(May 1823 continued)

TO LORD MONTAGU

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

(8-2)I beg in accomplishment of a long delayd but not forgotten promise to send to your Lordship for your neighbour the Provost of Eaton a small parcel with shells from the shores of Zetland. I dare say they are of a very common description for the Sheriff who had the goodness to recollect my commission in his late voyage knows as little of conchology as your Lordships humble Servant. There they are however and such as they are must relieve my conscience of my long protracted promise. If the Provost wishes to have a barrell full of them I dare say it may be easily procured.
Smith has commenced his operations at Melrose under auspices of Smallwood—their plan is excellent and I agree with your Lordship that it is better to confine it for the present to what is necessary for preservation of the venerable edifice leaving to the young Heir such improvements as he may hereafter judge compatible with the safety of the whole. The period at which he will become a judge of this and other matters is not now very distant so does time run on with us.

The shell of my house is finished and I hope to be in possession of some part of it next July. It is larger than I intended which is the more odd because I lived ten years in a shell not much bigger than the largest of those which I now send under an office frank. There is surely something very pleasant in that same occupation of piling stone upon stone and all but the settlement of accounts makes the company of masons the most diverting in the world. I observe what your Lordship says about the arms and rejoice that since the whole water of the Thames cannot wash the Scotch blood or the Scott-blood either out of your Lordships veins 1 that you still continue to bear the insignia of your tribe. I had an erroneous idea that you were under the necessity to be out and out a Montagu an excellent thing certainly but not the course that is compatible with retaining your Scottish noble blood and name. I often promised your brother to go to Boughton which he used as you now do to describe as well worthy of a visit from an old rusted antiquary. Some sad recollections must now attend that visit if ever it should take place but go I will the first time I go up or come down from town by the western road.
My son Walter tumbled in upon us the other day much improved (if I am not too partial a judge) by his residence on the continent, his ideas considerably enlarged and his conversation improved on the whole I think less likely again to be immersed in and limited by the pedantry (let no gentleman hear this who wears moustaches) of a hussar mess.

I have negotiated an exchange for him upon full pay with a Lieutenant in the 15th to which he is at present attach'd and Sir George Murray has kindly offered to recommend him for the first vacancy at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst which will be a matter of great importance for him as it leads to staff-appointments & so forth if he improves the opportunity of education which it affords.

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

The sketches of arms you propose to favour me with will answer exactly for my purpose and shall blaze at the head.
of my hall window in proper form. With kindest
respects to lady Montagu & the young ladies I am always
my dear Lord Yours most sincerely

EDINBURGH 16 May [1823] WALTER SCOTT

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

The Shells by the way are from Orkney not Zetland
but the Sheriff is going to Zetland soon and if it will
gratify the Provost will endeavour to procure some more
specimens.2

[ Buccleuch]

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 5

TO MISS DUMERGUE

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

tatigue of so long a journey unless she stood the sea better 

than I dare hope in which case the Steamboats never 

make more than 50 or 60 hours of the distance between 

Leith & Edinr. which is rather faster than the mail and 

I am told Ladies travel very comfortably having female 

attendance and every thing as well as it can be on board. 

But even this I fear would be rather too much for my 

dear old friend though if you chose to bring down with 

you any stouter travelling companion I would almost 

recommend it in preference to the long land journey. 

Pray realize our hopes some one way or other. 

We are all very well here but Sophias puppet now and 

then gives us a fright-it is a slight creature and has had 

this vile influenza rather badly. All of us were visited 

by the Influenza even I who put it to flight by drinking 

half a bottle of claret extraordinary. Our weather 

too has been very severe. The winter was absolutely 

Siberian some of my plantations were covered ten and 

twelve feet deep so that the hares mounted up and ate 

tthe tops of my young trees. 

My brother Tom poor fellow is gone as you must have 

heard he had many excellent qualities of head & heart 

though unhappy circumstances prevented his making 

the natural advantages of these talents. I expect his son 

here after the classes dismiss at Midsummer. He comes 

on well at College and I trust will be a comfort to his 

mother and sisters. 

Charlotte sends a thousand loves to Nickey and you 
in which Sophia, Anne & Walter sincerely join. I 

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

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

TO THOMAS SHORTREED

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

Hunthill with a difference-Swintons arms are well
known-those on two scutcheons-3 My Great grandfather
was the revd. Mr. John Rutherford sometime
Minister at Yarrow who married 4. Christian Shaw a
daughter of Shaw of Bargarran in Renfrewshire. 5. Said
revd. John Rutherford was the son of a native of Jedburgh
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 understoold 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 Rutherfoords 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 LETTERS OF 1823

(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 to Yarrow where he died. On his gravestone I am told he is represented as sprung ex antiqua stirpe but what the descent was is not mentioned. I cannot get farther back than Grundhousesnook who seems to have been a man of small consideration. My great grandfather seems to have been rich for his time & calling. I know there was a kind of cousinred between my mother & the Rutherfords of Bowland by which she was connected with the Montgomery family but how the Lord of Oxford knows. But there was always an acknowledgment of it in my younger days.

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

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT

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

(8-9)Pray take care of the old papers which belong to my cousin Robt Rutherford & excuse all this trouble from 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 paint till next year.

[Mackay] 

10 LETTERS OF 1823
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.
I will not tast[e] the stuff which I believe is capital untill you come back to do me reason in a bumper. I have foolishly forgot the name of his correspondents but Messrs. Hurst & Robinson will know them and have the goodness to forward the inclosed.

I have got Walter home as large as life—poor fellow he has got the influenza with some fever but I hope will be soon well. I trust to see him & Charles united to my family and with Lockhart and Walter the less who will be down at the same time my board will make a very patriarchal appearance. I hope to see you there before all my flock are dispersed again. I have some reason to be proud as a father of their appearance and disposition.

Pray write soon & let me hear all the news. I have none to send you from this saving that Vol. I (1) is pushing on at a handsome rate & our fat friend pressing and puffing in no small stile.

My kind respects to Mrs. Constable & believe me always most truly yours WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 24 May (2) [1823]

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

TO MARIA EDGECORTH

[early June 1823] (3)

MY DEAR Miss EDGECORTH, -Your letter has just
acquainted us that we are to be deprived of the pleasure
of making your personal acquaintance so much desired
till Friday when we shall claim you and the young ladies

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

I have just time to add kind respects to Mr. and Mrs.
Stuart and to assure you that I am most sincerely and
respectfully yours

WALTER SCOTT

Wednesday EDINR.

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

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON, WINDSOR, BERKS.

MY DEAR LORD, ... I was much interested by your
Lordships account of Beaulieu. I have seen it from the
water and admired it very much but I remember being
told an evil genius haunted it in the Shape of a Low Fever
to which the inhabitants were said to be subject. The
woods were the most noble I ever saw. I believe they
were very judiciously cut: at least I always heard so.
The disappearance of the ancient monastic remains may be accounted for on the same principle as elsewhere—a desire of the Granter of the Crown to secularize the appearance of the property and remove at least the external evidence that it had once been dedicated to religious uses—pretty much on the principle on which the light-fingered gentry melt plate so soon as it comes into their possession and give the original matter a form which renders it more difficult to reassume it. This is a most unsavoury simile. The various mutations in religion and consequently in property of this kind recommended such policy. Your Lordship cannot but remember the Earl of Pembroke in Edward VI time expelling the Nuns from Wilton—then in Queen Mary’s re-inducting them in their Nunnery himself meeting the Abbess barefooted and in sackcloth in penance for his sacrilege & finally again turning the said Abbess and her vestals adrift in the days of Good Queen Bess with the wholesome admonition “Go Spin you jades Go Spin.” Something like the system of demolition which probably went on during those uncertain times was practiced by what was called in France La Bande Noire who bought chateaux & Abbeys for materials & pulling them down sold the materials for what they would bring which was sometimes sufficient to help well towards paymt. of the land when the Assignats were at an immense depreciation.

I should like dearly to have your Lordship’s advice about what I am now doing here knowing you to be one of those "Who in trim gardens take their pleasure."
I am shutting my house in with a court yard the interior of which is to be laid out around the drive in flower plots & shrubbery besides a treilliased walk around the court walls which I have ornamented with Roman deities dug up at Old Penrith the ancient Petreia. This I intend to connect with my gardens and obtain if possible something (parvum componere magnis) like the comfort of Ditton so preferable to the tame and poor waste of grass and gravel by which modern houses are surrounded. I trust to see you all here in Autumn when we shall be able to offer you nights quarters between Bowhill & Melrose.

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

Walter has been ill of an ague since he returnd an old fashiond complaint which however has been common on the continent this season. Although an antiquary & that I have not seen a regular-built ague for thirty years I
could have well excused its absence. Besides John
Fergusson being about to launch for South America
(hoist sail I should say - lord how he would laugh at the
misapplication) and I hope to ballast his ship with dollars
not forgetting a few in his purse. We have for the present
lost the Knt. Keeper of the Regalia who has moriced 1
off to Harrowgate with the lady & sent down from thence
already as the report of the water goes two pet dogs & a
pointer per Mail having only six already. Walter speaks
favourably of Dresden but like other places it is over run
with English.

I dare say your Lordship thinks it by this time reasonable
that I should subscribe myself your very faithful &
sincere                                    W SCOTT

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

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

[ Buccleuch]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,-I have just received your
kind note, just when I had persuaded myself it was
most likely I should see you in person or hear of your
arrival. Mr. Alison writes to me you are engaged to
drive with him to-morrow, which puts Roslin out of the
question for that day, as it might keep you late. On
Sunday I hope you will join our family party at five, and
on Monday I have asked one or two of the northern lights on purpose to meet you. I should be engrossing at any time, but we shall be more disposed to be so just now, because on the 12th I am under the necessity of going to a different kingdom (only the kingdom of Fife) for a day or two. To-morrow, if it is quite agreeable, I will wait on you about twelve, and hope you will permit me to show you some of our improvements. I am always most respectfully yours.

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH, Friday [6th June 1823]

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

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

Moreover, all our woman-kind have been calling it Gibb's hotel, so if you are not really tired and late, you have not even pride, the ladies' last defence, to oppose to this request. But, above all, do not fatigue yourself and the young ladies.
No dressing to be thought of.

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

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,-I am going out of town at three o'clock and do not return till Monday-On Tuesday I will call

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 17

at the office and talk over these letters which neither surprise nor dismay me.

The Mouse who only trusts to one poor hole

Can never be a Mouse of any soul.1

I will carry the proof with me and return it by post from fiffe. Yours ever W SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 2 o'clock [Thursday 12 June 1823] 2

[Stevenson]

TO DANIEL TERRY

CASTLE STREET, June 18, 1823

" My marbles! my marbles! 0 what must now be done[]

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

My marbles! my marbles! I fancied them so fine,

The marbles of Lord Elgin were but a joke to mine.3

In fact we are all on tip-toe now for the marbles and the chimney-grates, which being had and obtained, we will be less clamorous about other matters. I have very
little news to send you: Miss Edgeworth is at present the
great lioness of Edinburgh, and a very nice lioness; she
is full of fun and spirit; a little slight figure, very active
in her motions, very good-humoured, and full of enthusiasm.
Your descriptions of the chiffonieres made my
mouth water: but Abbotsford has cost rather too much
for one year, with the absolutely necessary expenses, and

I like to leave something to succeeding years, when we
may be better able to afford to get our matters made
tasty. Besides, the painting of the house should be
executed before much curious furniture be put in; next
spring, perhaps, we may go prowling together through
the brokers' purlieus. I enclose you a plan of my own
for a gallery round my own room, which is to combine that
advantage with a private staircase at the same time,
leaving me possession of my oratory; this will be for
next year—but I should like to take Mr. Atkinson's
sentiments about it. Somebody told me, I trust
inaccurately, that he had not been well. I have not heard
of him for some time, and I owe him (besides much
kindness, which can only be paid with gratitude) the
suitable compensation for his very friendly labours in
my behalf. I wish you would poke him a little, with all
delicacy, on this subject. We are richer than when
Abbotsford first began, and have engrossed a great deal
of his most valuable time. I think you will understand
the plan perfectly. A private staircase comes down from
my dressing-room, and opens upon a book gallery; the
landing-place forms the top of the oratory, leaving that
cabinet seven feet high; then there is a staircase in the
closet which corresponds with the oratory, which you
attain by walking round the gallery. This staircase might
be made to hang on the door and pull out when it is
opened, which is the way abroad with an escalier derobe.1
I might either put shelves under the gallery, or place some
of my cabinets there, or partly both.-Kind compliments
to Mrs. Terry, in which all join. Yours most truly,

W. SCOTT

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

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 19

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

[Lockhart]

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

MY DEAR SIR,-We have not taken any steps about our
venerable friend and your predecessor whose Manuscript
is lying safe in my hands. Constable has been in London
this long time and is still there and Cadell does not seem
willingly to embark in any enterprize of consequence just
now. We have set on foot a sort of Scottish Roxburgh
Club here for publishing curiosities of Scottish literature
but Fountainhall would be a work rather too heavy for our
limited funds although few can be conceived which would
come more legitimately under the purpose of our association
which is made in order to rescue from the chance of
destruction the documents most essential to the history
and literature of Scotland.

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

CASTLE STREET, 18 June [1823]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR CONSTABLE, -- Your valuable present of rare
tracts reachd me safe and form a most curious & impotant
addition on the Jacobite & religious collection not
forgetting those of Diablerie. What are your motions to
be Do you remain in the south a month or two or come
down immediatly If after the 12th I hope you will make
(8-21)a stage of Abbotsford now that Mrs. Constable has learnt
(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.2 I have to tell you on

22 LETTERS OF 1823

(8-22)Lady Scott's 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
consciousness that this may be the case even when our friends may be disappointed with respect to our intentions induces me to express a hope that your mind has not been ambulating respecting your purpose of visiting us and being motions in the last which continue stable—that is—we shall be all at Abbotsford on 12th July but should you come earlier your bed etc will be ready for you and you will find Lady Scott and Anne anxious and happy to do the honours to you after the 28th when they go to the country. So if you keep your tryste on 1st July you have your chamber in the wall ready and your hostesses to attend you. I have to return you my best thanks for the first division of the Orlando. As yet I can only speak to its merits in a general way the hurry of the Session has not permitted me to compare it with the original. But it reads like an original itself and in my poor mind is the most successful attempt ever made to render a romantic poet where epic strain is blended with so much peculiar wit and humour indigenous in a foreign land. Lockhart a better judge than I am because more lately a student of the lingua toscana is unrestrained in his approbation. Miss Edgworth has been here. In shape and appearance the very Whippity Stourie of our Scotch nursery tale. I like her very much and have seen a great deal other. She has gone north with two sisters one clever and the other pretty and a brother qui n'a pas l'air distingue but who is qualified as an excellent mathematician and engineer. Other news there are none except what is no news that we all long for your presence. Ever yours truly
MY DEAR MORRITT,-I have both your kind letters which I delayd answering untill I should see according to our Scotch phrase how bowls are to run this season and whether I could possibly promise myself the pleasure of a Raid of Rokeby. I find however on computation that this very pleasant matter must be put off till next year. I have a monstrous deal to do at Abbotsford and besides expect one or two birds of passage in the course of July and August who intend to rest their wearied wing at Abbotsford. I wish to heaven Lady Alvanley and [the] Miss Ardens 1 would be of that party. I have not seen them since 1815 when their presence contributed so much to make paris delightful.2 I trust in God your charming young friend will experience all the advantage you can desire from the milder climate of the South-Ours is the only bad thing about our country. I myself am flint to cold and rawness but I see the young people even of Scotland sinking daily under pulmonary or stomach disorders exasperated by the rigour of our northern seasons. I think we have made our houses too comfortable in comparaison to the state of the external air-and yet the Russian rushes from his vapour bath into the extremities of a polar climate. Wherever the fault lies the consequences are too obvious. My friend Hector MacDonald has just lost a fourth son who like his brothers died at the age when he should have enterd the world.
and he has now only one left out of five most hopeful young men—a sad business—Upon the whole this has been a most unhealthy season and the aged and weak have been swept off at an awful rate. All our household have been ill except myself. Walter has had a rough touch of fever and ague but seems now quite reestablishd. He stays with me but a short time having got again into the army by exchanging for full pay. So he is now Lieutenant in the 5th Hussars. He goes to the Royal College at Sandhurst for a twelvemonth after which I hope to get him upon Sir Frederick Adams staff in the Ionian Islands or into some similar situation. What I look forward to is the staff if possible which is the most scientific and best line of his profession.

