8-483)different nature but still feverish [ ] and anxious con[c]erns  
(8-483)of my own family really took from me the usual rest at  
(8-483)night and strength of nerves which I in general enjoy  
(8-483)and deprived me of the power of writing except what was  
(8-483)absolutely necessary otherwise you would [have] heard  
(8-483)from me long since. Yesterday we deposited the remains  
(8-483)of my old & much respected friend in the Chapel of Holy  
(8-483)Rood. The two sons Lord Alvanley 1 & Colonel Arden  
(8-483)of the guards were both present fortunately but so deeply  
(8-483)affected with an event to them totally unexpected their  
(8-483)sisters having nourishd hopes to the last. The scene is  
(8-483)now ended but it will be many a day ere I can forget it.

(8-483)Respecting our own more pleasant prospects I must  
(8-483)tell you in confidence our path has not been a smooth one  
(8-483)owing entirely to the mother who chose to see nothing  
(8-483)but damnation in her daughter in marrying a black hussar  
(8-483)the son of a man of the world who meddled in profane  
(8-483)literature. At least such were the sole objections which  
(8-483)she had to her daughters uniting herself to a person of her  
(8-483)own choice under circumstances which made all her  
(8-483)relations joyful and which were most acceptable to a  
(8-483)very sensible though highflying divine 2 connected with  
(8-483)her own family to whose opinion she had originally  
(8-483)referred herself and who after some enquiries the result of  
(8-483)which were very honourable to Walters character declared  
(8-483)his opinion in the most decided manner for the match  
(8-483)and has after some painful discussions succeeded in

(8-483)silencing though by no means convincing the good lady.  
(8-483)Some details entertaining though vexatious enough from

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(8-484)their effect on the girls nerves though not on her resolution  
(8-484)I reserve for meeting. In the mean while settlements  
(8-484)are preparing and the marriage is to take place next week  
(8-484)probably on thursday. But I will write to Mr Erskine  
(8-484)to postpone his blythe design 1 till they are fairly at  
(8-484)Abbotsford where they mean at all events to pass a few  
(8-484)quiet days. I would wish them to come there very  
(8-484)quietly & Bell has orders from Lady Scott to provide  
(8-484)every thing for their reception. The time of their  
(8-484)coming remains to be fixd but I think (in confidence) it  
(8-484)will be on the evening of thursday the 3d. feby. I hope  
(8-484)to join them for a day or two very soon afterwards when  
(8-484)we will give the flag to the winds and a handsome merry-  
(8-484)making to all our labourers etc. The young ladys  
(8-484)fortune amounts in land & funded property to about  
(8-484) 50,000 and the delicacy temper and firmness which [she]  
(8-484)has displayd especially a candour which I have scarce  
(8-484)witnessd mixd with deep distress at her mothers  
(8-484)unreasonable conduct have endeard her to me so much  
(8-484)that I am almost glad the interruption painful as it has  
(8-484)been has occurd to give me such a satisfactory insight  
(8-484)into her character which is one of those which is upright  
(8-484)& strong and lies deep.

(8-484)One thing I must beg you to think of-Walter will send  
(8-484)himself or through your kind interference 5., each to  
(8-484)the poor of Melrose, Galashiels & Selkirk. But besides  
(8-484)there mus[t] be ten guineas among our own folks I mean  
(8-484)the labourers distributed firs[t] according to their merits  
(8-484)& services & then to their necessities. This Walter will

(8-485)talk over with you but I wish you to turn the matter in  
(8-485)your mind. Swanston, Davidson, Will Straiten & the  
(8-485)old Turk should I think have a guinea each the others  
(8-485)half guineas or crowns. This is of course exclusive of  
(8-485)domestic servants who will be properly considerd and of  
(8-485)Tom and Peter my trusty old friends to whom special  
(8-485)tokens of regard are destined & also to Bogie for whose  
(8-485)wife a handsome gown is provided. Then there are poor  
(8-485)Will Straiten & Cowan & one or two old souls not  
(8-485)forgetting Willie Brown & Amess [?]1 though he is an  
(8-485)ungracious beast. These must be viewd with respect  
(8-485)rather to their necessities than their merits. A few  
(8-485)guineas must not stand in the way of doing all this kindly  
(8-485)& properly.

(8-485)About the railroad Mr Bruce seems rather unwilling it  
(8-485)should cross here and I have of course no pa[r]tiality for  
(8-485)the alternative of its crossing by a bridge above Gala foot.  
(8-485)But I told him my principle on such occasions was to  
(8-485)submit to the judgement of the engineer-that unless  
(8-485)some great inconvenience was determind on I should not  
(8-485)object for mere reasons of preference to my own interest  
(8-485)rather than my neighbours I would never object to the  
(8-485)best line. On the other hand I would not take any  
(8-485)disadvantage on myself which the engineer did not throw  
(8-485)on me expecting my neighbours to be as reasonable in  
(8-485)this respect as myself. In this he acquiesced and in what  
(8-485)dropt from Mr Jardine today I believe he will be obliged  
(8-485)to take the railroad in consequence for aught that now  
(8-485)appears.

(8-485)Miss Jobson seems desirous to concentrate their joint &  
(8-485)now to be very considerable fortune in Roxburghshire but  
(8-485)this will require time & much consideration. It will



(8-485)certainly save two establishments & two systems of  
(8-485)management but must be acted upon slowly & cautiously.  
(8-485)Her own estate is profitable but not beautiful & she seems  
(8-485)in no respect attachd to it. But it will sell admirably.

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(8-486)As lovers must live you will see there is something for  
(8-486)them in the larder for you remember the home question

(8-486)Will the flame you are so rich in light a fire in the kitchen  
(8-486)Or the little God of love turn the spit spit spit.

(8-486)I suppose they will see Mrs Laidlaw & you so soon as they  
(8-486)can venture abroad.

(8-486)I inclose a cheque for 50 to pay the things you speak  
(8-486)of. Also a note for Mr Jardine.