Touching your dedication I would fain evade it if possible. The good lady cannot but expect that such a circumstance would be attended with some advantage of one kind or other and in modern times none whatever is derived from it and in my opinion dedications should always be waved unless where they are intended to express personal friendship or personal obligation. Besides there is a certain Mr. Wiffen (a Quaker by the grace of God) who hath accomplishd a version of the Jerusalem Delivered 1 in which it is to be hoped he has made Armida talk the language of my old friend Dame Janet Waldie 2 and Rinaldo that of Simon Pure. Seriously they say it is very cleverly done and it may be worth your protegee's while to think whether she ought to start against him. Assuredly she should at least run no risque. After all I put myself in your hand if you think my declining the substitution of my own name in place of our reaward 3 friend Beckford would give pain. I have no feelings about the matter that I would not sacrifice rather [than] inflict pain on another. But I would much rather wave the compliment if it could be
done without rudeness because a more ineffectual &
useless a patron than I am could not be selected out of the
circle of literature. I have not even the ordinary and
cheapest of all means to advance a work namely by
prone-ing 1 in its favour in literary society for as you well
know for twenty years at least I have like Gil Blas preferd the
correspondence of men of the work-day world to the
clovespice society that is made up of authors critics and
admirers and most of my friends are only acquainted with Jerusalem as they learn about it in the bible. I like
them the better therefore for as there is scarce one person who has a real natural taste either for poetry [or] letters out of about fifty who affect [it (paper torn by seal)] the odds are fifty to one against your meeting with that rara avis who is what they would seem.

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

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

Their drawing their purses however is carrying the joke rather farther than I ever ventured to hope.

Miss Edgeworth is here very lively and entertaining and acting well up to the character one forms from her compositions. In person I can never free myself from the recollections of Whippity Stourie the fairy so much renownd in Scottish nurseries. Her proposed visit to
Abbotsford after she has whisked through the high lands
is one of the circumstances which oblige me to stick fast
at Abbotsford for the next two months.2

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 27

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

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

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

Also, I hope you will give us your company to dinner, either Wednesday or Thursday as most convenient, or later in the week, if you like it better.

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

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET, Friday morning 1 [summer, 1823]

I hope you were gratified yesterday.

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE
[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-

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

Shall I set to work in this with the speed of light I will write to Sir William Knighton by tomorrow's post. Yours ever

WALTER SCOTT

TO BENJAMIN ROBERT HAYDON

DEAR SIR,—On my return from the country yesterday I received with extreme regret and sympathy the letter which apprises me of your present unhappy situation.

They have much to answer for, who proceed as your creditors have done, not only in the depreciation of your property and the interruption at once of your domestic happiness and professional career, but in the deprivation of your personal liberty by means of which you could in so many ways have been of service to yourself, and even to them. There is one, however, in your situation which others cannot experience, and which ought to give you patience and comfort under your severe affliction. What real means of eminence and of future success you possess lie far beyond the power of the sheriff's writ. An official person is ruined if deprived of the power of attending his duty, a shopkeeper if deprived of his shops, a merchant if his stores and credit are taken from him, but no species of legal distress can attack the internal sources of genius, though it may for a time palsy his hand.
If this misfortune had happened in Scotland, where our laws in such cases are of a most mild and equitable character, I could without trouble put you upon a plan of extrication. But the English laws are different, and I am unacquainted with them. Still however, I think there must be an outlet under the insolvent act, of which you should not hesitate to avail yourself of it, for in the eye of Justice and equity the creditors, who pushed on a sale of your valuable pictures, must be considered to be overpaid. But as this may be a work of more time than I am aware of, perhaps some temporary arrangement might be able to obtain at least your liberty, for whenever at freedom I should have no fear that the exertion of your own talents would soon retrieve the comforts you have lost for the present. An appeal to the public would doubtless raise a considerable sum, but I should be sorry any part of it went into the pockets of those hard-hearted men of mammon. I should rather endure a little buffeting, and keep this as a resource under my lee to run for as soon as I was my own man again. But of this those advisers who know the law of England, and have the affairs fully under their consideration, will be the best judges. Among the numerous admirers of your genius, you must have many able and willing to assist you at this moment, and I need scarce point out to you the prudence of being entirely frank in your communications with them.

I have not to make many apologies for the trifling amount of an enclosure which may be useful, as a trifling matter will sometimes stop a leak in a vessel: truth is I have been a little extravagant lately, and mean this only as a small on account, for which you shall be my debtor.
in a sketch or drawing when better spirits and more fortunate circumstances enable you to use a black-lead pencil or a bit of chalk. Excuse this trifling communication. I hope to have a letter by-and-by.

This has been a severe season for the arts: about a fortnight since I had a very merry party through Fifeshire, with our Chief Baron (Sergeant Shepherd) and the Lord Chief Commissioner, and above all, Sir H. Raeburn, our famous portrait painter. No one could seem more healthy than he was, or more active, and of an athletic spare habit, that seemed made for a very long life. But this morning I have the melancholy news of his death after three days illness, by which painting is deprived of a votary of genius, our city of an ornament, and society of a most excellent and most innocent member. Sir Henry about twelve or thirteen years ago had become totally embarrassed in his affairs from incautious securities in which he was engaged for a near relative, who was in the West India trade. He met with more considerate and kinder treatment than you have unfortunately experienced, but, notwithstanding the result was his being deprived of the fortune he had honourably acquired by his profession. He bore his deprivation with the greatest firmness; resumed his pencil with increased zeal, and improved his natural talents by close study, so that he not only completely re-established his affairs, but has been long in the condition to leave an honest independence to his family. May you, my dear Mr. Haydon, as you resemble him in his misfortunes, also resemble him in the success with which my poor friend surmounted them. After all, I hope your youth and health will enable you much longer to enjoy returning prosperity than it has been
his lot to do. I will be very glad to hear from you when your plans are arranged, and particularly so if it should be in my power by any exertion to advance them. I am with sincere sorrow, and best regards, Dear Sir, yours very truly WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH, 8th July [1823]

[Tom Taylor's Life of Hayden]

TO LORD MELVILLE

MY DEAR LORD MELVILLE,-Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe is a candidate for the situation of King's limner vacant by the death of Raeburn. As his conception and execution as an artist is of a character so distinguish'd as scarce to be second to Hogarth I really hope you will back him in this matter were it but for the hundred good laughs we have had at Queen Elizabeth Dancing. In mechanical skill professional artists may surpass him but I know none who approaches him in the higher requisites of fancy and expression & surely that his situation does not permit him to sell his productions ought rather to be a recommendation to him as otherwise-The income of the office small as it is (about 100 I believe) would double all that poor Charles has to live upon and yet would provide for all his simple and regulated wants. He is now frightfully dependant on his mother's life and some family misunderstandings have cut all friendly intercourse between him and his brother the General. So pray put out your strong right hand and help him on this most critical emergency. Always my dear Lord I am most truly yours WALTER SCOTT
I trust we will see Lady Melville & your Lordship at Abbotsford this season & early.

TO UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT 1

DEAR SIR,-I am truly happy to hear of poor Terry's emancipation which he owes under providence to your excellent management of a very perplexed business. The sale to such a responsible man as Matthews gives assurance to all parties and patience and good management have done for the creditors much more than they could have expected. I observed with much concern the alteration in Terry's handwriting. I trust the change in his affairs will give comfort to his feelings and relieve him of the symptoms to which distress have given rise. I have written to him to keep a good heart and look for better days which if health permits he has no cause to despair of. He has got a good engagement at Drury Lane and can do something in the interval of the theater. We could make him a good bumper here if he comes

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when people are in town for we go like a flight of wild geeze to our hills and lakes whenever our Courts of Justice rise. I am with many thanks for my own share of the trouble you have had. Very much your obligd servant WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 9 July 1823

[Huntington]
TO [THE RAEBURN FAMILY]

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

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

CASTLE STREET Thursday 10 July [1823]
[Owen D. Young]

TO SIR THOMAS DICK LAUNDER, RELUGAS, FORRES

[Extract]

(8-35) MY DEAR SIR THOMAS,- You are too easily alarmd about the fate of your ancestors. I did not mean it would not be publishd—far less that I would not do all in my power to advance the publication but only that the size and probable expence of the work 1 with the limited sale for articles of literature only interesting to the Scottish Antiquaries renderd the Booksellers less willing to adopt the proposal than they seemd at first. . . . Mr. Thomson has promised to look through the Manuscript and collate it with that of Mr. Maule 1 and is of opinion (as I am) that it would be very desireable to retrench all the mere law-questions which are to be found in the printed folios. Indeed the Editors of these two volumes had a purpose in view directly opposed to ours for they wishd to omit

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

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

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

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

EDINR. 10 July [1823]
TO LADY ANNE BARNARD

14 July, 1823

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

Now I will tell your ladyship how I came to be so positive respecting a fact known with certainty to so very few persons. Your ladyship may remember, among old Edinburgh acquaintances, the family of Dr. John Rutherford, professor of medicine, one of whom, Mrs. Colonel Russell of Ashestiel by marriage, was formerly well known to you. The eldest daughter of the Doctor, by his first wife, was my worthy mother, who was much connected by friendship, and, I think, by some remote cousinred through the Duffs and Dalrymples, with the excellent Countess of Balcarres, your ladyship's mother, in virtue of which connection I had, when entering life, the advantage of hearing the good old lady, then our neighbour in George's Square, tell many entertaining anecdotes of the
I was also a sort of permitted attendant on the late Countess at public places, particularly the theatre, where she retained a box so constantly, that the lady dowager used to call her "the good-wife of the playhouse." 1

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

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

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

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

She only sung the first part, but, many years afterwards, I got from her sister, my much regretted relation, 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

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(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." 2 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 3
should be the first to penetrate your mystery, and that he
should be in danger of being mystified at this time of day.

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

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 41

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

I think Dalzell's criticism rather hypercritical, but very
characteristic; were I to reply to it in the manner of
Shakspeare's commentators, trumping each other's nonsense,
I would, in logical phrase, grant his premises and
deny his conclusion. A crown, I would say, is no
denomination of Scottish money, and therefore the pound to
which it is to be augmented is not a Scottish pound. If
it were objected to my exposition, that it is unnatural that
Jamie should speak of any other denomination of coin
than the Scotch, I would produce you a dozen of old
papers to prove that the coast of Fife in ancient times
carried on a great trade with Holland and other countries,
and of course French crowns and pounds sterling were current denominations among them. Moreover, he shews himself so ready to gang to sea, that, for aught I can tell, or Dalzell either (if he were alive), Jamie may have gone a trial voyage to Campvere already, and speak rather as a mariner than in the usual style of "poor Scotland's gear." 2

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

I was in the neighbourhood of Balcarres for the first
time in my life about a month ago; I never saw so many
good houses of people of family and fortune nested so
close together as in that part of Fife; it is more like

1823  SIR WALTER SCOTT  43

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

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

"On well-sung Tweed's baronial stream,"

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

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But you will never get rid of me, if I start anew to old
stories: -Believe me, dear Lady Anne, Most respectfully
and sincerely. Your obedient servant,
TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

MY DEAR CHARLES,- The inclosed 1 informs me that our cake is like to be dough-There is no help for it-as in many cases we are thwarted by a chance we did not reckon upon.

I send Frendraught 1 which so far as I have read is a trashy Exclamation upon the place without any light on the curious subject. There are some other curious tracts in the volume. Yours truly

THE DISAPPOINTED W. S.

I5 July [1823]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK, WINDSOR, BERKS.

MY DEAR LORD,- Poor Sir Henry Reaburn is no more- He was over in Fife with the Chief Commissioner Chief Baron & myself on a pleasure party about three weeks hence and I never saw a man in better health. But he died of water in the head a hopeless disease which must have been long in the constitution. When he came back from Fife he said now [that] I am better acquainted with your face than ever I was (having been three or four days in company) I will finish Lord Montagu's picture & my own 2 for I had agreed long since to sit to him on his
own account and both pictures were nearly finishd. I
went accordingly and sate to him for nearly three hours
when he finishd his own head in a most masterly manner
and did a great deal to that designd to your Lordship but
chiefly to the drapery. I upbraided him in jest with
having taken best care of himself & he allowd he had but
agreed whenever the paint on your copy was dry I should
have a finishing sitting. All this being the case I think
your Lordship should have the finishd picture which is
really considred as the best likeness which ever has been
made of so indifferent an original for your Lordship
cannot certainly be expected to take the unfinishd picture
which would require one long sitting to bring it to the
same perfection. In all respects they are quite the same
only the dress is different to show that both were originals.
Perhaps this can be arranged when your Lordship comes
down.

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

Your Lordships letter is just put into my hands with the
very interesting intelligence of my fair freind Lady
Isabella's approaching change of condition.1 There are
describes him is likely to prize both as an old freind
of Lady Isabella through infancy childhood and youth
warmly hopes and prays he may. I am a little jealous of England and Ireland carrying off so many of our young ladies especially as it limits the chance of our seeing them in Scotland so frequently as I could wish. I shall be quite prudent in letting no item escape of the intended nuptials until I hear it publicly mentioned.

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

There is popularity to be obtaind by listening to these lectures—there is also an idea of generosity and independence and public spirit in affecting to hold cheap the privileges which are peculiarly their own—and there may be in some minds the idea (a very vain one) that the turret may seem higher and more distinguishd when

some parts of the building are pulld down that overtop it.

I have no doubt your freind is aware of all this and will take his own time & manner in leading our young freind to draw inferences from history in his own way which may apply to his own times. I will consider anxious[ly] what your Lordship mentions about a course of Scottish study. We are still but very indifferently provided with Scotch histories of a general description. Lord Hailles annals are the foundation stone and an excellent book though drily written. Pinkerton in two very unreadable 4tos which yet abound in information takes up the thread where Hailles drops it and then you have Robertson down to the union of the Kingdoms. But I would beware of task work which Pinkerton at least must always be and I would relieve him every now and [then] by looking at the pages of old Pitscottie whose events are told with so much naivete and even humour and such individuality as it were that it places the actors and scenes before the reader. The whole history of James Vth & Queen Mary may be read to great advantage in the elegant latin of Lesly Bishop of Ross 1 and collated with the account which his opponent Buchanan in language still more classical gives of the same eventful reigns. Laing is but a bad guide through the seventeenth century yet I hardly know where a combined account of these events is to be had so far as Scotland is concerned and still less how we could
recommend to the young Duke an account of Scottish jurisprudence that is not too technical. All this I will be happy to talk over with your Lordship for that our young friend should possess this information in a general way is essential to his own comfort and the wellfare of many.

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT

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

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

My court yard rises but Masons of all men but lovers love to linger ere they depart. Two men are now tapping
upon the summit of my gate as gently as if they were laying
the foundation stone of a Methodist Meeting House and
one plumber sits sparrow like companionless upon the
top of a turret which should have been finishd a month
since. I must go and as Judge Jefferies used to express
it give them a lick with the rough side of my tongue which
will relieve your Lordship sooner than it might otherwise
have been.

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

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

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

ABBOTSFORD 17 July [PM. 21 July 1823] W SCOTT

Wilkie has got the situation of Kings painter-could not
certainly be better bestowd.
TO RICHARD HEBER

MY DEAR HEBER,- My son Charles's instructor & friend Mr Williams promises that he will be fit to enter at College next Easter for Residence & that he should for that purpose be put on the books if possible this season. I have made no motion in this matter relying on your kind assistance but am now under the necessity of jogging your memory a wee bit. I wish I could set you a jogging so completely that you would not stop till you had crossed the Borders. Sure it would be more sensible than Reginald jogging away to be a Bishop in partibus infidelium for I fear Calcutta is little better. I wish he had let the Nullifidian 1 Europeans and the pagan Gentoos go to the Devil their own way & stayd with us in Old England.

Pray come this season if you can and believe me always my dear Heber most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 17 July [1823]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

YOUR kind letter 2 my dear friend heaps coals of fire on my head for I should have written to you in common gratitude long since but I waited till I should read through the miscellany with some attention which as I have not
yet done I can scarce say much to the purpose so far as that is concerned. My own production sat in the porch like an evil thing and scared me from proceeding farther than to hurry through your compositions with which I was delighted and one or two others. In my own case I have almost a nervous reluctance to look back on any recent poetical performance of my own. I almost think with MacBeth I am afraid to think on what I have done. Look on't again I dare not.