[Unsigned]

[25th January 1825]

[Ballantyne]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH, CHELTENHAM

[Extract]

(8-486)MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I do not make any apology  
(8-486)for troubling you with some interesting affairs concerning  
(8-486)my own family for your Grace succeeded to your dear  
(8-486)fathers friendships and to the interest which no one took  
(8-486)more deeply in their concerns as I especially among many  
(8-486)others have particular reason to say. . . .1

(8-486)I beg kindest compliments to Mr Blakeney and will  
(8-486)very soon have favours to send to your Grace and him  
(8-486)Believe me my dear Lord Duke Always most truly &  
(8-486)faithfully yours  
WALTER SCOTT

(8-486)CASTLE STREET EDINR. 21 January 1825  
[Buccleuch]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON, SOLICITOR AT LAW, FLUDYER  
STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON

(8-486)MY DEAR RICHARDSON,-I know the cause of my ungrateful  
(8-486)silence will be not only an apology but give you  
(8-486)much pleasure. While I was examining the treatise on

1825                      SIR WALTER SCOTT                      487

(8-487)falconry with which your kindness enrichd me my own  
(8-487)gay goss hawk Walter was caceluering to use a phrase of  
(8-487)the Mews to catch a very sweet little turtle dove and has  
(8-487)been fortunate enough to catch her. There is gold in her  
(8-487)garters for her fortune in land and property is 50,000  
(8-487)and possibilities and I have been able to make settlements  
(8-487)in some proportion so as perfectly to satisfy her friends all  
(8-487)but her poor mother whose despair at parting with her  
(8-487)only child to follow a regiment of Hussars would have  
(8-487)made her object to a much better match so we must have  
(8-487)new words to the old tune

(8-487)My bonnie Jeanie Jobson  
(8-487)Your minnie canna want ye  
(8-487)Sae let the trooper gang his lane  
(8-487)And carry his ain portmanteau.

(8-487)The good lady in Shandwick place has however like She

(8-487)of Castle Carey I been under the necessity of acquiescing  
(8-487)and we are all on velvet again. The wedding will soon  
(8-487)take place and their departure for Ireland must follow  
(8-487)very speedily. They may perhaps pass through London  
(8-487)but I fear will see little even of their best friends their  
(8-487)purpose being chiefly to get such things as their proposed  
(8-487)barrack life necessarily require[s]. Certainly if they can  
(8-487)they will see your goodlady & Mrs Baillie. Tell the last  
(8-487)that I intend to write to her at length in a day or two and  
(8-487)describe my little daughter whom I am disposed to love  
(8-487)very dearly for the soft and sensible and firm manner  
(8-487)in which [she] has piloted herself through the shoals &  
(8-487)rocks which the wealthy Heiress must steer through.  
(8-487)Walter is young but he is uncommonly honest minded  
(8-487)and steady and I think he will make her happy. The  
(8-487)flirtation had commenced two years since but Walter was  
(8-487)sent first abroad & then to the Academy at Sandhurst  
(8-487)and the affair broke out with great effect to conclude our  
(8-487)Christmas gambols like the crack at the termination of a

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(8-488)squib. Kind compliments to Mrs Richardson. Always  
(8-488)truly yours WALTER SCOTT  
(8-488)EDINBURGH 21 January 1825 (1)

[H. E. Richardson]

TO CHARLES SCOTT, B.N. COLLEGE, OXFORD

(8-488)MY DEAR CHARLES,-You have been silent a long  
(8-488)while which is rather disagreeable. Your allowance is  
(8-488)not quite due being payable at the four quarters 2d.  
(8-488)February 15 May 2d August 15 November. But you may  
(8-488)anticipate a few days and draw on Messrs Coutts London  
(8-488)for 75., being your quarters allowance which I have

(8-488)advised them to honour. Regulate your expences well  
(8-488)for loose & careless habits are easily acquired and ill to  
(8-488)get rid of.

(8-488)You will have heard of Walters approaching nuptials  
(8-488)from Sister Anne. I have settled Abbotsford on Walter  
(8-488)and his heirs male by this or any subsequent wife failing  
(8-488)these it goes to you and your heirs male because I think  
(8-488)it right that the distinction of rank however moderate  
(8-488)should have something to support it. Should your heirs  
(8-488)male not exist or become extinct there will [be] an end of  
(8-488)the Baronets of Abbotsford as there has been of the four  
(8-488)monarchies of the world and the estate may go for me  
(8-488)where the law will carry [it]. Lochore about 1200,,  
(8-488)a year will be settled on the heirs of the younger marriage  
(8-488)with 20,000 for the younger children. Abbotsford is  
(8-488)computed at 50,000 so the match is not an unequal one  
(8-488)only the brides fortune is in possession the bride-grooms  
(8-488)excepting his commission & an annuity of 300 in  
(8-488)expectance. But they will have enough for all the  
(8-488)comforts and even for most of the elegancies of life.

(8-488)Walter being thus provided for will enable me to

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-489)attend to mamas provisions and to yours & your sisters  
(8-489)more than I could otherwise have done.

(8-489)The old Lady after standing long out seems to have  
(8-489)acquiesced at length but will not give us much countenance  
(8-489)so the sooner the thing is over the better. They will  
(8-489)be married I think at Gattonside 1 take up a weeks solitary  
(8-489)blessedness at Abbotsford-then to London for a few days  
(8-489)to make up their Kitt and fit her with the necessaries for  
(8-489)a campaign and then to join the Kings Hussars at Corke.

(8-489)When they are in London you [may] make up a run  
(8-489)to see them or perhaps they may make a detour in their  
(8-489)journey to see you and you will shew your new sister the  
(8-489)lions of the university.

(8-489)There being no game worth sending at this season  
(8-489)mama is to send you some tea and I will add two dozen  
(8-489)port & one dozen old Sherry which I fancy is all that  
(8-489)you keep in your cellar at once. It will serve to drink  
(8-489)your brothers good health on this happy occasion. All  
(8-489)join in greetings. Yours affectionately  
(8-489)WALTER SCOTT

(8-489)You make your letters scarce which would have cost  
(8-489)you a little preachment but that yours to mamma  
(8-489)arrived in time to save it.