But the best of the matter is that your purpose has been so satisfactorily answered and great reason have you to be proud of your influence with the poem-buyers as well as the poem-makers. By the bye you know your request first set me a hammering on an old tale of the Swintons from whom by the mothers side I am descended and the tinkering work I made of it warmed the heart of a cousin in the east Indies a descendant of the renowned Sir Allan who has sent his kindred poet by this fleet not a butt of sack but a pipe of most particular Madeira. You and Miss Agnes shall have a glass of it when you come to Abbotsford for I always consider your last only a payment to account: you did not stay half the time you promised. I am going out there on Friday and shall see all my family reunited around me for the first time these many years. They make a very good figure as honest men and bonny lasses. I will make it my first task when I get to Abbotsford to read what you recommend. I used to think G. K.’s poesy a little of the heaviest but he is an excellent person in his way. I read Miss
(8-53) Fanshaw's pieces which are quite beautiful. Miss Heman 1 is somewhat too poetical for my taste—too many flowers I mean and too little fruit but that may be the cynical criticism of an elderly gentleman for it is certain that when I was young I read verses of every kind with infinitely more indulgence because with more pleasure than I can now do—the more shame for me now to refuse the complacence which I have had so often to solicit. I am hastening to think prose a better thing than verse and if you have any hopes to convince me of the contrary it must be by writing and publishing another volume of plays, as fast as possible I think they would be most favourably received and beg like Burns to—tell you of mine and Scotland's drouth.

(8-53) Your servants humble.

A young friend of mine Lord Leveson Gower 3 has made a very fair attempt to translate Goethe's untranslatable play of Faust or Faustus. He has given also a version of Schiller's very fine poem on casting the bell which I think equals Mr Sotheby nay—privately for tell it not in Epping forest whisper it not in Hampstead, rather excels our excellent friend. I have not compared them minutely however.

As for Mr Howison 1 such is the worldly name of Polydore I never saw such a change in my life upon a young man. It may be fourteen years or thereabouts since he introduced himself to me by sending me some most excellent verses for a youth of 17 years old. I asked him to Abbotsford.
and he came - a thin hectic youth with an eye of dark
fire a cheek that colourd at the slightest emotion and a
mind fraught with feeling of the tender and the beautiful
and eager for poetical fame - otherwise of so little
acquaintance with the world and the worlds ways that
a sucking-turkey might have been his tutor. I was rather
a bear-like nurse for such a lamb-like charge. We could
hardly indeed associate together for I was then eternally
restless and he as sedentary. He could neither fish
shoot or course - he could not bear the inside of a carriage
with the ladies for it made him sick nor the outside with
my boys for it made him giddy, he could not walk for
it fatigued him nor ride for he fell off. I did all I could
to make him happy and it was not till he had caught two
colds and one sprain besides risquing his life in the Tweed
that I gave up all attempts to convert him to the things
of this world. Our acquaintance after this languishd and
at last fell asleep till one day last year I met at Lockharts
a thin, consumptive looking man bent double with study
and whose eyes seemd to have been extinguishd almost
by poring over the midnight lamp though protected by
immense green spectacles. I then found my poet had
turnd metaphysician and that these spectacles were to
assist him in gazing into the millstone of moral philosophy.
The poor lad lookd at least twice as old as he really is and
has since publishd a book very small in size but from its
extreme abstracted doctrines more difficult to comprehend
than any I ever opend in my life. 1 Such is his present
situation I will take care he has one of my copies. Lockhart
who thinks very highly and I believe justly of his
genius will take care he has it. His father luckily is a
man of substance though of low penurious habits I believe
so that poor Howison is secure of a competent portion of
the goods of this world. He is a singular instance of
talents hitherto lost to the public but if he gets on the
right line he may do something remarkable yet.

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

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

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

I am very sorry indeed that the Doctor is complaining,
he whose life has been one course of administering help
and comfort to others should not one would think suffer
himself. But such are the terms on which we hold our
gifts, however valuable to others they are sometimes less
availing to ourselves. I sincerely hope this will find him
better and Mrs Baillie easier in proportion. When I was
subject a little to sore throats I cured myself of that
tendency by spunging my throat breast and shoulders
every morning with the coldest water I could get but this is rather a horse-remedy though I still keep up the practice. All here—that is wives maidens and bachelors bluff not forgetting little John Hugh or as he is popularly stile[d] Hugh Littlejohn send loving remembrances to you and Miss Agnes. Ever Dear Mrs Joanna most truly yours WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 18 July [1823]

TO THOMAS SHORTREED, WRITER, JEDBURGH

[Extract]

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

Mr. Bell has very handsomely offered me inspection of the old titles of Hunthill and Robert Rutherford as the party principally concerned and a professional man has undertaken the scrutiny. ... I am always Dear Tom
TO MRS. HUGHES

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

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

I was much entertained with your account of the Lions of Leamington. The learnt Doctor Parr is certainly one of the first order.2 I saw him to my astonishment in the streets of Edinburgh at a time when they are deserted
by all but tradesfolks and tourists but when some
accidental business obliged me to come to town. I heard a
prodigious talking and looking out saw the Doctor much
like a turtle erect on his hinder claws in full canonicals
and surrounded by a sort of halo of satellites male and
female to whom he was laying down the law as if the whole
town had been his town. After all it is very difficult to be
a lion in good society if you happen to be at the same time
a beast of moderate bearing and of common sense. The
part played by the Lion in the Spectator who fought on
the stage with Nicolini is much easier. If you do not
make some play you are set down either for a sulky or a
paltry animal and if you do there is generally something
very absurd in it. For my part who am sometimes called
on to be a lion I always form myself on the model of that
noble animal who was so unnecessarily disturbed by the
Knight of the woeful countenance. He rose up turned
himself round in his caravan shewed himself front and
rear then licked his mustachios with a yard of tongue
yawned most formidably and then lay down in peace.
Pray tell your son to practice this in time against his claws
and mane attain the due of notoriety. I have a notion
they will grow rapidly.

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

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 reckoned as surely on the thing as Falstaff on
(8-61)his two & twenty yards of sattin.1 But transeat quoth John
(8-61)cum ceteris erroribus. I greatly approve your plan of
(8-61)Freendraught 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 & calligraphy. I have
(8-61)no doubt that among many common things there are
(8-61)some rare or perhaps unique but before they reached my
(8-61)hand the rage of ballad hunting had cooled 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 ascertained 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 braw licht nicht etc.2
This is base rainy weather, one day always following worse than its [predecessor] & within are four idle boys and twice four busy carpenters the idleness of the former decidedly the more noisy than the industry of the others, I hope we will get all our matters so quiet in a week or two that we may claim with a good conscience your kind promise to spend some time with us.

A thousand thanks for your kind dedication which I prize as I ought to do. Always dear Chas. Most truly yours 27 July 1823 ABBOTSFD. Sunday           W. SCOTT

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

" Now a' is done that man can do And a' is done in vain."

I like Lady G's alertness however & will not fail to hint that if unsuccessful on this occasion she may on a future occasion extend her pretty arm put in her thumb And pull out a plum.

Of course you have nothing to do with my hints. [Hornel]

TO HENRY RAEBURN 2

DEAR SIR,—Considering the great loss which you have so lately sustained in the person of my late admired and excellent friend Sir Henry I feel reluctance to intrude.
upon you personally concerning a matter in which I am but indirectly interested but which I wish to place before you in all its relations.

1823

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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

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

I very little thought when I last shook your father by
(8-63)the hand and talked of our next merry meeting that he
to finish the portrait we were then looking at.

(8-64)You will see how I am situated and excuse this
untimely trouble on the part of Sir Your most obedient
Servant WALTER SCOTT

(8-64)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 28 July [1823]

[Owen D. Young]

TO LORD MONTAGU

(8-64)MY DEAR LORD, - My wife and daughter were coming
to wait on the Bowhill Ladies today but as singeth the
Clown in 12th Night

With a heigh ho the wind and the rain
For the rain it raineth every day.

We hope to have the honor of seeing you all tomorrow
when Heaven send us a fair blink.

When your ancestor King Jemmy borrow[d] the geese,
poultry, turkeys and so forth of the Laird of Dundas he
invited the Laird to come & take part of his " ain gude
cheer " and acting after that royal example I will make a
poor face and beg a brace or two of moorfowl which I
hope the young shooters have made [a] more plentiful
commodity at Bowhill than it is with us my fowler having
only pickd up one brace on my bare little moor. I want
Walter and his long legs sadly.

All here join in kindest & most respectful Compliments
TO WILLIAM STEWART ROSE

[Extract]

ABBOTSFORD, Sunday Morning [August 1823]

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

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 65

of bores in the best-humoured of all Irishmen and
the dullest of created beings. I never found your
apophthegm more true, that a Bore must have something
estimable about him, for, if it had not been for his extreme
humility and good-nature, I was on the eve of instituting
family prayers, for the purpose of expatiating on Sir
Walter Riddell's text- "Remove thy foot from thy
neighbour's house, lest he grow weary of thee and so hate
thee." 1 The great Hogg found his lair at Abbotsford on
Friday, Lockhart bringing him here like a pig in a string,
for which the lady of the mansion sent him little thanks,
she not thinking the hog's pearls (qu. Perils) 2 an apology
for his freedoms. I am to be from home on Friday and
Saturday next. . . . But you know that if your shooting
arrangements, or any others, include these days, at
Abbotsford you have the ladies and Lockhart to make
much of you, so come as soon as you can. About the
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.
There is a life of McBane 3 without the plates. I have a copy with them I will bring to town should you wish to copy out the first which presents the author in his fighting gear.

Another is rather a curious tract upon Lycanthropie 1 and a third some of Patrick Walker's lives which you probably have. I trust you will find Porto Bello more pleasant than you anticipate and heartily wish your hearth rug had the properties of Prince Hassan's tapestry that you might according as your humour dictated.

Be here with a hoop
And be gone with a hallo

This will perhaps be for some time in Princes Street but all that belongs to it will keep cold Yours truly & affectionately

ABBOTSFORD 1st August [1823]

Walter is come from sketching in Kent black as the devil except a large pair of light grey eyes.

TO SAMUEL WARREN, 4 CITY ROAD 2

SIR, - I am favoured with your letter of 26th which some business prevented my sooner replying to. I am
not the author of those Novels which the world chuses to ascribe to me and am therefore unworthy of the praises due to that individual whoever he may prove to be. It is needless therefore to add that I cannot be useful to you in the way you propose. Indeed if you will take my advice you will take no other person’s judgment or countenance on the project of publishing which you entertain than that of an intelligent bookseller who is in a good line in the trade. Although no great readers nor pretending to particular taste these gentlemen whose profession it is to cater for the public acquire much more accurate knowledge of what will give satisfaction to the general reader than can be obtained by a man of letters in his closet. They have also ready access to good judges and their own interest peremptorily commands them to give as much encouragement as possible to genius or any thing approaching it.

Excuse these hints from one who has had some experience and believe me Sir Your most obedt servant,

ABBOTSFORD 3 August [1823] WALTER SCOTT

[Blackwood Copy]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DALKEITH HOUSE, EDINBURGH

MY DEAR LORD,-The inclosed I will show that my attempts to procure for your Lordship the mor[e] finishd

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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

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

ABBOTSFORD 4th Augt. [PM. 1823]

TO HENRY RAEBURN

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

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

ABBOTSFORD 5 Augt [1823]
MY DEAR LORD,- I had your favour yesterday just after I forwarded young Raeburns letter. I hope the difference between the pictures may be less than I apprehended as I understand poor Sir Henry wrought on yours after I saw it. We will certainly be at home here from the 11th to the 18th and happy to see as much of your Lordship as your more weighty engagements will permit. We are dislodging the work-people as the French did the Spaniards at Saragossa beating them that is from room to room.

I am very desirous to have your Lordships opinion on this dream of a house for such is its best description Always (in haste) most truly yours

W SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 5 August [1823]

The Knight of Gattonside is bound for the highlands

[Buccleuch]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

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

SIR WALTER SCOTT

1823
(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
MY DEAR WALTER,-We are very anxious about these repeated visits of the ague and think them much owing to your own thoughtlessness who are apt to forget that the ague is not like a fever which is beat out of the field after a pitched battle with the Doctor but rather maintains a guerilla warfare which unless managed with circumspection may last many years and embitter your life as well as interfere with your professional duties. I intreat and request you as you value our happiness to pay serious attention to the mode of treatment which may be recommended and to follow it implicitly until your health is fairly re-establishd. You will otherwise give Mama and me great distress and do much to injure the excellent constitution with which God has blessd you.

I inclose a cheque on Coutts for £50 to replace your draught on your agent and to pay for your instruments.

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 73

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

About your horse I am still uncertain. He is very useful & suits you but scarce so handsome as to draw what you aim at. I therefor[e] think it better to keep than to sell him for you will not probably get your price for him - he suits you & is up to your weight and it may cost you much to get one that will do so. I have applied to Sir
Alexr. Don hoping his grooms may know of a steady fellow to ride him up to Sandhurst & though it should cost [12 or 14] I am afraid that a large sum will hardly balance the selling and buying a new charger. I will however act by the advice of the knowing ones and do as I shall be advised is most expedient.

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

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

If you present the inclosed in person at Coutts I am sure my friend Sir Edmund Antrobus 1 or Sir Coutts Trotter will be happy to shake you by the hand. When 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)lonely in comparison 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 expense 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 occasioned it being totally unexpected on my
part I had not the means of avoiding it.

All here send love. I am always Dear Walter Your affectionate father

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 17th Augt. [1823]

DEAR SIR, - I am very sorry at the disappointment of today still more at the cause 1 -I hope Mrs. Constables health will be soon reestablishd. There is much may be better said than written upon our matters not that the essential part cannot be as well expressd on paper but a personal interview between friends leads them more perfectly to understand the tone of feeling upon which their resolution rests. The first question I should candidly have asked you was whether the cause of your present correspondence arose merely out of the extent of those pecuniary transactions which I am as desirous as you to abridge or whether the deficiency of the sale of Q.D. has diminishd your general confidence in this sort of literature and inclined you to restrict on all points our hitherto very extensive concerns. Do not suppose me selfish enough to be vexd or angry if the latter should be the case and pray be candid and speak it out at once. I cannot expect and do not wish you to bestow the capital your skill & industry has acquired upon that which does not promise profit-nor do I think that because our former intercourse
has been lucrative I have acquired or would wish to
exercise any right to put my hand into your pocket deeper
than you desire. You observe that very different arrangements
must be thought upon in these two different cases.
I will not deny that I sincerely wish that your letters may
bear the full meaning of your present correspondence
because though I should not be surprized yet I should be
sorry that there was a deeper cause lurking in your mind
than that which you have assigned.

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

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

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

ABBOTSFORD 21 Augt. [PM. 1823]    WALTER SCOTT

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

TO CONSTABLE AND CO.
GENTLEMEN,-I am duly favoured with your letter and advert to the statement you there make I quite agree

with you in the propriety of abridging these transactions which are founded on accommodation. With this purpose I have adopted and maintain a system of retrenchment which has reduced £6000 since April last as will appear from your books. I propose to have this present work out of hand by the end of October and propose you should then contract for another on the same terms the money to be applied to retire the same value of accommodation bills. I shall have at the same time the command of about £4000 long dated bills which may go to the same purpose so far as they can be discounted & betwixt these two resources I imagine there will be little difficulty in clearing of £6000 or thereabouts at Martinmas and such being the case the sum will be brought down to £12000 and I have little doubt of bringing it entirely within your hands (indeed very much within them) by Whitsunday. I look forward to this without the least doubt or shadow of anxiety. Only if Mr. Constable's experience and knowledge of these matters can suggest any mode of turning over £4000 or £5000 till about Whitsunday it would save expense and even the possibility of inconvenience.

I mentiond to Mr. Constable in a private letter that I might need about £1200 or £1400 to pay off some of the very little personal debts which remain due by me but should this seem to impede the operation of our scheme of 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)ABBOTSFORED 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 Erskie. & 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 curtailed 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
a good deal of money. I am offerd an exchange for the full pay of his own regimt. The regulation price $600 but it will cost me $300 or $400 of premium much of which however will be saved on his being possesd of the dresses and rattle traps of different kinds which going into a new regiment would cost him at least $300, thanks to our horse-millinery. I have no debts that can be claimd of me and I think that during a twelve month I cannot need more than about $3000 on these various accounts while my income will more than treble that amount if God gives me health and continuance of spirits. I therefore think that our friends prudent advice is like to be much more than accomplishd. In the above statement I have taken no notice of my official & properly personal income which defrays my ordinary expenditure including the allowance & education to my children.

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

I scarce expect that
Their murmurs should invite you to sleep.1
And am at all times ready to do my best to contribute to your repose. Yours truly W. SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Sunday eveng.

[8-82]

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

MY DEAR WALTER,—As Rose is here to give me a frank I-hasten [to] say I received your letter and observe with regret that your health continues precarious. I intreat you to take good care of it and shun all temptations to intemperance either in eating, drinking, exercise, or study. Your hours seem pretty completely filld up and I hope to purpose. The french and german you already in some degree possess and you must labour not to lose ground if you cannot get any.

Your horse started for England this morning under protection of Thomas Scott a groom recommended by Sir Alexr. Don who mentions the terms in the inclosed note. I have given him seven pounds to accompt so I fancy the whole which you will have to pay him on arrival can scarce be more than about £ 5., 0., 0. He proposes to lead the horse great part of the way & if he does so will deserve his 5 per diem well enough. I think you will be a gainer this way as the horse seemd a favorite and as you could not have got one fitted for your purpose cheaper than £ 70., or £ 80., and probably Saint George would
(8-83)only have brought 40 or thereabouts when all expences were deducted. Only I do not like his feeding ill. You may reckon on seeing him about twelve days or a fortnight from the date of this letter.

(8-83)I want to know if you have a servant and whether you get one from the regt. I am afraid no indulgence need be expected in that quarter & certainly none ought to be asked. We will speak to Ballantyne about your paper.

(8-83)Charles 1 & Surtees left us yesterday morning upon their return Southward. We are all in our ordinary state of health only that Lockhart is vexed about his brother William. His wife's mother is dead and his lady chuses to be inconsolable shuts herself up in a dark room and behaves like a passionate fool without regard to the pain she gives that honest good hearted fellow her husband. So much for marrying in haste and repenting at leisure.

(8-84)It is rather early to think of it but I should like to know if you have holidays at Xmas. I am always Dear Walter affectionately yours WALTER SCOTT

(8-84)ABBOTSFORD 26 August [PM. 1823] 2

[Law]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-84)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I received your letter last week and need not say that it was entirely satisfactory. I have now got so well forward at the Printers that I have my time under my own command so that I will be delighted
to see you any day next week which will best suit you

Monday excepted. I hope Mrs. Constable's health will be
no longer any objection to this trip which will do you good
besides the business we have to transact together.

There are two books I wish much to have—Recollections
on the Peninsula—and The Sexagenarian 1818.1

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

SELKIRK

per W. Shore
[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE, MR. HOGARTH'S, TEVIOT GROVE, JEDBURGH

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

own power. But I sincerely trust your own remedy will
suit. The use of the fleshbrush or still better the human
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 can bear it.

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

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

(8-86) WALTER SCOTT

(8-86) ABBOTSFORD 3 Sept [1823]

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

[Glen]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(8-86) MY DEAR CHARLES,- Upon a rummage at this place I have discovered a few more duplicates of which I beg your acceptance so far as you are unprovided. They are none
of them of any value but I judge that sometimes a shabby book happens to accommodate an antiquary as an useless piece of wood will stop a leak. John Stevenson will also shew you and submit to your inspection all the rest of my ballant-books eight or ten of which all (or chiefly) modern trash I am so superfluous as to wish done up like those of Bell-pray let John have a volume for a specimen-You are to keep all the duplicates of those scroll copies that you care for. I know that there are a good many. When you are quite done with the ballads-not a minute sooner-you may return them by the Melrose carrier as I approach the place of the library in which they are to be arranged & catalogued. My laborious scribe has got about half way through his task.

I am much diverted with your account of a certain leard Baronet. Lord send him a good deliverance.

Excuse brevity my eyes are complaining of ill usage having ridden through Yarrow and Moffat dales to Drumlanrig (as I told you of late) in a blue bonnet with never a brim to it. I am always my dear Sharpe truly yours while

W. SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 6 (1) September [1823]

[ Hornet ]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-The promised packet was delayd but I now inclose it. Pray keep up your spirits and do not let your spirit be cast down. You are our helmsman and we cannot do without you. I think the
TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR CONSTABLE,-I send you two proofs and a lot of copy. Pray get me a box of Bramah's patent pens such as the empty box inclosed. I use them fast now for mending is out of the question with me. J. Ballantyne is to be at the office on Wednesday to abide there and to be in constant communication with you when you require him. I leave this place for the circuit on Tuesday and go to Lanarkshire 1 for two days afterwards but count to be back on friday at furthest. The work is about half finishd or more. I would be glad to hear of your health & spirits. You should keep up both my good old friend for your own sake & that of Your trusty correspondt.

WALTER SCOTT

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,-I sent you a bill & proofs 3 &c from Lanark which doubtless you had. I now return sheet C. but beg to insist that in future the sheets be sent in order for Sheet D was that which I returnd from Lanark. My 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]

(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
puppy-dogs, and all the confusion of Abbotsford, as one does on the recollections of a dream. We shall not easily forget the vision of having seen you and our two young friends, and your kind indulgence for all our humours, sober and fantastic, rough or smooth. Mamma writes to make her own acknowledgments for your very kind attention about the cobweb stockings, which reached us under the omnipotent frank of Croker, who, like a true Irish heart, never scruples stretching his powers a little to serve a friend.

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

I went to the mill, but the miller was gone; I sat me down and cried ochone, To think on the days that are past and gone, Of Dickie Macphalion that's slain.

I sold my rock, I sold my reel, And sae hae I my spinning-wheel, And all to buy a cap of steel, For Dickie Macphalion that's slain.
But who was Dickie Macphalion for whom this lament was composed? Who was the Pharaoh for whom the Pyramid was raised? The questions are equally dubious and equally important, but as the one, we may reasonably suppose, was a King of Egypt, so I think we may guess the other to have been a Captain of Rapparees, since the Ladies, God bless them, honour with the deepest of their lamentation gallants who live wildly, die bravely, and scorn to survive until they become old and not worth weeping for. So much for Dickie Macphalion, who, I dare say, was in his day "a proper young man." 

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

I beg you will be on the watch for who knows what a day may bring forth. I am glad your health is better.

exercise and temperance does much for every one. I return all the sheets hitherto sent and a trifle more copy. I am determined not to let these untoward circumstances vex me more than can be helped. I have not the slightest doubt of Cadell's honour & integrity & I am specially glad he is on the spot at this awkward time.

You have never returnd my book made up-Yours truly Tuesday 23 Sept [1823] WALTER SCOTT [Stevenson]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

MY DEAR SISTER,-I am extremely glad to see by your letter just received that you are once more in your native land not I hope again to leave it. I have the pleasure to say Walter is well and well-doing. He spent the vacation with us at Midsummer and I have the utmost pleasure in saying what I would not say were it not true. I consider him not only as an amiable and well disposed boy but as possessed of talents and application likely to make his way in the world. He has gained some advantages in his school since he went back and from all I can learn is giving himself seriously to his studies. His address is Cadet East India Co's Service Addiscombe Croydon. I proposed that he should have staid at the
College this ensuing Christmas and plied the [oar]. But I think now he must come down and see Mama and his sisters. I need scarce say your drat. for £100 was of course duly honoured by me. All our affairs of business are in the hands of Mr John Gibson successor of poor Donaldson and who I can recommend as completely trustworthy. If you want any money pray let me know & it shall be supplied.

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

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 23 Sept [1823]

[Miss B. L. Hutchins]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I have your letter with the
parcel alluded to and write in haste as I want to take a ride this fine morning.

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

The Copy for Swift l is lying in my dressing room in Castle Street and I should wish to have it sent out here without loss of time-it lies on the top of a small table close by the Mahogany cabinet and the housekeeper on shewing her this letter will allow you to pack it up and forward it with the reprint so far as it has gone and Vol XXX as arranged for press. I should wish you to take the trouble to see the books packed yourself in case of mistakes or accidents and besides it is not every one I would send into these premises.

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

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 95

28 Sepr. 1823

Many thanks for Hercules Cramond l who seems a queer liege [ ].
TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

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

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

The weather is bad and imprisons me in the house where I endeavour to be busy. I send a drawing of my arms properly tinctured which you have long wishd. They look very natty I think. Yours truly

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ABBOTSFORD Monday [docketed 1823] WALTER SCOTT

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,- I return the proof with a paltry supply of copy being frankly too lazy to write in this delightful weather and after a very long walk. I will waken up if tomorrow be rainy as it threatens. At present the country is delicious-it is positive enjoyment to live and breathe a sort of cows paradise.
You see the humbug of the Spanish war is over. The military who were radicals because they got no pay have commenced anti-radicals because the radicals in their turn have emptied their purse and can pay no longer. The people that much abused name care as little for the Spanish Constitution of 1812 as they care for baby-house. You who are one of the great Hum-fums will be much shocked at what every man who knows anything of the European politics could have assured you of twenty weeks ago. But much good may it do you & pray let Naples & Spain excite a doubt when you read of nations rising in mass to defend what nations don't care a damn for. Nations as Spain proved in 1808 will rise in mass for their own laws and independence as a country but not for the visionary theories of constitution mongers.

I trust we will interfere to get them real liberty which in my opinion consists not in voting for members of parliament so much as for personal security for life, limb and property often enjoyed much more perfectly under the most apparently despotic government than under the despoticism of a popular government. Of all others so far as my knowledge of history goes the most severe and intolerable because it is despoticism exercised in the name & under the pretence of freedom.

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

Yours very truly

WALTER SCOTT
TO DAVID LAING

[October 1823]

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

W. SCOTT

[Edin. Univ. Lib.]

TO DAVID LAING

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

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Tuesday [Oct. 1823]

[Mitchell]

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TO JOANNA BAILLIE

MY DEAREST FRIEND-Your very kind letter reachd me just while I was deliberating how to address you on the painful, most painful, subject to which it refers and considering how I could best intrude my own sympathy amidst your domestic affliction. The invaluable token
you have given of your friendship by thinking of me
at such a moment I will always regard as a most
precious tho' melancholy proof of its sincerity. We
have indeed to mourn such a man as since medicine was
first esteemed an useful and honour'd science has rarely
occurred to grace its annals and who will be lamented
so long as any one lives who has experienced the advantage
of his professional skill and the affectionate kindness
by which it was accompanied. My neighbour and
kinsman John Scott of Gala who was attended by our
excellent friend during a very dangerous illness is mingling
his sorrow with mine as one who laments almost a
second father and when in this remote corner there are
two who join in such a sincere tribute to his memory
what must be the sorrows within his more immediate
sphere of exertion. I do indeed sincerely pity the family
and friends who have lost such a head and that at the
very time when they might in the course of nature have
looked to enjoy his society for many years and even more
closely and intimately than during the preceding period
of his life when his domestic intercourse was so much
broken in upon by his professional duties. It is not for
us in this limited state of observation and comprehension
to enquire why the lives most useful to society and most
dear to friendship seem to be of a shorter date than those
which are useless or perhaps worse than useless but the
certainty that in another and succeeding state of things
these apparent difficulties will be balanced and explained
is the best if not the only cure for unavailing sorrow and
this your well-balanced and powerful mind knows better
how to apply than I how to teach the doctrine.

We were made in some degree aware of the extremely
precarious state of our late dear friends health by letters which young Surtees had from his friends in Glostershire during a residence of a few weeks with us and which mentiond the melancholy subject in a very hopeless manner and with all the interest which it was calculated to excite.

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

Lockhart will be much affected with approbation from such a quarter and under such circumstances.

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

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

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 3 October [1823]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK, WINDSOR, BERKS.

MY DEAR LORD,-If it were not that I am always most
happy to be honourd with your commands I should be
sorry that your Lordship had the trouble of writing in
form on the matter of the Dep. Lieutenancy.1 I am of

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

We will not forget to solemnize the 9th with a due
libation. I will endeavour to arrange with the knight of Gattonside that we may do it in company and with colours hoisted " on the outer walls ". I am very sorry that the procession does not take place to the parish church. But now that coaches & six brocade waistcoats and pompons are out of fashion a procession would be a bare unfledged plumeless sort of affair creating great dismay to the parties principally concerned without a corresponding degree of pleasure to the spectators who would only as things go now have a glimpse of muffled personages whirled along in chaises and four with blinds drawn down. You might manage by the bye a very snug procession in miniature from your mansion to the chapel which with assistance of the moat and rural scenery as the man said of your fire might make a very respectable figure in the last chapter of a novel.

I am glad for many reasons the Duke leaves Eton at this most interesting period of his life. I should be afraid of his being stimulated by the natural emulation of so many young people to over-exertion which whether in exercise or study is a thing much to be avoided when the constitution is as it were on the balance between boyhood and manhood. And there are other and moral reasons which in his case require a selection of society made under the eye of a judicious friend better than the promiscuous fellowship of a great school. Lads of less expectations pass through well enough—it is worth no one's while to seduce them from the straight course but rank and wealth have their own peculiar class of Daemons to wait on them and these very often assume the appearance of school intimates & find out the weak 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 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 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." I 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 knowledge be sharpened or
(8-103)even entirely created. I think in most cases it may and
(8-103)our young friend 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 rendered 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)favorable 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.
I would visit as a party of pleasure remarkable scenes—talk over what had happened at such & such places—endeavour to guess or make him guess the manner in which the actors looked and try to estimate the changes which must have taken place in the scenery around.

Pictures and prints I have found in my family lectures a very good mode of fixing attention—indeed I am so convinced of this that I would have a gallery of portraits annexed to every great school—it is not to children alone that such illustrations are useful. I think for example he would be a dull man who should walk once a day in the gallery of historical portraits at Knowle without becoming well acquainted with the characters & principal occurrences in the lives of the personages there represented. I dare say your Lordship remembers the humbug of the Prussian lecturer on memory who taught folks to remember what they had a mind by forming an association between the thing to be rememberd and some fantastic combination which bore an allusion to it. As usually happens in such cases the professor was a charlatan but his art had a deep foundation in human nature. For after the events which we have actually seen those which dwell deepest in our mind are such as are connected with scenes which we have visited or actors whose features are familiar to us—If therefore I wanted to study the history of Richard III with an young freind I would go to see the play and I would visit Crossby house in the City where he resided and so forth. I think I said before that I would be much more anxious to create the taste for the science of history in the outset than that my pupil should go through many books—in fact I would defer to the very last what is always taught first namely the philosophy as it has been
termd of history—Let a youth get the leading and interesting facts fixed in his mind and the philosophy will come afterwards both with ease and pleasure. At the same time whenever the youth himself showed curiosity that way by comparing different natures or different stages in society it will be a precious opportunity and not to be omitted by a tutor. Your Lordship observes my plan would include a good deal of travelling both in Scotland and England which may be united with many objects of entertainment & interest. I do not so much approve of one great tour as of several limited excursions—in the former case the knowledge acquired is huddled together confusedly. If the Duke shews an inclination to draw to which art he has a family claim it should be anxiously encouraged. The best antiquarian engravings by Strutt 1 & others should be collected they will always be ornamental & useful additions to the library & it is a point on which no expence should be spared. Were I to begin my experimental course of history I would for example take Stoddarts engraving of the tapestry at Bayeux which shows the whole progress of the Norman invasion and conquest—then I should be apt if I saw the investigation gave interest to take a trip down to Dover and Hastings, reading at the same time the best accounts of the event[s] and comparing them with each other. In short I would endeavour if possible to create a strong interest in historical events by combining them with every external circumstance which could give interest—The taste for history being once acquired the course of reading becomes a subsequent and easier subject of consideration. I have already said in a former letter that I would take the outline from one historian of more modern date and
resort to the old chronicles for illustrations of such facts as are told with more naivete or piquancy of detail by contemporaries. But I have for the present sufficiently bored your lordship and laid a handsome foundation for boring my young & friendly Chief.

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

5 October 1823 ABBOTSFORD

In throwing the considerations together which you will find in this long letter I am only endeavouring to obey your Lordships commands for I am sure from all I have heard of Mr. Blakeney he is much better qualified to chalk out a path for himself than I am to throw out hints-but those which I have pointed out can do [no] harm. My Walter is at the military Royal College at Sandhurst. He is so shy that it perhaps may not occur to him to present himself at Ditton to pay his respects which however I will write to him to do as I have the vanity to think your Lordship & Lady M. will not be sorry to receive him.

TO LIEUT. WALTER SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS, R.M. COLLEGE,
DEAR WALTER, - I am rather surprised you have let so long time pass away without letting me hear from you at least to say that your ague was completely got under and to acquaint me how you like your present situation - whether you find your opportunities of instruction such as you expected and whether you avail yourself of them. Anne tells me you wrote her about the horse and that he came safe. I wish you had let me know about it. When you can make such a journey I think you should pay your respects at Ditton where Lord and Lady Montagu will I know be particularly glad to see you.