[PM. 22nd January 1825](2)

[Law]

TO MRS. HUGHES

(8-489)MY DEAR AND GOOD FRIEND,-I have a hundred apologies  
(8-489)to make for my ungrateful silence but my news may allow  
(8-489)for it.<sup>3</sup> My son is just about to be married. The young

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(8-490)lady is a very considerable heiress a Miss Jobson of  
(8-490)Lochor[e] worth at least 50,000 in land and funded  
(8-490)property which as Sir Hugh Evans says " is good gifts."  
(8-490)She has better gifts in sound sense and cheerful temper  
(8-490)and excellent principles being bro[ugh]t up by her  
(8-490)Mother who though rather straitly laced in her presbyterian  
(8-490)stays is a very worthy woman in excellent sound  
(8-490)old fashioned Scottish principles which like massive old

(8-490)plate has as much bullion in them as would suffice ten  
 (8-490)thousand modern plated trinkets. She is very pretty  
 (8-490)both in form and face but so little as to make almost a  
 (8-490)ludicrous contrast with her hussar who rises six foot two  
 (8-490)inches at least. She is timid almost to awkwardness &  
 (8-490)though she has walked the course as a wealthy heiress for  
 (8-490)two years no one ever heard of her having a flirtation.  
 (8-490)Truth is there had been some little kindness between the  
 (8-490)young folks about two years ago and though they did  
 (8-490)not meet again till lately yet hearing much of each other  
 (8-490)through Lady Fergusson the wife of my old and facetious  
 (8-490)friend Sir Adam they had neither of them it seems forgotten  
 (8-490)their intercourse but had in our Scottish phrase which I  
 (8-490)think a good one thought on untill during our Christmas  
 (8-490)gambols out came little Cupid with his linstock and fired  
 (8-490)the mine and the Hussar with his mustach[i]oes and  
 (8-490)Schnur[r]bart was found to have snap'd up the prize which  
 (8-490)lord and laird had been trying for. The poor lassie has  
 (8-490)agreed to follow the camp. Her mother has-on this sole  
 (8-490)account-rather acquiesced in than consented to the  
 (8-490)marriage and truly I cannot blame the good lady  
 (8-490)considering that her only child is to exchange two good  
 (8-490)houses one in Edinr. and one at Lochor[e] for the accomodations  
 (8-490)of a barrack ; since in Ireland they will be safe at  
 (8-490)least within their guarded walls however inconvenient  
 (8-490)while in lodgings they would have little more comfort  
 (8-490)and in certain events which God avert might be exposed  
 (8-490)to danger. I cannot but picture to myself poor little  
 (8-490)Jane with her little innocent pensive face looking with

(8-491)surprize at her quarters where matts and horse-cloths  
 (8-491)must supply the place of carpets & arm-racks garnished  
 (8-491)with pistols sabres and carabines and adorned with the  
 (8-491)caricature drawings of good Mr. Lieutenant serve the purpose

(8-491)of all [decorations]. But then if she manages well, she may  
(8-491)always command good society even within the regiment.  
(8-491)Three or four of the officers are very respectably married  
(8-491)& the little heiress's fortune giving her the means to be  
(8-491)kind in sharing her extra accommodations of carriages &c  
(8-491)with those who are less in the way of commanding them  
(8-491)may make her a person of as much importance as even the  
(8-491)Colonel's wife if he has one. Walter is to get a troop  
(8-491)shortly which will entitle him to better quarters. But a  
(8-491)very knowing lady of my acquaintance assures me on her  
(8-491)own experience that your " bonny bride " is diverted  
(8-491)with all these inconveniences so long as she is secure of  
(8-491)her Cavalier's affections and that ladies who have been  
(8-491)most delicately bred up are like blood horses most  
(8-491)capable of meeting and enduring fatigue spirit doing for  
(8-491)them what habit and insensibility do for the more  
(8-491)ignoble. Still the old song I ring in my ears the first verse  
(8-491)of which has been already exemplified in our love affair,

(8-491)My bonnie Lizie Baillie  
(8-491)I'll row ye in my plaidie  
(8-491)If you will gang along wi me  
(8-491)And be a soldier's ladie.

(8-491)My bonnie Lizie Baillie  
(8-491)Your mother canna want ye  
(8-491)Sae let the trooper gang his lane  
(8-491)And carry his ain portmanteau.

(8-491)But mark the sequel

(8-491)She wad'na hae an English lord  
(8-491)Nor be a highland lady  
(8-491)But she's away with a border Scott  
(8-491)And he's row'd [her] in his plaidie.

(8-492)She had'na gane a mile but ane  
(8-492)When O gin she was weary  
(8-492)She aften lookit back & said  
(8-492)Farewel to Castle Carie.

(8-492)However we must hope that these little recollections will  
(8-492)neither be distressing nor too frequent. For myself I can  
(8-492)safely say few things would have made me more happy  
(8-492)than my son establishing himself in life so early. Though  
(8-492)acquainted both with camps & courts & those the  
(8-492)licentious courts of Dresden & Berlin I know his  
(8-492)principles to be steady and even severe & therefore am  
(8-492)assured he will love and cherish this poor thing who has  
(8-492)behaved through the whole transaction with a modesty  
(8-492)candour & generosity that deserve everything on his  
(8-492)part. Here is a long selfish letter all about myself and  
(8-492)family. But you are a mother dear Madam 1 and know  
(8-492)that joy as well as sorrow makes us selfish. Believe me  
(8-492)in either Dear Mrs. Hughes very much your obedient  
(8-492)servant

WALTER SCOTT

(8-492)My kindest compliments to the excellent Dr. and Mr.  
(8-492)Hughes. About the 3d or 4th of February there will be a  
(8-492)young Lady of Abbotsford. Luckily the original Dame  
(8-492)has the petit titre & so escapes being Mrs. Scott senior.  
(8-492)What shall we do if Walter one morning gets the  
(8-492)companionship of the Bath I never will be old Sir Walter.  
(8-492)These are rare castles in the air.

(8-492)Jan. 23, 1825 EDINBURGH  
[Heffer and Wells]



TO HUGH SCOTT, DRAYCOTT, NEAR DERBY

(8-493)MY DEAR COUSIN,-As I have every reason to think  
(8-493)you will have pleasure in any good thing which befalls  
(8-493)our family I trouble you with this letter to say that my  
(8-493)son Walter is to be married the first week of next month  
(8-493)to a very amiable and well-principled young lady who  
(8-493)by her fathers death is mistress of a good landed estate  
(8-493)and a considerable funded property. The bounty of the  
(8-493)public has enabled me to make corresponding settlements  
(8-493)& all friends on both sides are greatly pleased with the  
(8-493)match excepting the poor mother who makes no objection  
(8-493)excepting the pain and maternal anxiety attending  
(8-493)parting with an only & much cherished child to follow  
(8-493)the fortunes of a Hussar officer. However she has  
(8-493)acquiesced though very unwillingly in what must be to  
(8-493)her a great evil whatever it may prove to the young  
(8-493)lady and the marriage ceremony is to take place in the  
(8-493)beginning of february when after a short repose at  
(8-493)Abbotsford they will leave for the regimental headquarters at  
(8-493)Corke via London.

(8-493)Tell Mrs. Scott, Watson 1 is busy with the copy. Mr.  
(8-493)Raeburn who sets a natural value on the original as his  
(8-493)fathers last work gave permission to have it copied with  
(8-493)reluctance and made me promise this copy should not be  
(8-493)again copied. I will soon forward it to Derby. Ever with  
(8-493)sincere regard My dear Cousin affectionately yours

(8-493)WALTER SCOTT

(8-493)EDINBURGH 23 January [1825]

[Halliburton Scott]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[23d-25th January 1825]

(8-494)I HAVE been long silent my dear Miss Edgeworth and  
(8-494)like most ungrateful folks have neglected my kind friend  
(8-494)till I have a favour to ask. This however you must  
(8-494)excuse in consideration of much business and decaying  
(8-494)eyes which in these misty days begin to feel the effects of  
(8-494)former watchful nights spent at the desk. Not that they  
(8-494)are so bad neither but they begin to require the aid of  
(8-494)spectacles to which I reconcile myself with such a sense of  
(8-494)declension as the old highland warrior bard who  
(8-494)complains of attending the meeting of his clan

(8-494)With a crutch in the hand where the broadsword should be.

(8-494)But to the favour which leads to rather a romantic tale  
(8-494)though written with spectacles on my nose.

(8-494)You must know there was two years ago some little  
(8-494)flirtation between my eldest son and a very modest pretty  
(8-494)little girl bearing the unchivalrous name of Jane Jobson  
(8-494)and to sweeten it enjoying in her own right a very handsome  
(8-494)estate in Fifeshire with a considerable funded  
(8-494)property-worth in short about 50,000 which her  
(8-494)deceased father a worthy and respectable man had  
(8-494)acquired in honourable commerce. She was under the  
(8-494)charge of a very strict and well-principled mother stately  
(8-494)as a highlander descended of the Athole Stewarts 1 who are  
(8-494)descended (I love a genealogy) of the Wolf of Badenoch  
(8-494)a son of Robert the Second-strait-laced in presbyterian  
(8-494)stays with many of the virtues and many of the faults  
(8-494)and deficiencies incident to her situation as a wealthy  
(8-494)dowager watching dragon-like over a still wealthier  
(8-494)daughter whom she thought nobody good enough to look

(8-494)at. Still many a knight and squire tried to quell the  
(8-494)dragon and release the lady but to no one would the  
(8-494)little lady give such encouragement as to encourage him  
(8-494)to break a lance with the mother. Now the little maiden

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-495)and my moss-trooper had it seems had their own recollections  
(8-495)of dances and flirtations of two years old during  
(8-495)which they had not seen each other and I believe they  
(8-495)were much kept alive by the lady of my excellent and  
(8-495)facetious neighbor Sir Adam Ferguson who is very fond  
(8-495)of Walter and her niece which relation she holds being  
(8-495)a sister of Mrs. Jobson though with much more of the  
(8-495)lamb than either the dragon of Wantley or the Wolf of  
(8-495)Badenoch. In short Cupid mingled with our Christmas  
(8-495)gambols and we learned with some surprise one fine  
(8-495)morning that the lady had agreed to carry the young  
(8-495)hussars knapsack. But although the town which is a  
(8-495)very pretty little town had surrendered the citadel in  
(8-495)the person of the old mother continued to make a  
(8-495)desperate though hopeless defence. It was in vain that  
(8-495)I liking the girl very much for the modest and unpretending  
(8-495)way which she had walked the way [ring     ] as an  
(8-495)heiress and flattered you may believe by a preference to  
(8-495)my son long given and frankly and generously avowed  
(8-495)with a firmness which made a strong contrast to the  
(8-495)extreme timidity of her general deportment which is shy  
(8-495)almost to awkwardness. Every friend and relation she  
(8-495)has in the world joined to overcome the good mothers  
(8-495)prejudices which resolve into this that my son is a soldier  
(8-495)and a hussar and must be a rake of course-everything  
(8-495)else she allows to be unexceptionable. A worthy clergyman  
(8-495)one of the great guns as they call them has with  
(8-495)twelve pound texts almost persuaded her into a  
(8-495)conviction that she is acting wrong and she has yielded

(8-495)after the manner of Brabantio so deeds etc. are all on  
(8-495)the anvil settling who are to be the future lords of  
(8-495)Abbotsford and Lochore. Walters military leave must be very  
(8-495)short so the wedding will come on speedily and soon  
(8-495)after he must steer for Ireland and with your consent  
(8-495)the first resting-place [will be Edgeworthstown]. They will  
(8-495)put you in mind of the old ballad 1

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(8-496)I have learnd my gay goss-hawk  
(8-496)Right well to back a steed  
(8-496)And I have learnd my turtle dove  
(8-496)As weel to write and read

(8-496)And I have learnd my gay goss-hawk  
(8-496)To wield both bow and brand  
(8-496)And sae have I my turtle dove  
(8-496)To plait gold with her hand.