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

Captn. John Pringle was here yesterday most fiercely whiskered and with him a party of indescribable dandies Lord Barnard (a sensible well behaved man) and the inimitable Sir William Elliot and God knows what other fine animals. Luckily it was but a flying visit - they did but skim round and light down for a moment like so many wild ducks. I might say wild geese but the
Of heavier birds of passage we had in the house yesterday the Advocate and lady Sir Alexr. Wood and lady Mr. and Mrs. Skene two Miss Swintons one Miss Skene one Miss Rae all sleeping comfortably and without being crowded. You are so far the better of this party that you will get this under cover. From this you will understand that we are now inhabiting the bedroom story of the new house and also the drawing room. The hall and library are getting on but so very slow that it will be next summer before I can get my books into order which is a longer time than I thought of.

Cousin Walter is getting very well forward at Addiscombe and very favourably reported of. I suppose the little gentleman is kept tight at work. His mother and two sisters are come over. I expect them here one of these days.

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

Our Gas establishment is now perfect and in full brilliancy. I never saw a house so completely and beautifully lighted both in sitting rooms passages and bedrooms. I do not think on the whole it will prove economical because the machinery for making the gas costs a great deal in the first instance and then though the gas is itself easily manufactured and very cheap yet this cheapness is an encouragement for great liberality not to
say extravagance in the use of it. But then your house is twenty times lighter for the same expence so that one gains a great deal in comfort and brilliancy and the servants are clear of all this endless trouble of cleaning argand 1 burners and so forth. It is really a very pretty and pleasing sort of apparatus and can be managed by a common labourer with a little direction from the gardner.

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

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

Mama is rather shocked you never think of writing to her but joins with Anne and me in love to you. I hope you are careful of your health. Take care of any excess in wine by which I observe your constitution suffers much.

I am my dear Walter always Your affectionate father

[PM. 23 October 1823] WALTER SCOTT

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

[docketed 24 Octr. 1823]
DEAR WALTER,-This being your birthday I send you affectionate wishes and best blessing trusting your behaviour through life will always induce me to consider it as one of the most fortunate events of my pilgrimage.

We are all in the highest spirits flag flying and whiskey provided with plenty of stout brown ale.

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

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

ABBOTSFORD

Bayley

TO RICHARD HEBER, AT THE POST OFFICE, BATH

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

My last amusement has been Dr Meyrickes treatise on old armour which is got up with much information though with some few inaccuracies.

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 111

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

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 29 October [PM. 1823]

Lady Scott sends kind Compliments.

[Cholmondeley]

TO D.TERRY, LONDON

ABBOTSFORD, October 29, 1823

MY DEAR TERRY,-Our correspondence has been flagging for some time, yet I have much to thank you for, and perhaps something to apologize for. We did not open Mr. Baldock's commode, because, in honest truth, this place has cost me a great deal within these two years, and I was loth to add a superfluity, however elegant, to the heavy expense already necessarily incurred. Lady Scott, the party most interested in the drawing-room, thinks mirrors, when they cast up, better things and more necessary. We have received the drawing-room grate-very handsome indeed-from Bower, but not those for the library or my room, nor are they immediately wanted. Nothing have we heard of the best bed and its accompaniments, but there is no hurry for this neither. We are in
possession of the bed-room story, garrets, and a part of the under or sunk story-basement, the learned call it; but the library advances slowly. The extreme wetness of the season has prevented the floor from being laid, nor dare we now venture it till spring, when shifting and arranging the books will be "a pleasing pain and toil with a gain." The front of the house is now enclosed by a court-yard wall, with flankers of 100 feet, and a handsome gateway. The interior of the court is to be occupied by a large gravel drive for carriages, the rest with flowers, shrubs, and a few trees: the inside of the court-yard wall is adorned with large carved medallions from the old Cross of Edinburgh, and Roman or colonial heads in bas relief from the ancient station of Petreia, now called Old Penrith. A walk runs along it, which I intend to cover with creepers as a trellised arbour; the court-yard is separated from the garden by a very handsome colonnade, the arches filled up with cast-iron, and the cornice carved with flowers, after the fashion of the running cornice on the cloisters at Melrose: the masons here cut so cheap that it really tempts one. All this is in a great measure finished, and by throwing the garden into a subordinate state, as a sort of plaisance, it has totally removed the awkward appearance of its being so near the house. On the contrary, it seems a natural and handsome accompaniment to the old-looking mansion. Some people of very considerable taste have been here, who have given our doings much applause, particularly Dr. Russell, a beautiful draughtsman, and no granter of propositions. The interior of the hall is finished with scutcheons, sixteen of which, running along the centre, I intend to paint with my own quarterings, so far as I know them, for I am as yet uncertain of two on my mother's side; but
fourteen are no bad quartering to be quite real, and the
others may be covered with a cloud, since I have no
ambition to be a canon of Strasburg, for which sixteen

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

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

WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO COLIN MACKENZIE OF PORTMORE, HARCUS COTTAGE,
ETTLESTONE
MY DEAR COLIN,-I am in no good condition to advise you on the subject of your letter 2 for it so happens that I am in great uncertainty whether Charles can be admitted at Easter to Brazn. Nose aye or no. Heber seemed confident on the subject at one time and I hope took the measures for securing success but I have not yet heard from him decidedly though I wrote two months since which induced me not later than yesterday to write him a long letter begging to be placed at my wits end. The merit of the colleges of course entirely depends on the fame of the tutors. I believe University is rising into notice. I hear also that Xchurch is not likely to be in such request since Dean Jacksons death.1 After all I shall not be greatly shocked if I cannot get Charles in at all for but for the fashion of the thing a youth may get more real knowledge 2 useful to him in future life by studying the modern languages on the continent. One thing is certain—that no lad should be sent to College who is not already so thoroughly grounded in Greek & latin that he is ready to proceed with the niceties of these languages. It is in this way credit [is] to be gained and if a lad does not find himself qualified to enter the Arena for honours he has every temptation to join the numerous class of idlers. If it had not been for Mr. Williams opinion 3 on the subject of Charleses proficiency I should scarce have thought of Oxford and to tell you the truth inter nos I will not break my heart if the plan is disappointed. In that case I will send him to the continent in Spring. No Edinburgh for a couple of years happen
You see I am possessd of no private key to the halls of Isis—when I learn anything on the subject I will not fail to communicate it.

Thank you for your information about the Commission.

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

Kind Compliments to Mrs Mackenzie and family &
believe me always yours very truly

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 30 October 1823.

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

MY DEAR HEBER,-I receivd both your kind letters and
the inclosure from the Principal of Brazen Nose 2 and I
paused on the contents for a couple of days that I might
reply with all mature deliberation. Upon the whole I
think I cannot do better for Charles than embrace the
advice which Dr. Gilbert has so kindly given and adopt
such arrangement as shall enable Charles to commence
his residence in October. I trust he will be then ready
to go to his studies with the advantage of a good foundation
and as he has quick and lively spirits I am fully
sensible of the advantages of his becoming resident at a
long term when the minds of the young men are turned
more decidedly towards their studies than in summer.
This arrangement will require him to make his Act of
Entrance after Christmas. My son-in-law Lockhart will
write to an intimate of his who is high in the university
to see him through the forms of his act which will save
you any trouble on that account unless you will have the kindness to send him a note of introduction to Principal Gilbert that he may thank him in my name and his own for his uncommon kindness and receive any hints which he may be favoured with concerning his line of study till October. If you think Charles's doing so would be proper his address is Falcondale, Lampeter, Cardiganshire.

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

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

I am my dear Heber always most truly yours & that with an unfeigned sense of obligation

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 12 November [1823]
I highly approve of exhausting the first two short terms. Unless in the case of illness it would be a great pity to have the means of interrupting the necessary course of study. Lady Scott sends kind and grateful compliments & thanks.

[Cholmondeley]

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

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

Having come to this resolution I have used the freedom to suppress your letter on the subject to Mr Williams. I think on the whole I have done for the best. I am sure I have thought enough about it.
Kind Love to Sophia and Donnihu.3 We propose to
dine with you on Monday when we come to town. Always
Yours affectionately  
WALTER SCOTT

12 Novr. [PM. 1823]

According to the plan proposed Charles goes to Oxford
to enter after Xmas & will then need your letter to the
friend you mention. Deil stick it Ignoron nomen.

[Law]

1823  SIR WALTER SCOTT  119

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

November 1823.

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

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between leisure and want of it. This space resolutely
employed will serve in the usual case to despatch much of
the business which is necessarily pressed upon every man,
and it is also a very healthy practice, for if you arise in
the morning you secure sound and refreshing sleep during
the earlier part of the night. It is not many years since
I adopted this practice, and I am sorry for it, but late
hours at night made me formerly averse to quit my couch
in the morning. By constitution I require a great deal of
sleep, seven hours at least; and if I have not, I am sure
to indemnify myself by a nap during the day.

Were you not much shocked at poor Lord Hopetoun's 1
death  
We saw him so well and so happy in his paternal
castle with all his flourishing family, the husband of a
beautiful woman, lord of a noble estate, a great name in
war, and in peace looked up to by a large body of his
countrymen as their natural head and leader—and all
this has passed away and left but mourning and sorrow
behind it. I think I shall never forget our visit to
Hopetoun House. I am truly glad of your sister's recovery.

We heard with much interest of the melancholy way in
which you were engaged after your return to Ireland. I
sincerely hope that as in my own case the obstructions
which cause these cramps and spasms in the region of the
stomach being effectually removed by vigorous medicine
the disease itself may not return.

Caraboo 1 reached me safe, and is a most delightful
personage. She was obviously slightly touched with
insanity, and possessed of all the cunning which often
belongs to such dispositions. It is curious how often the
great impostors who have driven their success to the
verge of incredibility, seem to have been in a certain
degree insane. No one completely possessed of a rational
judgment can possibly guess the extent of popular
credulity—they are like regular doctors, who fail to carry
their point now and then, by giving medicine in quantities
too moderate, when empirics are successful by wholesale
and triumphant doses. It is more humbling to think that utter and egregious folly will have the same success as madness in enabling people to gull the world—this wretched Poyais Cacique is a mixture of knave and fool, in which the latter greatly predominates, yet you see how he has been able to impose the grossest deceits upon his cautious countrymen, and that in spite of warning.

We had our great harvest home supper on Walter's birthday as usual, and all the natives, young and old, danced till four in the morning. Whisky a discretion, but no drunkenness, unless amongst two or three of the old jockies, who, being past dancing, consoled themselves with punch. The festivity much enlivened by the news that a certain John Scott called the Turk, an old retainer of mine, had beat all the wild Macras at a wrestling match in Kintail, flinging Duncan above Donald and plaid over bonnet in such a style as has not been seen since Culloden. The champion was one of my stoutest men, a great dancer at the Kirn suppers, where he used to dance reels with Sophia and Anne, never sinking into the ordinary dancing step but cutting most resolutely from the beginning to the end. His father, the old Turk, shakes his head and wishes him better gifts. I will send to Liddesdale to see to get a good puppy for you, and keep it till it has had the distemper, so fatal to the canine race, and fatal to them, as it strangely happens, always in proportion to the purity of the breed. Vaccination is said greatly to mitigate the virulence of the disease. Spice will I think recover. She has got her agility again, and her appetite, but still wheezes strangely, and I should fear the consequences of cold. I would not like Dr. King to have a creature to become attached to, and then to lose it...
I really did not write the additions to Shulagaroo 3: I found them in a curious little collection of Dumfriesshire songs, made by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, and which he has printed, but for distribution only. It is easy to account for the song having strayed into Dumfriesshire from Ireland. If your brother looks sharp about among the Irish labourers I daresay he will find more of it. Love to Misses Harriet and Sophia. I do not think the miniature does the former justice, yet it is like. Lady Scott sends kindest wishes, in which Anne joins, and has the grace to write besides. I beg my compliments to your brother and am, dear Miss Edgeworth, most faithfully yours,

WALTER SCOTT

[Butler]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

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

I do not think of an introduction. I do not want to tie myself down to give one always.

The title page may bear for motto the lines of Wordsworth:

A merry place he said in days of yore
But something ails it now-the place is cursed.
You can look at the exact words in the poem of Hartleap

Well.

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

W. S.

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

We leave this on Monday so direct to Edinr.

ABBOTSFORD 12 November [PM. 1823]

MY DEAR WALTER,-I have your letter by Thos. Scott. I am sorry to hear from him that your horse has had an accident and hope it is better.

Charles's plans are now determined. He is to enter at Oxford after Christmas and to go there for residence in October after the long vacation. I could have managed by the kindness of the Principal of Brazn. Nose (a queer name that for a college) to have sent him there in the summer. But the summer terms are very short and I believe a good deal of idleness and folly is then going on. So by advice of the Principal and also because I believe
it will be more commodious to him to give Charles Chambers in the autumn I think it better he should stay two or three months longer with Mr. Williams and then come down to us at Midsummer and snuff the Tweedside air before he goes to Alma Mater.

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

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

When you go to London (if you go there) do not neglect the Dukes levee. You owe him much and it is the only way to show your sense of his kindness. For the same reason see Mr. Greenwood who will not I believe be insensible to the attention. I have some interest with these great folks but you should found upon that an interest personal to yourself-Too much bashfulness in such cases though not meant as such is very apt to be construed into neglect or perhaps ingratitude. I need not bid you pay every attention to Miss Dumergue your mothers old friend and Mrs. Nicolson. In their situation politeness is kindness. But probably you get seldom to town for such purposes.
Have you had any nearer communication with Col. Thackwell and your present regiment? And does your servant answer? Thos. Scott seemed to think you were but indifferently pleased with him but it may be better if the man has no serious faults not to be too nice. You have something to beat up against in that quarter and must take care to give no advantages.

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

Mama is well—very well—and also Anne. Sophia left us two days since to go to town and I fear will not be here at Christmas which will make a woeful blank in our circle. I own to you I wish she were to come and remain here till her accouchement for I have more confidence in the elder Clarkson who never had a bad case of the kind than in Hamilton 1 who is an ass and a theorist and whose practice of late has been unsuccessful in many calamitous instances. But though I say this to you I dare not take the responsibility of pressing such a thing on them and the ideas and impressions of women themselves must not be meddled with in such cases.

We have had Mrs. Thos. Scott and her two daughters here. The younger a very fine girl the elder an uncommonly nice young woman modest and well mannered.
Little Walter is to come down at Christmas and I hope you will manage to come together if you can make your time suit. You can write and enquire into the date of his holidays—God willing I hope to be here on the 20th December only a month hence and months fly fast over the heads of old gentlemen. Write soon and let me know what you think of all this. Always your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

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

[26th November 1823]

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

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

Met yesterday the Bannatyne club. Lord Eldin, Chief Commissioner &c very great. My head in the bees with the creaming champagne. I begin to count days till the holidays and if the Almanac keep good faith we will be
1823           SIR WALTER SCOTT           127

(8-127)Compliments to the Lady, I 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)dalilahs 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
concerned about Joanna for she is not strong and likely
to suffer under the excess of her feeling. He is himself
an inestimable loss to society and especially for his total
contempt of that science of humbug by which so many of
his brethren make fortunes. He always put me in mind
of Johnsons beautiful lines though made for a humbler
practitioner

When fainting nature call’d for aid
And hovering Death prepared the blow
His powerful remedy display’d
The force of Art without the show.

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

Anne pan
Muskie dan
Tweedle dum Twaddle dum
Twenty one

elegant verses which I propose to have set by the same
eminent Master who composed the music of Goosie Gander
and sung by a strong band upon that important occasion.
Charles is still between three & four years from that aera.
He goes to Oxford next year and I am induced to hope
from his present tutor Mr Williams who has never
flattered me about him, with the information requisite to make proficiency and a strong disposition to be a reading man. If so I shall have succeeded very happily in my boys for Walter is really what you call un beau Cavalier and with the advantages of a good figure and great address in all exercises he has steady good sense & temper and though much left to himself since he was eighteen years old and having spent three years with a rollocking Irish regiment of cavalry has never given me a moment's uneasiness either by over expense or otherwise. These are little papa details which I tell you though they would be out of place to others who were not papas themselves.