(8-496)Now this turtle dove of mine must be your guest for  
(8-496)four or five days or more for Walter must go on to join  
(8-496)his regiment at Cork and make some preparations for her  
(8-496)accommodation in his barracks a sore change I fear for  
(8-496)a creature on whom air has scarce been suffered to breathe.  
(8-496)She has undertaken it however for what will not woman  
(8-496)undertake for the man she loves and who loves her. I am  
(8-496)sure that with you she will have quiet kindness instead of  
(8-496)that feverish attention which like an overheated hot-  
(8-496)house withers the little flowers which it is meant to call  
(8-496)into bloom and I know that after a day or two of silence  
(8-496)and brief answers and causeless fear of strangers she will  
(8-496)be open[ing] 1 her budget of female accomplishments and  
(8-496)bartering Scotch tunes for Irish ones with the young  
(8-496)ladies. The story of her mother is of course for your own  
(8-496)private ear but I am always desirous to point out tender

(8-496)points where such exist least they be pressd on by some  
(8-496)unlucky accident. I once hurt an officer who was showing  
(8-496)me the ground at Waterloo by riding rather rashly against  
(8-496)him which hurt as well as the pain I felt might have  
(8-496)been spared had the young soldiers modesty allowed him  
(8-496)to tell me that he was still suffering from a wound in the  
(8-496)action. This long story might have been saved by using  
(8-496)the hackney coachmans phrase of a raw but the  
(8-496)comparison would have been slovenly. Let me hear from  
(8-496)you if it be quite convenient for you to receive this leaguer  
(8-496)lady and at the same time what you are doing about your

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(8-497)new work. Your reasons for being anonymous are very  
(8-497)strong as they affect your own feelings for my own part  
(8-497)I think you ought to snap your fingers at the critics and  
(8-497)be sure the world would be at your back. But female  
(8-497)authors as I have observed in my friend Mrs. Baillie have  
(8-497)the same sensitiveness and deference for censure which  
(8-497)our masculine nerves are apt to hold perhaps too cheap.

(8-497)I saw Mr. Butler 1 twice or thrice and was much pleased  
(8-497)with him. Love to my dear Harriet. I am sure she will  
(8-497)be kind to my poor little Jane and remember that all  
(8-497)have not had her own advantages in point of accommodation.  
(8-497)She is a beast with a sketch book but only to gather  
(8-497)flowers I believe and is a good musician. It is time to  
(8-497)conclude and it shall be in character from an old ballad  
(8-497)with a trivial alteration

(8-497)My bonny little Jeanie  
(8-497)Your minnie canna want ye  
(8-497)Sae let the trooper gang his lane  
(8-497)And carry his ain portmanty.

(8-497)She wad na hae an English Lord  
(8-497)Nor he a highland lady  
(8-497)But she's away with a saucy Scott  
(8-497)And he's rowd her in his plaidie.<sup>2</sup>  
[Butler]

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TO LADY DAVY, AT SIR HUMPHRY DAVYS, LONDON

[Extract]  
(8-498)EDINBURGH 24 January [PM. 1825]

(8-498)MY DEAR LADY DAVY,-As I know the kind interest  
(8-498)which you take in your very sincere friend and Scotch  
(8-498)cousin I think you will like to hear that my eldest hope  
(8-498)who not many years ago was too bashful to accept your  
(8-498)offerd salute and procured me the happiness of a kiss on  
(8-498)his account beside that which I always claim on my own  
(8-498)has as he has grown older learnd a little better how such  
(8-498)favours are to be estimated. . . .<sup>1</sup>

(8-498)Her father was an eminent London merchant but has  
(8-498)been two years dead her mother a highland lady of great  
(8-498)worth and integrity & who has bred her up with something  
(8-498)of old fashiond severity which renders her very  
(8-498)timid and almost awkward though she has been lady &  
(8-498)mistress of her own considerable fortune and living in  
(8-498)our little circle of the Athenian beau monde for about  
(8-498)two years. It would seem some old flirtation betwixt  
(8-498)Walter & her had hung on both their minds for at the  
(8-498)conclusion of a Christmas party we learnd the pretty  
(8-498)heiress had determined to sing the old tune of

(8-498)Mount & go-mount & make you ready  
(8-498)Mount & go and be a soldiers lady.

(8-498)Though her fortune be considerable the favours of the  
(8-498)publick and my own patrimony have enable[d] me to  
(8-498)make such settlements as her friends think very adequate.  
(8-498)The only impediment has been the poor mother who

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(8-499)cannot brook parting with the sole object of her care &  
(8-499)attention to resign her to the vicissitudes of a military life  
(8-499)while I necessarily refused to let my son sink into a mere  
(8-499)foxhunting muirfowlshooting squire. She has been obliged  
(8-499)to acquiesce rather than consent and that is the only  
(8-499)unpleasing part of the business.

(8-499)The little woman has shewn much gentleness good-sense  
(8-499)and force of character during the unpleasing discussions  
(8-499)which took place with a person whose exorbitant affection  
(8-499)made her unreasonable and violent. Her spiritual  
(8-499)director a divine 1 of the highflying party in the Scotch  
(8-499)church & a good sensible fellow besides-married also  
(8-499)on some cousin of the party was clear sighted enough to  
(8-499)see that her daughters happiness could scarce be promoted  
(8-499)by breaking off or compelling the girl to break off a mutual  
(8-499)attachment & a match with [a] young Lieutenant of  
(8-499)Hussars sure of having a troop very soon with 10,000 in  
(8-499)the meanwhile of his own and a good estate in reversion &  
(8-499)as handsome a fellow as ever put his foot in a stirrup. So  
(8-499)he succeeded in bringing matters to a bearing although  
(8-499)old papa has practised the " profane and unprofitable  
(8-499)art of poem making " and the youngster wears a pair of  
(8-499)formidable mustaches and a bartchen so that all is  
(8-499)arranged though as far as the good lady is concernd  
(8-499)scarce as yet a l'aimable.

(8-499)They are to be quiet at Abbotsford for a few days when

(8-499)they go to town to make their necessary purchases of

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(8-500)carriage & so forth. They are to be at my old friend

(8-500)Miss Dumergues and will scarcely see any one but as I

(8-500)think you will like to call on my dear little Jane I am sure

(8-500)she will see you as I know you will be kind & indulgent to

(8-500)her. Here is a long letter when I only meant a line.

(8-500)I think they will be in London about the end of February

(8-500)or beginning of March & go from thence to Ireland

(8-500)Walters leave of absence being short.

(8-500)My kind compliment[s] to Sir Humphrey & pray

(8-500)acquaint him of this change in our family which opens to

(8-500)me another vista on the dark distance of futurity which

(8-500)unless the lady had what Sir Hugh Evans calls good gifts

(8-500)could scarce otherwise have happend during my lifetime

(8-500)at least without either imprudence on Walters part or

(8-500)restrictions of habits of hospitality & comfort on my own.

(8-500)Always dear Lady Davy your affectionate & respectful

(8-500)friend & cousin

(8-500)WALTER SCOTT

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK, WINDSOR

[Extract]

(8-500)My DEAR LORD,-I have been much occupied by

(8-500)particular business to be presently explaind or your

(8-500)Lordship would have heard some of my tediousness long

(8-500)since. Truth is I have been endeavouring to gain a peep

(8-500)at an arch or two of the Bridge of Mirza further than my

(8-500)eyesight at present carries me by arranging the marriage



(8-500)of your freind Walter with a young lady a niece of Lady  
(8-500)Fergusson named Miss Jobson of Lochore in Fifeshire.  
(8-500)She is bred in the old Scottish fashion modestly and  
(8-500)religiously and nature has given her both good sense and  
(8-500)quiet cheerfullness of disposition. Her manners are  
(8-500)rather too reserved and she is extremely timid almost to

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(8-501)awkwardness though she is a very good musician and  
(8-501)possessd of the usual quantity of female accomplishments  
(8-501)besides. Her fortune is very considerable-about  
(8-501) 50,000 in land and cash in funds-nevertheless I have  
(8-501)been able without injury to others to meet them with such  
(8-501)terms as are quite satisfactory to the young lady's freinds.  
(8-501)The mother however has alone been pleased to give us  
(8-501)some trouble. I do not wonder at it as she is a bold high  
(8-501)spirited highland woman wrapt up in this child or rather  
(8-501)wrapping her up like a blistering plaister which makes  
(8-501)us pay for the sanative qualities which it dispenses by  
(8-501)giving us a cussed deal of uneasiness itself. In short your  
(8-501)Lordship may have seen instances of that intense selfish  
(8-501)affection which cannot part with a beloved object even  
(8-501)for the advantage of the object itself. She makes no  
(8-501)objection to any part of the connection unless to the  
(8-501)bridegrooms youth and his profession. She was indeed  
(8-501)for some time inclined to consider all soldiers as enlisted  
(8-501)in the service of the evil Principle and (thanks to the  
(8-501)vagaries of the Xth regiment) the hussars were  
(8-501)distinguishd as the Devils Own. Luckily we were able to  
(8-501)substantiate to a certainty through Sir George Rose and  
(8-501)others that Walter at least was by principle a steady  
(8-501)Church-going young fellow who without parading his  
(8-501)devotions in peoples faces might set an example to his  
(8-501)seniors & betters of graver professions and exposed to less  
(8-501)temptation. So an honest divine a particular adviser of

(8-501)the good lady joind the camp of Cupid and blazed away  
(8-501)on the old fortress with all his great guns.  
(8-501)Notwithstand[ing] this reinforcement the obstinate defender  
(8-501)mad[e] several sallies in one of which she drove  
(8-501)Adam & Eve 1 her sister and brother in law out of the  
(8-501)Paradise in Shandwick place. A frolic of this kind was  
(8-501)not likely to lower the young ladys inclination to form a  
(8-501)separate settlement for herself so that at last the good  
(8-501)lady has been compelld to acquiesce in what she cannot

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(8-502)help.<sup>1</sup> Through thes[e] squalls the poor girl conducted  
(8-502)herself with a quiet and delicate tact which gives me a  
(8-502)great opinion both of her sense & feelings. They are to  
(8-502)be married next week and

(8-502)Thus ends the Courting of the Lass of Lochore  
(8-502)As many a courting has ended before.

(8-502)Walter and she time and circumstances fitting seem both  
(8-502)inclined to add their separate funds to the interest we  
(8-502)already possess in Roxburghshire which will make  
(8-502)Abbotsford property fully equal to maintaining the  
(8-502)Chateau in beef and claret.

(8-502)My kind Compliments to Lady Montagu who I am  
(8-502)sure will take a kind part in whatever befalls us as I am  
(8-502)sure will my dear young Ladies of Buccleuch & your  
(8-502)Lordships family. I have only to add that the nymph  
(8-502)takes the knapsack to the tune of

(8-502)" Mount & go mount & make ye ready O  
(8-502)Mount & go & be a soldiers lady O."

(8-502)Walter expects a troop soon and has been recommended

(8-502)to the Commander in Chief as well qualified for a Staff  
(8-502)appointment which will make them more comfortable  
(8-502)than as a lieutenants wife although with means to procure  
(8-502)all extra accomodations. But she seems to fear nothing  
(8-502)since her mothers opposition has been got over and though  
(8-502)bred up with the utmost care & delicacy I believe that  
(8-502)like a blood horse she will stand a little roughing better  
(8-502)perhaps than those who must submit to privation from  
(8-502)necessity or are inured to it by habit. Besides she is  
(8-502)young & married to the man she has long preferd though  
(8-502)askd by better suitors. The life is cheerful & has a wild

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(8-503)novelty for a year or two and when circumstances require  
(8-503)it my son or Lockhart or I myself will escort her back to  
(8-503)Scotland.

(8-503)They are to be a few days at Abbotsford-then go to  
(8-503)London to make some necessary purchases & thence [in] a  
(8-503)very short space embark for the dear island and the Head  
(8-503)quarters of the XV.1...

(8-503)I [am] my dear Lord Always most truly yours

(8-503)WALTER SCOTT

(8-503)EDINBURGH 25 January 1825

[Buccleuch]

TO LORD MONTAGU

(8-503)MY DEAR LORD,-Our thread of life is strangely mingled.  
(8-503)My last related to a marriage and this concerns death  
(8-503)and sorrow. Poor Charles Erskine is gone 2 -he had had

(8-503)at least two very distinct appoplectic hints and was living  
(8-503)under a very strict regimen. The third took place at  
(8-503)Jedburgh when he was in the act of attending a road  
(8-503)meeting and it proved fatal after a severe struggle of

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(8-504)many hours. He was the most upright man I ever knew  
(8-504)in the slippery line of a country writer but though rough  
(8-504)in the manners he had the soul of a gentleman.