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

A place to dream of, not to tell.2

In fact I have at last nearly completed a sort of vision which I always had in my mind. All our rooms are moderate in size except the Library which is forty feet by eighteen yet will not hold my books without the assistance of my private room. Our Bannatyne Club goes on a
merveille only that at our Gaudeamus this year we drank
our wine more majorum and our new judge Lord Eldin had
a bad fall on the staircase which has given rise to some
bad jokes as for instance that to match Coke upon
Littleton we have now got Eldin upon Stair and so forth.
I did not get to my carriage without a stumble neither

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

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

WALTER SCOTT

I rely on you to direct Mr Mackenzie who seems to be
a clever young man.

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

MY DEAR MRS SCOTT,-The inclosed will give you both
pleasure and pain- pleasure that little Walter is disposed
to follow up his studies closely at the expence of his
pleasure and pain because it threatens to deprive you of
the pleasure of seeing him at Christmas. His deficiency
in drawing is as he himself feels the only obstacle to his
getting the Engineers and his chance of fortune & success in that lucrative department is a very great inducement to hard study. The artillery is in every respect inferior. Now what am I to say to this my dear Mrs Scott for I will be directed entirely by you. I have arranged every thing for his coming down with big Walter and the plan may still stand if you are desirous it should do so. But pray write me without delay that I may take measures accordingly.

I have but indifferent news from your brother Robert. The accompts seem in no forwardness and [the] Irish Claim 1 is revived. There is no remedy but patience. We move towards Abbotsford on 20 or 21 December.

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 131

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

EDINR. 30 Novr. [1823] [Huntington]

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

DEAR SIR THOMAS,-I have sent the Manuscript to Mr MacBean Charlotte Square as you desire-it is a very curious one & contains many strange pictures of the times. Our ancestors were sad dogs and we to be worse than them as Horace tells us the Romans were, have a great stride to make in the paths of iniquity. Men like your ancestor were certainly rare amongst them. I had a scrap somewhere about the murder of the Lauders at Lauder where Fountainhall's ancestor was Baillie
at the time. After this misfortune they are said to have retired to Edinburgh & Fountainhalls grandfather lived at the Westport. All this is I hope familiar to you. I say I hope so for after a good deal of search I have abandon’d hope of finding my memorandum.

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

EDINR. 2d. December [1823]

[Dick-Lauder]

TO RICHARD HEBER

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

We are just now establishing a new Grammar school here and large subscriptions have [been raised]-to be taught by four Masters and a Rector. We propose the situation of the latter to be a handsome one and it is our present purpose to warrant him 500., pr. ann. for four years after which
time having the encouragement which the trustees are entitled to expect it will be as Slender says a better penny.4 This would be a very desireable situation for a man of learning and preceptor[i]al talent should such a person of desert be within the sphere of our knowlege and we look to England to obtain candidates for the situation. The majority of the committee & great majority of the subscribers are Tories and to speak truth in your private ear we are rather afraid that the others who are always very active mean to palm a Whig upon us through the intervention of Pillans.1 I know these gentry pretty well and have good experience how loud they can sound their horns when they have a mind to sell their own fish but I should be sorry were a Whig to be fairly cramd down our throat[s] for want of a man of good principles in church & state to pull against him. I should think Oxford abounded with young men of learning and talent to whom this would be a Godsend and if such were presented in time (there is no absolute hurry) I think he would be the winning horse. I promised to several of the Committee to mention this business to you knowing your Zeal for learning all over the world. The question of his appointment will immediatly occur and our computation is this- there are to be four under masters and the rector. We propose that each of the four ordinary masters shall be insured in 200., a year and the Rector in 400 for the first four years. We compute that if the school receives the encouragement we expect they will long before the four years expire be in possession of a much better income but we cannot expect that the school should fill at once and therefore[e] in every case in which the school fees should fall short of the above appointments we insure the above amount. If any class as may be the case with first
and also with the Rectors class should be so full that the
school fees do more than clear the salaries above mentd.
he will be just so much the better off. In a word the
Rector will have 400 & possibilities. If he chuses to
take boarders & be a man of proper manners & attention
he may do great things. We suppose his emoluments
when the school is full will be about 600,.. There are

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

WALTER SCOTT
EDINR. 13 December [1823]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE, PARK PLACE 1

DEAR CONSTABLE,-I have been repeatedly determined
almost every day this week to be over to see you in your
Patmos in Park Street but what with Committees of Gas
men & Committees of Education and Committees of
Bannatyneians every morning & afternoon has had its duty
completely & indispensibly allotted. If this is to [go]
on I think you will have a good action against those who
press your lawful packhorse of an author into public
services & should have an allowance for damage.
Seriously I am desirous to know how you are before
Tomorrow 2 when I start for Abbotsford & hope Mrs.
Constable or you will favour me with a line. Yours truly
WALTER SCOTT
Mr. Secy. Laing talks of sending the Classicks to Abbotsford in which case I will send my Barbour to little Charles who I am told is turning a fine scholar.

[Stevenson]

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 135

TO DANIEL TERRY

[Extract]

ABBOTSFORD, 22 December 1823

DEAR TERRY,-I enclose a letter to poor Theodore Hook, which pray give into his own hands. If, as Lieutenant Bowling says, " a small spill of cash " was wanted there on such an immediate and distressing pinch, I have 50 at his service, but of this I of course can say nothing till I shall hear from you how his matters stand. It will be an eternal shame if they leave the poor fellow in the lurch after all he has done, and yet there is so much candour (or want of pluck) in those principally benefited by his exertions, that my fears rather outweigh my hopes on his account. Yet surely the commercial value of the speculation itself must be considerable. And I should think there are many friends who with prudent management might be induced to "put five pounds in a certain place."

136 LETTERS OF 1823

We are here for Christmas, but deprived of Sophia by a return of an illness indicative of those cursed cramps which attended her last confinement, in a gentler degree however, and which I hope will give way before the proper
We expect Walter daily; . . . Charles goes to enter at Oxford, though he does not become resident till next Autumn. . . .

I expect our old friend Russell 1 here one of these days.

We have been playing tragedy in Edinburgh. Sir Giles I saw, and he was very judicious and respectable, but still his features are comic in their natural expression, and he seems to be conscious of this, from the bad habit he has of contracting and sharpening them into a tragical contortion of aspect. I hope he may succeed however, for he is a good fellow, and clever to boot; I will try and insinuate to him to stick by the sock. . . .

[Familiar Letters]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE, HERRIOT ROW, EDINBURGH

DEAR JAS., - I received 250., safe & inclose the bills - A damnable ramble of Mr. Tom Purdie is like to cost me the future services of that devoted retainer. Yours in wrath & haste W. S.

[PM. 24 December 1823]

[Glencoe]

1823 SIR WALTER SCOTT 137

TO THOMAS THOMSON

CASTLE STREET, Tuesday

DEAR THOMAS, - The committee of Bannatynians dine here on Friday first, meeting at five for business, and
W. SCOTT

Without you we are a tongueless trump.
[1823]
[Innes's Memoir of Thomson]

TO ALEXR. YOUNG

MY DEAR SIR,-I return the Report which states very distinctly what we saw and what we were told. I regret much we did not see the operation of transplanting with our eyes and should have given the sanction of the committee with much more comfort if we had. There is also a natural imperfection in our report which may be compared to the preliminary direction of making hare-soup—viz. first catch your hare. Before the transplanter can proceed to work in order to produce the marvellous effects which Sir Henry has certainly effected he must stand provided in a certain number of trees in training to be transplanted a point of expense which is not considcred in any of the calculations we have heard. For instance in Mr. Meason's letter (p. 33) of the report he supposes (at least if I understand him) that the act of forming the new plantation supersedes all the previous expense of "planting groups of young plants enclosing &c for twenty years at besides losing the value of the ground." Now in fact all this expense has been incurred not indeed on where the trees are ultimately placed but surely on that where they were originally reared & from
which they have been transplanted. For example you form in 1823 a nursery-plantation and in doing so you incur as much expence as you would have done by forming your intended plantation on the spot which it was originally intended to occupy having besides the expence of transplanting them into the bargain. It seems to me that we should keep before the eyes of the society the necessity of making such a previous nursery [the cost of] which I suspect will be found to add considerably to that of the transplantation which is allowd [to] be from 5/ to 8/ per tree. I consider Sir Henrys discoveries as highly interesting and his practice as triumphant but I should be much afraid of giving in a vague report concerning them. It would for example have done nothing for me who purchased a perfectly bare property & had therefore only to plant my trees where I meant them ultimately to stand. Whereas if I had had a few old fashiond clumps like those at Allanton from which the transplantations were made I might have followd Sir Henrys plan with much effect. As it is I can only use it upon a very small scale and for planting single trees by way of experiment.

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

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

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 1st January [1824]
MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,-I sincerely hope your long silence has not been due to any distress of your family. I sent more than six weeks ago the two miniatures under one of Crokers franks not indeed with a cork jacket as recommended by Miss Harriet but by substituting an old book out of which I cut as much of the leaves as to form a sort of cradle for the portraits leaving them entire all round the edges in a way that I thought must needs defy all scrutiny. I hope to hear from you that they have come safe. I do not know what it is which makes the forwarding of packages to Ireland so uncertain but it has fallen to my lot to lose several and I am especially anxious to know that these have reached you in safety. But it would be much more painful to me to learn that any cause of a more unpleasant nature still had occasioned your silence therefore shall think it is only owing to the canna be fashd which you have learnt in our sluttish country and for which you ought to be rebuked and as it is given out in orders "stand rebuked accordingly."

You will have seen that Captain Parry 1 has got the situation of hydrographer-if it can be a consolation to know that your friend was more fitted for the situation by scientific acquirements I believe it is a point much agreed upon. But Parry's Northern Voyages gave a sort
of claim nor do I mean to say he is at all deficient in qualifications for the office only when two men ride a horse one must ride behind-and it is not always he who rides foremost that is the best horseman. I understand Capt Parry's appointment had been long a settled thing.

I enclose two letters one which Sophia returns and one of an old date which has been waiting for weeks for some mode of conveyance. We are not quite easy on her account for she has been unable to concur in our Christmas festivities the first time she has saddened them by her absence. She expects to be confined in the end of this month and has already been affected though thank God only slightly with the hereditary spasmodic affections which hurt her so much on the former occasion.

Her little boy never very strong as he rather came too soon into this bustling world alarmd us by a kind of drooping without any formd complaint but looking more like the withering of a flower than any fixed illness. Suddenly however he got the better of this and is now happily so well as to give her no anxiety. In other respects 1824 has commenced happily with us my nephew Walter has gained a mathematical prize at his college and my son Walter got a step in his regiment being now 3d Lieut. though he was only gazetted in summer last. My sister in law a very clever woman is now with us with two uncommon fine girls my nieces so very agreeable and modest in their manners that when I recollect they were brought up entirely in his Majestys 70th regiment of Infantry I could really recommend it conscientiously as an excellent boarding school for young ladies.

In the canine race Spice's disorder has degenerated to a kind of asthma which I fear will not leave her
so I have got another for my immediate attendant.
I have not yet got a puppy that I liked for your medical
friend. I could have got one yesterday about two years
old but then it had been entered as it is called that is
regularly trained to the destruction of vermin and when
they have fairly adopted that profession they seldom make
quiet companions excepting to those who indulge them

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

We see with great pleasure that the disorders in Ireland
are less frequent. I wish to God our statesmen would find
some way of employing Pat’s energetic and active
disposition consistent with the peace of the country. I
always think it will come about some day. In my father’s
time the Highlands of Scotland were as unsettled as
Ireland now and a great deal worse. Now they are
generally speaking quite tranquil.

Lady Scott sends kindest remembrances in which
Anne cordially joins. We wish’d you here yesterday to
see about two hundred brats dress’d up fantastically with
wooden swords and white shirts over their clothes come
for their little dole of an oaten cake and a penny to
each. You never saw so many happy little faces. I Our
best wishes for the new year particularly attend our dear
young ladies Harriet and Sophia and longing to know

how you all are I am dear Miss Edgeworth Always most
affectionately yours WALTER SCOTT
My library has been so far finishd that they have been dancing in it.

[Mrs. Laurence Humphry]

TO HENRY MACKENZIE

MY DEAR AND MUCH RESPECTED SIR,-I am afraid you use your father confessor (since you honour me with that name) as some penitents in the Catholic [church] are supposed to do who take especial care in performing their shrift to confess nothing that is not in one view or other creditable and praiseworthy. I read Nonnie Doo 1 with the greatest pleasure, not only from certain recollections peculiar to the early days when I was so much honoured by your notice, but also from the simple and sylvan images which it brings together with so much delicacy. I entirely agree with you that our Doric dialect is only beautiful when it is simple. Mr. Galt though a man of very considerable powers sometimes- Out-Scottifies the Scotch dialect and though this has a humourous effect in the old Lady Grippy in the Entail who is a sort of Caledonian Mrs. Malaprop, yet it is quite out of character in a Highland Chief like the Laird of Glenfruin in his last publication.1

The name of Nonnie Doo has something familiar and at the same time affecting to my ear because my little grandson John Hugh Lockhart calls himself and is called by his intimates Donnyhoo, a soubriquet of nearly the same sound. The banks of Esk will be always classical
in my recollection as well as the Rulliongreen. The rage of villa building which is about to destroy the delightful foot path between Roslin and Lasswade and which has deformed so many scenes of rural simplicity about the latter village, has yet I believe spared Auchindinny 2 and I am delighted to think that its glades are yet to survive in song, preserved by him they had so long the honour to call in some measure their own.

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

ABBOTSFORD a January [1824]

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT

TO JAMES MONTGOMERY 1

ABBOTSFORD, NEAR MELROSE, Jan. 4, 1824

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

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

[The Chimney-Sweeper's Friend]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

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

I come to town on Monday and will take an early opportunity of seeing how the New Year comes on with
you. That it may begin with the prospect of renovated
health and strength is the sincere wish of Dear Constable
Yours always truly

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 6 January [1824]

Lady Scott joins in sending the best compliments of the
Season to Mrs. Constable & family.

private.

TO ALEXANDER YOUNG, W.S., QUEEN STREET

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

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

"Who could not utter what she did not know."2

This delay is no depreciation to Sir Henry's system. On the contrary it shows an anxious regard on our part to do it justice. Some delay is doubtless caused. But how can that be avoided considering the occupations of the individuals who compose the Committee.

I will be happy to show you the Memoranda I took on the spot and I have little doubt on comparing these with the notes or recollections of others we can then make a sketch of the report and send it to Lord Belhaven and our other brethren of the Committee for their consideration & remarks and I am sure from the result of the whole we will then [be] able to draw up a full report very honourable for Sir Henry. I, for one, could not have conceived such an advantageous change wrought on the face of nature.

Still the more curious and important the discovery of such a process the more it is incumbent on us to be cautious in our expressions to the public. Almost all improvements of a novel & sweeping description have been impeded by being brought before the public with imperfect explanation or exaggerated praise. Mens fancies are excited-they make trial-fail entirely or are disgusted by the expense at which they succeed-And then a valuable improvement falls into contempt from the haste with which it has been brought forth before the
I am sure you will agree in the substance of what I propose or at least give me full credit for my motives. Believe me always Yours truly W SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Wednesday [14th January 1824]

I will send the scroll to Cranstoun. I have written to Sir Henry.

[Herries]

TO ROBERT CADELL

DEAR SIR, - I only received your note today at four. I will call on you tomorrow when I leave the Court which is better than giving you the trouble to come here - I am truly concerned for the state of my old & valued friends health which I fear is very precarious. Yours truly

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT

truly concerned for the state of my old & valued friends health which I fear is very precarious. Yours truly

W SCOTT

Thursday evening [docketed 15 Jany 1824]

Pray let one of your young people pack up the set of my works etc now sent very carefully addressing it to Mr. Oehlenschlager Copenhagen-Care of Mr. Feldborg & send it to Laings shop this morning.

private

[Stevenson]

TO ADAM OEHLENSCHLAGER
MY DEAR SIR,-I have long waited some private opportunity to transfer for your kind acceptance a copy of my poetical attempts and a number of volumes for which the public have been pleased without authority or reason that I know of to hold me responsible. In making you so very trifling an acknowledgement for a much more interesting act of kindness on your part [sic] But you know Glaucus took in good part Diomedes offer of his brazen armour and accepted [it] in exchange for his own golden mail.3

I have to regret much that I do not sufficiently understand the Danish to read your beautiful poetry in your own northern language although I am comforted by thinking I cannot lose much considering that the German is as natural to you as the Danish so that my ignorance is only attended with irremediable inconvenience in the few instances in which you have confin'd yourself to your vernacular language exclusively.