(8-504)I have not hesitated to offer his situation of Sheriff  
(8-504)ubstitute to Andw Lang who you rememberd behaved  
(8-504)uncommonly well at the time of the Selkirk disputed  
(8-504)election. I stipulate however on my part that he shall  
(8-504)ot have anything to do with Burgh elections in future  
(8-504)as I think it would diminish his utility as a magistrate by  
(8-504)uggesting doubts of his partiality. The Law on his part  
(8-504)nsists that he shall give up what factories<sup>1</sup> he may have  
(8-504)n the Country & that being the case I am not sure  
(8-504)hether he will find it his interest to accept my offer.  
(8-504)e is sensible steady and a good man of business and I  
(8-504)m sure will give satisfaction to the County. On your  
(8-504)ordships part it will be a discharge of a debt which the  
(8-504)uccleuch[s] certainly owe this person when he preferd  
(8-504)following their interest at the great risque of losing Mr  
(8-504)ringle of Hainings business. So that in every point of  
(8-504)view I trust your Lordship will not disapprove of what I  
(8-504)ave done. Poor Maxpapple faild not to be a candidate  
(8-504)um plurimis aliis. I should have been ruind by postage  
(8-504)had I not come to an immediate decision. I suppose the  
(8-504)first directions I had to give to Maxie he would be for  
(8-504)calling me out for not treating him with due ceremony.

(8-504)ray my dear Lord will you at a moments leisure let  
(8-504)me have the pleasure of hearing that I have done right

(8-504)in this matter. I am always my dear Lord Most truly &  
(8-504)espectfully yours

(8-504)ALTER SCOTT

(8-504)DINBURGH 28 January [1825]

[Buccleuch]

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO THOMAS ELLIOT OGILVY,1 CHESTERS, ANCRUM

(8-505)MY DEAR SIR,-I regret very much to observe that our  
(8-505)regretted friend Charles Erskine had a painful passage  
(8-505)to that reward which his friendly disposition his upright  
(8-505)and unshaken integrity and the general good example  
(8-505)which he set for the discharge of his duty to God and man  
(8-505)entitle us to hope he now enjoys.

(8-505)I would have been most happy to attend to your  
(8-505)recommendations in favour of Mr Ogiivy but consideration  
(8-505)of an event which I feared could not be very  
(8-505)distant has long determined me to nominate Andrew  
(8-505)Lang to the situation providing he agrees to renounce  
(8-505)entirely and for ever any management of burgh politics.  
(8-505)I think this appointment will satisfie the country as he is  
(8-505)one of the best men of business I know sober diligent and  
(8-505)steady and the Depute Sheriff is so dependent on the  
(8-505)judgement & experience of his substitute that I think you  
(8-505)will not think me wrong to exert my own selection on this  
(8-505)occasion.

(8-505)It will be long ere we make up our friends loss in our  
(8-505)social circle. Believe me Dear Sir Always your obliged  
(8-505)& most obedient servant WALTER SCOTT

(8-505)EDINBURGH 28th January [1825]

[Ogilvy]

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1825

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK, WINDSOR

(8-506)MY DEAR LORD,-Andrew Lang came to town yesterday  
(8-506)and after mature consideration declined the Sheriff  
(8-506)Substitutes situation because it would have laid him under  
(8-506)the necessity of resigning factories and other incompatible  
(8-506)situations to a larger amount. In these circumstances  
(8-506)and Andrew Lang having undertaken to drynurse him  
(8-506)for a year or two I shall not hesitate to give Maxpopple  
(8-506)the office as spite of his confounded pride he is intelligent  
(8-506)and honest and well acquainted with country business.  
(8-506)Thus a plaguy load will be taken off my mind & some  
(8-506)trouble my dear Lord spared to you. Lang will remain  
(8-506)with some rights to be considerd time and place fitting  
(8-506)and which are not the less available that he seems still to  
(8-506)have command of the Burgh.

(8-506)All poor Charles's spoils are now the sport of chance &  
(8-506)half a score of writers in full pursuit of what they can  
(8-506)catch. The inclosed by his partner James Curl[e] seems  
(8-506)destined for your Lordships eye rather than mine and you  
(8-506)alone know what should be done with it. There is  
(8-506)another applicant for the Baillieage a very good young  
(8-506)man indeed calld James Usher educated by Chas Erskine  
(8-506)& well connected but he handsomely declines proposing  
(8-506)himself [if] it disconcerts any arrangement by which Mrs.  
(8-506)Erskine is to be benefited. A clever fellow named Spence  
(8-506)I believe also proposes. Take care of him-he is neither  
(8-506)sound in politics or morals.

(8-506)Curle is a fat soft fellow-good enough fellow however  
(8-506)in essentials but terribly unlike Charles.

(8-506)There are clerkships of the roads also in fierce contest  
(8-506)and so many have started that one will see no daylight  
(8-506)till some of them draw.

(8-506)I am in a great hurry being this day to sign the marriage  
(8-506)articles which yoke Abbotsford & Lochore together with  
(8-506)power however to sell the latter and buy in Roxburgh or

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-507)Selkirk shire so as to lay what property we have as much  
(8-507)together as possible.

(8-507)I am therefore in great haste my dear Lord Always  
(8-507)your truly obliged & faithful                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-507)EDINR. 31 January [PM. 1825]

(8-507)Walter is to be married on the 3d.

(8-507)I had almost forgotten among the candidates for the  
(8-507)Baillery Lt Colonel Sibbald of Pinnacle 1 a very gentleman-  
(8-507)like good sort of man and I believe well enough acquainted  
(8-507)with public business. I hope out of such choice your  
(8-507)Lordship will send the Melrose vassalage a good Baillie &  
(8-507)me a good neighbour.

[Buccleuch]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[End of January 1825]





(8-508)EDINR. 1st february [1825]

(8-508)Archd. Constable Esq

(8-508)by Walter Scott Esq bridgroom apparent-of the Kings  
(8-508)Hussars by grace of God & the Horseguards Lieutenant-  
(8-508)younger of Abbotsford and expectant of Lochore and a  
(8-508)Baronet in posse to the boot of all that. [Received the  
above WALTER SCOTT] 2

(8-508)DEAR SIR,-I have just received from you 874 which  
(8-508)with one thousand pounds paid to my son completes the  
(8-508)payment due to me by our bargain of twenty fourth  
(8-508)January Current discot. being deduced Yours truly

(8-508)WALTER SCOTT

(8-508)1st february [1825]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 509

(8-509)By our three P/notes due in London  
(8-509)viz 20 January 12 mos 666 . 13 . 4  
(8-509)20 " 15 mos 666 . 13 . 4  
(8-509)20 " 18 mos 666 . 13 . 4