The Insel-Felsenburgh I reachd me about three weeks since when I was at Abbotsford keeping Jol in the old fashion with beef and ale and dance and song. I had not an opportunity to proceed in your commission untill I saw Mr. Gillies upon our return to this city a day or two since. I am happy to say he willingly undertakes the task of translating which the beautiful distinctness of the Manuscript renders a comparatively easy one. At the same time Mr. Gillies is not possessed of very good health and his progress may perhaps be slower than one could
wish. I am certain there will be nothing left undone either
on his part or mine to render the speculation advantageous.
Still the result must ultimately depend on the
taste of the British public which like the public elsewhere
is so capricious as to afford no sure ground for augury.
So far as I have myself proceeded in the manuscript (for
I read German slowly and your works with deliberation)
it has amused and interested me very much and I should
have no hesitation to anticipate its success were it not
for the risque that John Bull may not understand the
merit of some of the portraits which though perfectly
ture to general nature are in the finishing peculiar to
Germany. Professor Schwefeldumf 2 for example is a
sort of person who does not exist in England though to
all who know the state of continental universities he must
appear admirably drawn. I only point out this as a
possible obstruction to the success of the work but we will
do all which we can.

1824           SIR WALTER SCOTT                 153

The following details are not very amusing but I wish
you to consider them because they may lead to give you
an accurate idea of what patrimonial advantage may
reasonably be expected from the undertaking.

I have spoken to the respectable House of Constable &
Company about the commercial state of the speculation
and I find they are willing to undertake an experimental
edition of the work extending to 750 copies. Upon this
they will be ready according to the custom of the trade
to allow the author what they call half profits which
from the mode in which they are stated amounts usually
to about one sixth part of the gross returns—for example
supposing the book to be sold for 12 shillings the author
will have in name of his half profits about 112 or 120.
If this edition goes briskly off the author will have the same interest in all subsequent editions which the booksellers will in that case be willing to purchase for a handsome sum or to pay them periodically as they arise. Respecting the term of paying these profits it is generally deferred until the sale of the work is in some degree advanced; at any rate they would never advance money till the work is in the hands of the printer so that it will be out of my power to remit you anything on their account until Mr. Gillies' labours are terminated when I will endeavour all in my power to make the payments meet your convenience.

I am much afraid that in reading these commercial details you will entertain a much meaner opinion of our patrons the British Booksellers than you have hitherto entertained. But you are to consider that they run all risk of expense of publication, bad debts and so forth and they must have considerable profits to enable them to front such expenses. In fact I have always found that allowing the bookseller a handsome profit is the sure way to do justice to the work—For I have known instances when they have been dealt rather sharply with that they have endeavoured to reimburse themselves by measures which injured the sale of the work and of course hurt the authors literary character upon future occasions. You may easily see from the above details that the work, if successful must produce a great deal more than the sum you mention; and if unsuccessful an event which all who have to do with the public must account at least possible you would not I am sure wish the bookseller to be a loser. I will be happy to hear your own wishes 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]

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 155

TO [UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT]1

(8-155)DEAR SIR,-I inclose some testimonials.

(8-155)I acknowledge 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 expense and a
great delay in order to attain a faculty of which it is probable we may never avail ourselves and which should it ever be desireable may be obtaind as easily or more so by openly setting ourselves forwards as an opposition Coal-Gas Company.

Supposing that our friends agree to the restriction I think it may stand thus " for the purpose of making us a Company to manufacture Gas from Oil or from any other substance Coals always excepted." If this does not entirely satisfy the Coal Gas folks I would even go thus far for accommodation " Coal or any substance of which Coal shall bona fide form the principal component part being always excepted." But I should not like to extend the excluding clause unless it was found necessary.

I am not so sanguine as I was respecting the bridge I fear it will be attended with great delay.

We might perhaps erect one little foot bridge on such a plan as may admit of its being added to in case the plan be resumed at any future time.

I intend to be home on Wednesday night meantime I am Your obedient Servant WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Friday [late January] 1824.

An excellent architect from Liverpool 2 has recommended strongly to the committee of Writers to the Signet to prepare to light the hospital erected by Watson's fund with oil gas by making arrangements for that purpose in the building-Herriots-the Merchant Maidens-Watsons
etc will probably follow the example in that case we may consider whether works on the South side of the Town will not be absolutely necessary unless we let the furnishing fall into other hands.

[Stevenson]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR CONSTABLE, - I am rejoiced to find you are getting relief and trust that with attention it will be permanent. I send the box containing the papers belonging to Lord Kinneder. The key was sent to Abbotsford and I will bring it in the first time I go there. The want of it prevented my sending the Box directly. But if you are in a hurry a blacksmith will soon make the box patent-

I intend to call at Parkplace tomorrow when dismissed from the Court. Yours in the meantime with best wishes.

CASTLE STREET Monday [after 16 Jan. 1824]. W. S.

TO MISS CLEPHANE

EDINBURGH 23 January 1824

MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE, - Never do yourself or your friends especially the present writer hereof, the great injustice of supposing yourself forgotten. I am to be sure an ungracious wretch, so far as correspondence is concerned, for the forenoon has its occupations, and to let
you into an unpleasant secret, my eyes do not by any means serve me to write by candlelight in the way I was while once I wont. On such occasions, my hand, never over-distinct, slides over the paper like a cat shod with walnut-shells over the ice, and commits all sorts of irregularities. Then to take my just praise, no person is more regular in their correspondence when it is necessary to do the needful-as for example-yours received and note the contents.2 I have advised our friend Sir William Forbes & Co. to procure from the Bank of England the needful powers for selling your stock in 3 per cent Consols. They will transmit you in course the power of Attorney which you will please sign as directed, and return to them that the sale may be completed.

Seriously I think you are quite right to realize the profit occurring on your purchase which must be considerable. Such is the change of times, however, that Bankers are unwilling to retain money in their hands even at 3 per cent, but Sir William's folks have agreed that the price of your stock shall remain with them till Whitsunday and I have little doubt that against that term Mr. John Gibson (poor Donaldson's successor) will be able to find some heritable security for laying it out at four per cent, which will increase your income as the sale will add to your capital. Therefore you will return the power of sale when you receive it from Sir William's house properly executed and direct them to hold the proceeds and to send you a receipt for the amounts so soon as it reaches their hands. If you feel at all puzzled about this, send the power to me, and I will arrange it for you. But it will save time to write them directly yourself, besides the chance of my being at Abbotsford, which might occasion
delay. Not that I think there is any danger of stocks falling unless from unforseen causes.

We have been really feeling all l'embarras des richesses, for after howling like dogs in the highway for dearth of bread and scarcity of money, we are now visited with repletion of both, and are to be ruined with the cheapness of food and the plenty of money. However a full sorrow is an endurable sorrow, so we will hope for the best.

I am truly anxious about Lord Compton's health of which, like you, I have heard but poor accounts, but as he is naturally thin his looks may make strangers think him worse than he is. I think with you that a northern summer and a southern winter are best fitting for his complaints.

I have some domestic cause of anxiety at present—Sophia's confinement being immediately expected. Her little boy was threatened with bad health, but has rallied again, and is getting stout which is a great mercy, for his parents are much wrapd up in him, and indeed he is so quick witted and clever that he is a very engaging child. I always tremble however when I see the intellect get greatly the start of bodily strength. It is like a tree blossoming when it should grow to strength.

I heartily sympathise with dear Mrs. Clephane's rheumatism, not that I have had any myself but my wife has been a good deal annoyed by them, with a smart touch of asthma by way of variety. I wish I were with you to display my excellent qualities as a pair of yarn-winders— you never knew any substitute for these
conveniences which make a better figure than my ten fingers.

I hope the cat who is usually very active on such occasions behaves herself well-

We were at Abbotsford during the Xmas holidays, and for us sober folks unusually gay, for we had a dance of neighbours which began without music, and ended at 5 in the morning without light—the whole stock of gas being burned out just as the company broke up. The ball-room was a very nice library with which I have treated myself.

You will hardly know my premises when you see them again, and I begin to think I have flung away a good deal of money which might have been as well saved. But having all my life had certain visions respecting a house, I could not resist the temptation of realizing them, so now like Christabelle's phantom guest the place is "A thing to dream of—not to tell."

My young hussar promises to turn out a good officer: he is very fond of mathematics and the higher branches of his profession, which he is now studying at the Royal Military Academy as one of the Senior Students. It is said to be a good introduction to employment on the Staff. Charles goes to enter at Oxford (Brazen Nose) this term, but does not go there for residence till October. Anne is quite well, and this I think is a full account of my family.

No public news—except the more last words of Mr. Thurtell, whose tale seems to interest the public as long as that of Waterloo, showing that a bloody murder will do the business of the newspapers when a bloody battle is not to be heard. We are told a lady fell in love with
Thurtell at the bar, as some one did with Lord Kilmarnock in 1745—I refer you to the song in the Beggar's Opera for solution of this frolic of Cupid.

"If any wench Venus's girdle wear etc."

If you would have a still more soothing strain

"Did you never hear of Captain Parry?"

Did you never hear of the fair Miss Brown?

He was all for love but he cared not to marry

And their loves are the bravest news in town."

What would I give for an hour of your mother and you amidst all this bald unprofitable chat. My kindest and best respects attend Mrs. Maclean Clephane. O for an hour of Dundee—which brings me the length of telling you that I have seen a most beautiful drawing of Clavers 1824 from an original picture—exactly similar to the bad picture which I have—but quite the character of some beautiful youth who died for love—save that the hair is dark he might be the flaxen haired youth—I have scarce left room to say that I am always Yours with sincere affection and regard. WALTER SCOTT

I must not forget my love to Williamina who I expect to see a prodigy of wit and beauty.

[Northampton and Abbotsford Copies]

TO MRS. CARPENTER

EDINBURGH Febry 1st 1824
DEAR MRS. CARPENTER,- Walter will deliver to you the deed executed by the two Lockharts himself & Anne. I was willing to wait till she came of age & till my family should be assembled together in the same place which did not take place till this last Christmas. Charles will unquestionably sign with great pleasure as soon as he is of age to bind himself: as yet he is only in his 19th year: but he has quite sense enough to know what honour & justice require of him towards you & I am sure that there need not the slightest doubt remain on your mind or Mr Handleys concerning his acting as the rest of the family have done. The present very high state of the funds induce me to submit to your consideration & that of Mr Handley or any other friends you may chuse to advise with whether your own income may not be considerably enlarged & the contingent interest of my family render'd at the same time more valuable by selling out of the funds & vesting the price in landed security which may be done either in England or Scotland for four per cent which would make a very considerable addition to your immediate income while the capital at the present high price of stocks would be proportionately increased. It must be also consider'd that the interest of borrow'd money is likely to rise so soon as agriculture gets out of its present depression: of these there are immediate symptoms at present & then your revenue would be advanced in proportion. If you think favorably about this Mr Barber or Mr Handley will afford you fuller information than I can do on the subject & cause suitable security to be enquired after: if you prefer the money remaining in the funds it would be the last of my wishes to urge any alteration. Your own pleasure or your
own advantage is the first consideration in the matter.
We have been distressed with Sophias loss of her baby &
the shock which that incident has given to her recovery :
but she is doing well now-better than for some days past.
Walter has return'd to his college at Sandhurst & Charles
is I suppose by this time a Gentleman Commoner of
Brazen Nose College in Oxford each in their own way in
Presence 1 of knowledge. My improvements at Abbotsford
are now nearly finish'd & Charlotte & I sincerely hope
you will come down this summer with Miss Hooke and
occupy your old corner in the parlour. Our rooms for
guests are considerably more in number than when you
were last with us & I need not assure you that the welcome
will be the same as from your own family. Do not say
no to this request but arrange your summer so as to
permit you to be with us in July about the middle of
which month our courts leave me at my own disposal &
we betake ourselves to Abbotsford of course. Lady Scott
& Anne join in kindest & best compliments & I always am
with much respect & regard Dear Mrs Carpenter Most
affectionately yours

WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH, EDGEWORTHSTOWN, IRELAND
PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 3d Feb. 1824

MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,-I answer your kind letter
immediately, because I am sure your sisters and you will
interest yourselves [sic] in Sophia's state of health. My
news are not of the best-but

" Yet not so ill, but may be well reported."
On Saturday, 31st January, she had a daughter, but the poor little stranger left us on the Monday following; and though Sophia is very patient in her temper, yet her recovery is naturally retarded, and I am sorry to say she has been attacked in her weak state by those spasms which seem a hereditary disorder in my family. Slightly, however, in comparison of the former occasion; and for the last two or three days she has been so much recovered as to take a grain or two of calomel, which is specific in the complaint. I have no doubt now, humanly speaking, that her recovery will proceed favourably. I saw her for a quarter of an hour yesterday, which was the first permanent visit I have been permitted to make her. So you may imagine we have been anxious enough, living, as is our clannish fashion, very much for and with each other.

Anent the matter of the correspondence I acknowledge like Sancho that I have gone out for wool and come home shorn. Upon my life I never knew where the letter came from that I forwarded to you, only I found it among my papers on my writing table which are generally in the most deplorable confusion. How or when it got stuffed there. Lord only knows.

Your American friend, the good-wife of Charlie's Hope,
with the usual agricultural gratitude, we killed for the

but I could never taste Gog and Magog, whom I used to

Moreover, when I was an officer

of yeomanry, and used to dress my own charger, I formed

an acquaintance with a flock of white turkeys, by throwing

them a handful of oats now and then when I came from

the stable: - I saw their numbers diminish with real pain,

and never attempted to eat any of them without being

sick. And yet I have as much of the rugged and tough

about me as is necessary to carry me through all sorts of

duty without much sentimental compunction.

As to the ingenious system of double authorship, which

the Americans have devised for the Waverley novels, I

think it in one point of view extremely likely. For the

unhappy man, whom they have thought fit to bring on

the carpet, has been shut up in a madhouse for many

years; and it seems probable that no brain but a

madman's could have invented so much stuff, and no

leisure but that of a prisoner could have afforded time

to write it all. Besides it seems very much the part of a

madman to bribe another person not to own but to deny

his own productions. I have told every human being

that has the slightest title to ask the question that I have

nothing to do with these novels, and I really hardly see

why any person should have bribed me for doing so, unless

upon the principle on which the Distillers in this country

maintain a monopoly by buying off every individual who

proposes to set up a distillery. But on the other hand

that I should have been an associate in such a firm, or had

I even been suspected of such dishonourable meanness,

I should very soon have forfeited the situation which as

yet I have the good fortune to hold in Society. So
that if this poor man be the author of these works, I can assure your kind friend that I neither would, could, nor durst have the slightest communication with him on that or any other subject. In fact, I have never heard of

him twice for twenty years or more. As for honest Mrs Grant, I cannot conceive why the deuce I should have selected her for a mother-confessor; if it had been yourself, or Joanna, there might have been some probability in the report; but good Mrs Grant is so very caerulean, and surrounded by so many fetch-and-carry mistresses and misses, and the maintainer of such an unmerciful correspondence, that though I would do her any kindness in my power, yet I should be afraid to be very intimate with a woman whose tongue and pen are rather overpowering. She is an excellent person notwithstanding.

Pray, make my respects to your correspondent, and tell her I am very sorry I cannot tell her who the author of Waverley is; but I hope she will do me the justice not to ascribe any dishonourable transactions to me, either in that matter or any other, until she hears that they are likely to correspond with any part of my known character, which, having been now a lion of good reputation on my own deserts for twenty years and upwards, ought to be indifferently well known in Scotland.

She seems to be a very amiable person; and though I shall never see Charlie's Hope, or eat her chicken-pies, I am sure I wish health to wait on the one, and good digestion on the other. They are funny people the Americans: I saw a paper in which they said my father was a tailor. If he had been an honest tailor, I should not have been ashamed of the circumstance; but he was what may be thought as great a phenomenon, for he was an honest lawyer, a cadet of a good family, whose predecessors only
dealt in pinking and slashing doublets, not in making them.

Here is a long letter, and all about trash. But what can you expect Judges are mumbling and grumbling above me—lawyers are squabbling and babbling around me. The minutes I give to my letter are stolen from Themis. I hope to get to Abbotsford very soon, though only for two or three days, until 12th March, when we go there for some time.