(8-509)----- 2000

(8-509)Less discount 126 .  
(8-509)1 Feb. 1825 to Cash bal. 1874 . 2000

[Stevenson]

TO MISS ERSKINE, MESSRS. ERSKINE & CURLES, MELROSE

(8-509)MY DEAR Miss ERSKINE,-It will give me much satisfaction  
(8-509)to do anything that may be in my power to be useful  
(8-509)to the family of my late excellent and regretted freind  
(8-509)and I will most willingly accept any trust which Mrs  
(8-509)Erskine 1 may chuse to impose on me. I wrote to Lord  
(8-509)Montagu immediatly after I was acquainted with the  
(8-509)proposed arrangements and I hope the answer will be  
(8-509)favourable. I am sure I will have reason to hope so for  
(8-509)my own sake for I shall never look at that house 2 without  
(8-509)a sore heart and it will be my best consolation when a very  
(8-509)hospitable and kind freind is gone that it continues the  
(8-509)residence of the person deservedly dearest to him.

(8-509)Make my kindest & most sincere sympathy in her  
(8-509)present sorrow acceptable to Mrs Erskine in which Lady  
(8-509)Scott and my daughters sincerely [join]. It clouds some  
(8-509)prospects otherwise very happy ones in my own family  
(8-509)that the heart which always joyd in our joys & sorrowd  
(8-509)in our sorrows cannot now share in earthly pleasure or  
(8-509)affliction. The last letter I had from your poor brother  
(8-509)was on the subject I allude to and was written with all

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(8-510)his usual warmth of kindness. It is now a voice speaking  
(8-510)from the tomb to which we are all hastening.

(8-510)Farewell dear Miss Erskine and may God comfort  
(8-510)you-Man can do little on such occasions excepting sharing  
(8-510)your sorrows. I am dear Miss Erskine your obliged  
(8-510)humble Servant

WALTER SCOTT

(8-510)I intend to be at Abbotsford on the evening of Saturday  
(8-510)12th or earlier if possible for two or three days when I  
(8-510)hope to see Mrs Erskine. In the mean while if I can do  
(8-510)any thing here Mr Curle will acquaint me.

(8-510)EDINBURGH 4 feby. [PM. 1825]

[Abbotsford Original]

TO JAMES CURLE

(8-510)DEAR SIR,-The hurry at home has prevented my  
(8-510)writing much. I sent your letter to Lord Montagu adding  
(8-510)such considerations as I thought most like to produce a  
(8-510)favourable issue. I should like very ill to see any other  
(8-510)family in that house. I understand from Mr Ruthurford  
(8-510)that there is no wish [?] to disturb you in the Statute  
(8-510)labour business & I wrote to Mr Henderson on the  
(8-510)subject of Clerk to the Peace. Young Usher applied to  
(8-510)me about the Bailliary but under the modest reservation  
(8-510)that he would not interfere with his old masters widow  
(8-510)so he may be considered as off the field.

(8-510)I will be much obliged to you to take up my bill to  
(8-510)Usher 500,, I will send either cash or a bill for it in the  
(8-510)course of a fortnight. I had to give my young folks  
(8-510)1200 to set them agoing in the world that they may  
(8-510)begin even with the world having a very good income  
(8-510)sufficient with prudence for all the comforts & many of  
(8-510)the elegances of life.

(8-510)I will have some business matters to talk over which  
(8-510)I refer till we meet which will be at Abbotsford about  
(8-510)the 11th or 12th current when I hope to be there. In

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(8-511)the mean time let me know how you come on. I apprehend  
(8-511)you will lose the turnpikes. Your obed Servt

(8-511)WALTER SCOTT

(8-511)EDINR. 4 february [1825]

[Curle]

TO MRS. SCOTT OF LOCHORE, ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE

(8-511)MY DEAREST LOVE,-I thought it quite unnecessary to  
(8-511)embarass your departure yesterday by any attempt to  
(8-511)express my own feelings-in fact I do not much like that  
(8-511)people should witness that sort of agitation in myself.  
(8-511)You would not doubt however that my good wishes &  
(8-511) blessings as well as Lady Scotts followd you both faster  
(8-511)than your carriage could drive. God make you happy in  
(8-511)each other my dearest loves and it will be the greatest  
(8-511)pleasure which Heaven can reserve for me to witness it.

(8-511)I had an extremely affecting interview with Mrs.  
(8-511)Jobson after you left and I am perfectly sure that she now  
(8-511)looks upon an event which appeared so unpleasing at its  
(8-511)first aspect with different eyes and with hopes of happiness  
(8-511)for you and comfort to herself. You may rely on our  
(8-511)paying her every attention which seems acceptable as I  
(8-511)think it is perhaps the way in which I can best convince  
(8-511)you of my affectionate regard.

(8-511)No mastiff was ever so tired of his chain-I should say  
(8-511)more correctly no turnspit was ever so weary of his wheel  
(8-511)as I am of the Court of Session which prevents me coming  
(8-511)out early next week and being with you for a few quiet  
(8-511)days. After Saturday 12 they cannot detain me & if I  
(8-511)cannot come off sooner I will be with you that night at  
(8-511)latest.

(8-511)Our bridal party went off as merrily as possible. Even  
(8-511)the good humourd Colonel forgot his disappointment poor  
(8-511)fellow ! I hope he will be more lucky in his own affairs

(8-511)than he has been in yours for at the fatal ball you jostled  
(8-511)him out of the cotillion and on the more fatal 3 feby.

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(8-512)he was left out of the ceremonial. He sang Begone dull  
(8-512)Care notwithstanding and even volunteerd Jolly Jolly  
(8-512)Jolly in the drawing room with some very moderate  
(8-512)assistance from my good old claret.

(8-512)This is our town news. Send me some from the country  
(8-512)when you can collect any whether the dogs are well?  
(8-512)whether they have bit your maid's heels yet ? whether  
(8-512)you see Sir Adam as he proposed on Sunday ?-and awful  
(8-512)question ! what you mean to give him for dinner ? I  
(8-512)hope you were duly carried over the threshold of the hall.  
(8-512)Compliments to the hussar and believe me my darling  
(8-512)Jane your affectionate father                      WALTER SCOTT

(8-512)ALBYN CLUB ROOM 4th february [PM. 1825]

[Law]