Mrs Spice seems to be recovering from her distemper, which makes a curious case, providing the recovery is complete. Little Walter came down at Xmas and speedily assembled three more terriers. One day the whole got off after a hare, and made me remember the basket beagles that Lord Morton use to keep in my youth; for the whole pack opened like hounds, and would have stuck to the chase till they had killed the hare, which would have been like being pricked to death with pins, if we had not licked them off so soon as we could for laughing. This is a dull joke on paper, but imagine the presumption of so many long-backed, short-legged creatures pursuing an animal so very fleet. You will allow it is something ridiculous. I am sure Count O'Halloran would have laughed, and Colonel Heathcock would have been scandalized. 1 Lady Scott sends her best and kindest remembrances, in which she is joined by Anne and Sophia (poor body). My fair friends, Harriet and Sophia, have a large interest in this greeting, and Lockhart throws himself in with tidings that Sophia continues to mend.- Always, my dear Miss Edgeworth, most faithfully yours,

WALTER SCOTT

[Butler and Lockhart]
TO DANIEL TERRY

[Extract]

EDINBURGH, 5th February 1824

... IF you have seen little Russell he will tell you how our Christmas gambols came off gaily, and how they danced in the new library till moonlight and starlight and gaslight went out. The entrance hall with its blazonry, carved oak panels, and huge freestone chimney-pieces, with such pieces of old armour as can be handsomely stow'd there, will be quite baronial. The outer court, with its screen and carved work, looks very antique.

The command of time which your absence from the Haymarket [allows] may be advantageously disposed of here; indeed as you come down with a new halo of London fame, I think it might be very successful, for theatrical attraction always depends more on popularity than on real merit. Besides, you have now several parts of your own, which always infers novelty, and with a little help from friends and James Ballantyne's blarney, I have little doubt of the campaign, and I will be personally responsible for a good benefit. I speak this confidently, because circumstances have forced me into wider connections of every kind than perhaps I could have wished, and a friend like you should take the full benefit. ...

My present labours - but tell it not to one mortal ear - comprehend two narratives in about two volumes each; they may perhaps intrude on vol. 3rd. I intend you shall
have this, which I think will be highly dramatic, as soon as printed, and as nothing can come out till the other vols. are both written and printed, you will have ample time to dramatize it before any intruder can possibly interfere.

I am very much pleased to hear of your theatrical history, which I think is capable of being rendered much more agreeable than in any shape it has yet taken. To guide you in a trifling point about my own theatrical collection, please note that I have got Mrs. G. A. Bellamy and Mrs. Sumbel Wells. If you are anxious to trace the root of Sir Anthony Absolute, whose humour is well maintained in Percy Mallory, pray look into Cowley's old comedy of the Guardian, afterwards altered into the Cutter of Coleman Street, where you find the first sketch of the knight in Truman Senior. I am morally certain Sheridan had read this piece and taken the hint. I am truly glad that poor Theodore's affairs are looking up; it would be terrible to think he should be deserted, but I hope he will look about him and push the matter to a settlement, for should he not get a quietus now, it may leave him open to oppression when the Whigs come in, and I know these worthy gentlemen so well as to believe they would not neglect to use them. A thousand kind compliments to Mrs. Terry and nursery, not forgetting Walter. If I live to see him fit to go out in the world, it shall go hard but I lend a hand to the launch; the Engineer Department of the East India Company offers great advantages for young people who have a turn for drawing and mathematics. . . . Yours always,
TO HUGH SCOTT OF HARDEN

MY DEAR SIR,-I answer your letter immedately because it apprizes me whereabout I am to send some intelligence about my Sophia which I know will be interesting to Mrs. Scott & your family. About ten days since she had a baby under favourable circumstances of every kind. But unhappily the child died on the second day afterwards and though poor Sophia took this dispensation with her natural patience & mildness yet so great a disappointment naturally retarded her recovery. God be thanked it is now going on very favourably but I own I would with pleasure have seen little Johnie Hugh your godson backed by a cautioner for he is a delicate child though a very engaging one & his father & mother are more wrap[p]d up in him than perhaps we should be in any thing merely human.

I spoke to the Advocate about the title-his official duty places him in the situation of contradictor on these occasions but of course if he is convinced in his own mind his opposition will be matter of form only. Sir William Forbes's claim to the title of Lord Pitsligo stands on the same footing with this much more doubtful addition that it goes to one set of heirs male & their heirs then to another set of heirs male and per expressum to their heirs male which certain[ly] in a quæstio voluntatis may be held to regulate the ambiguous expression of heirs in the first destination but I made his Lordship observe that there was no such
subsequent clause. I will cause Mr. Thomson give his
Lordship a state of the claim and I will attempt at least
to learn his opinion on the subject which however it is
every possible to suppose he may not chuse to express to
me. I will see Mr. Thompson today if possible and push
him about the freehold qualifications. I was not aware
you had looked to me to do so but will not neglect it now.1
I presume he will proceed in terms of the Solicitors
opinion.

I am heartily glad to hear William is getting well and
that Henry is gay at Berlin. Walter was with us during
the holidays & for a week afterwards: he went back to
Sandhurst a week since and is studying hard and I hope
with good success—his heart seems to be fairly in his
profession. Charles has entered at Brazen Nose but does not
go for residence till October. Mr. Williams flatters me
that he may get honours if he continues to bend his
attention to his studies.

We had a very merry dance in the first week of the New
Year which lasted till they burnt out all my oil gas which
left them in the lurch at six next morning when they
betook themselves to candles. We wished much for our
Mertoun friends upon such a notable occasion.

I have I think very little chance of being in London this
spring. I only spend money there and I want to finish
Abbotsford with painting &c which will need both cash
& superintendence.

We have lost an old acquaintance the widow of my late
Uncle Thomas who has not long survived her helpmate
though much younger than he was.

I cannot help thinking from what comes to my ears that Sir Jo: Marjoribanks is very queer just now. He has got his head full of some assault & battery business that happen long since at Coldstream and is quite outrageous at the crown council for not indicting some people whom he charges with perjury. If you continue to look Berwickward I think you should put the matter on some footing with the Government people while you are in town in case of another march being stolen upon you.

Lady Scott & Anne send kindest compliments to Mrs. Scott the young ladies & William. I am always Dear Sir

Most affectionately yours

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 6 february 1824

Till I got your letter I was uncertain if you were in town or at Brighton. I beg my most respectful duty to his Majesty and recommend my own regime to his royal consideration Vizt. to rise at seven-dine at five go to bed at eleven & be if possible four hours at least in the open air every day-I am convinced this is the way to hold life joind to moderation in eating & drinking which it is not necessary to carry to rigours.

[Polwarth]

TO THOMAS SHORTREED, WRITER, JEDBURGH

MY DEAR MR THOS,-As the written letter just received from Governor Elphinstone 2 seems to sound favourably
for Roberts prospects I send it to you without loss of time.
I hope you are getting stout again. Kind Compliments to
Mr & Mrs Shortreed and family. Yours &c in haste

W. SCOTT

EDINR. 8th february [PM. 1824]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

MY DEAR MRS. BAILLIE To hear is to obey-and the
enclosed line will show that the Siddons are agreeable to

act Miss Hemans drama 1 -When you tell the tale say
nothing about me, for on no earthly consideration would
I like it to be known that I interfered in theatrical matters,
it brings such a torrent of applications which it is
impossible to grant and often very painful to refuse.
Everybody thinks they can write blank verse and that a play
is only blank verse and a word of yours to Mrs Siddons
&c &c. And I had one rogue (to be sure he went mad
afterwards poor fellow) who came to bully me in my own
house untill he had almost made the mist of twenty years
as Ossian says roll backwards from my spirit in which
case he might have come by an excellent good beating.
I have great pleasure however in serving Miss Heman[s]
both on account of her own merit and because of your
patronage. I trust the piece will succeed but there is no
promising for Saunders is meanly jealous of being thought
less critical than John Bull and may perhaps despise to be
pleased with what was less fortunate in London. I wish
Miss H. had been on the spot to make any alterations &c
which the players are always demanding. I will read
the drama more carefully over than I have yet done and
tell you if any thing occurs.

I need hardly apologize for being late in telling
you for the terror of the cramp attacking poor Sophia
in her weak state kept us very feverish but thank God it
did little more than menace her and the symptoms
having now given way to the specific Calomel give us
every assurance of a favourable recovery. Her husband
talks of going to town in which case I will give him an

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

introduction to you. You will like him very much if you
can make him lay aside a reserve which is unpleasant to
new acquaintances, in his own house and with his own
family he is one of the pleasantest persons possible. When
this migration takes place I intend to take Sophia to
Abbotsford and

Till she be fat as a Noraway seal
I'll feed her on bannocks of barleymeal.

Betwixt indolence of her own and Lockharts extreme
anxiety and indulgence she has forgone the custom of her
exercise to which please God we will bring her back by
degrees.

Little Charles is come down just entered at Brazen Nose
where however he does not go to reside till October. We
must see that he fills up the space between to good
advantage. He had always quickness enough to learn
and seems now really to have caught the

--fever of renown
Sprung from the strong contagion of the gown - 1

My best compliments attend Mrs Baillie and Mrs Agnes. I am sorry for Mr Crabbe's complaint under which he suffered I recollect when he was here in 1821. Did you ever make out how he liked his Scottish Tour - he is not you know very out-spoken and I was often afraid that he was a little bored by the bustle around him. At another time I would have made a point of attending more to his comforts but what was to be done amid piping and drumming and pageants and provosts and bailiffs [sic] and wild highlandmen by the score. The time would have been more propitious to a younger poet. The fertility you mention is wonderful but surely he must correct a great deal to bring his verses into the terse and pointed state in which he gives them to the public.

To come back to Miss Heman[s] I am afraid I cannot flatter myself with much interest that can avail her. I go so little out and mix so seldom either with the gay or the literary world here that I am reduced like Gil Blas much to the company of my brethren Clerks and men of business a seclusion which I cannot say I regret greatly. But any thing within my power shall not be left undone. I hope you will make my apology to Miss Heman[s] for the delay which has taken place for which circumstances must apologise. If any thing should occur essential to be known to the authoress I will write immediately. I should imagine the play may be produced about the middle of March or rather earlier before our Courts rise - Always yours my dear friend WALTER SCOTT

9th February EDINBURGH [1824]
TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR SIR, - I beg you to return my best compliments and thanks to the Proprietors of the Packet which bears my name for the very handsome drawing of my God-daughter with which they have honoured me. In return for this and other marks of their esteem I can only express my hope that a name which has had more good fortune than it ever deserved in literature, may continue to be equally lucky in Commerce. The drawing shall have a distinguished place at Abbotsford and with best wishes for the continued progress of your recovery I am always with much regard Dear Sir Yours very sincerely

ABBOTSFORD 11th. February [1824] WALTER SCOTT

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

MY DEAREST FRIEND - I hasten to answer your kind enquiries about Sophia. You would learn from my last that she was in a fair way of recovery and I am happy to say she continues so well that we have no longer any apprehensions on her account. She will soon get into her sitting room again and of course have good rest at nights and gather strength gradually. I have been telling [her] that her face which was last week the size of sixpence has in three or four days attained the diameter of a shilling and will soon attain its natural and most extensive circumference of half a crown. If we live till 12 of next month we will all get to Abbotsford and between the black
Doctor and the Red Nurse (pony and cow videlicet) I trust she will be soon well again. As for little Johnie I have no serious apprehension being quite of your mind that his knowingness is only a proof that he is much with grown-up people: the child is active enough and I hope will do well— but an only child is like a blot at backgammon and Fate is apt to hit it.

I am particularly entertaind with your answer to Montgomery because it happened to be precisely the same with mine. He applied to me for a sonnet or an elegy instead of which I sent him an account of a manner of constructing chimneys so as scarcely to contract soot and dly of a very simple and effectual machine for sweeping away what soot does adhere. In all the new part of Abbotsford I have lined the chimney vents with a succession of cones made of the same stuff with common flower pots about one and half inch thick and 18 inches or two feet high placed one above another and the vent built round them so that the smoke passing up these round earthen tubes finds neither corner nor roughness on which to deposit the soot and in fact there is very little collected. What sweeping is required is most easily performed by a brush like what housemaids call a pope's—head the handle of which consists of a succession of pipes one slipping on the top of another like the joints of a fishing rod so that the maid first sweeps the lower part of the vent then adds another pipe and sweeps a little higher and so on. I have found this quite effectual but the lining of the chimneys makes the accumulation of soot very trifling in comparison with the common case. Montgomery thanked me but I think he would rather have had a sonnet, which puts me in mind of Mr Puns intended
comedy of the reformed housebreaker in which he was to put burglary in so ridiculous a point of view that bolts and bars were likely to become useless by the end of [the] season. Verily I have no idea of writing verse on a grave subject of utility any more than of going to church in a Cinque-pace. Lottery tickets and Japan Blacking may indeed be exceptions to this general rule.

I am quite delighted at our two cool Scots answering in exactly the same manner. But I am afraid your Sooty men (who are still in regular discharge of their duty) and my pope's-head and lined vents will not suit the Committee who seem more anxious for poetry than for common sense. For my part when I write on such subjects I intend it shall be a grand historico-philosophico-poem upon Oil Gas, having been made president of the Oil-gas Company of this city, the whale fishery might be introduced and something pretty said about palm-oil which we think is apt to be popular among our lawyers.

I am very sorry for poor Richardson so much attachd to his wife and suffering so much in her suffering. I hope Tom Campbell gets on pretty well and wish he would do something to sustain his deserved reputation.

I wrote with Mrs Siddons consent to give Mrs Hemans tragedy a trial. I hope that her expectations are not very high for I do not think our ordinary theatrical audience is either more judicious or less fastidious than those of England. One hears little of poetry on the stage—it is situation passion and rapidity of action which seem to be the principal requisites for ensuring the success of a modern drama. But I trust by dint of a special jury the
piece may have a decent success—certainly I should not hope for much more. I must see they bring it out before 12 March if possible as we go to the country that day. I have not seen Mrs. Sidd: or her brother Will Murray since their obliging answer for one of my colleagues is laid up with gout and this gives me long seats in the Court, of which you have reap'd the fruits in this long epistle from the Clerks table and amid the bustle of pleaders attorneys and so forth. I will get a frank however if possible for the matter is assuredly not worth a shilling postage.

My kindest remembrances attend Mrs Baillie and Mrs Agnes—Always yours with sincere respect and affection

EDINR. 12th febry. 1824. WALTER SCOTT

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO SIR ADAM FERGUSSON, K.K.R.

[15th February, 1824]

DEAR ADAM,—The Chief Commis 1 has just had the delightful intelligence that Sir Frederick is Governor of the Ionian islands and our friend being one of those rare kind hearts who think of their friends in the first moment of their own prosperity has most kindly offerd to bespeak a place on his Staff for Walter when he has passd his examinations at College which will be a great Godsend.

We are here like the Jews eating the Passover with our loins girded and our staves in hand ready for our return which I suppose will be on Wednesday

[The remainder of the MS. has been cut out.]
TO DANIEL TERRY, LONDON

(8-180) ABBOTSFORD, Feb. 18, 1824

(8-180) MY DEAR TERRY,- Your very kind letter 2 reached me here, so that I was enabled to send you immediately an accurate sketch of the windows and chimney-sides of the drawing-room to measurement. I should like the mirrors handsome and the frames plain; the colour of the hangings is green, with rich Chinese figures. On the side of the window I intend to have exactly beneath the glass a plain white side-table of the purest marble, on which to place Chantrey's bust. A truncated pillar of the same marble will be its support; and I think that, besides the mirror above, there will be a plate of mirror below the table: these memoranda will enable Baldock to say at what price those points can be handsomely accomplished. I have not yet spoken about the marble table; perhaps they may be all got in London. I shall be willing to give a handsome but not an extravagant price. I am much obliged to Mr. Baldock for his confidence about the screen. But what says Poor Richard1

"Those who want money when they come to buy, are apt to want money when they come to pay." Again Poor Dick observes,

"That in many you find the true gentleman's fate; Ere his house is complete, he has sold his estate."

So we will adjourn consideration of the screen till other
times; let us first have the needful got and paid for. The

stuff for the windows in the drawing-room is the crimson
damask silk we bought last year. I enclose a scrap of it
that the fringe may be made to match. I propose they
should be hung with large handsome brass rings upon a
brass cylinder, and I believe it would be best to have
these articles from London—I mean the rings and
cylinders; but I dislike much complication in the mode of
drawing them separate, as it is eternally going wrong;
those which divide in the middle, drawing back on each
side like the curtains of an old-fashioned bed, and when
drawn back are secured by a loop and tassel, are, I think,
the handsomest, and can easily be made on the spot;
the fringe should be silk, of course. I think the curtains
of the library, considering the purpose of the room,
require no fringe at all. We have, I believe, settled that
they shall not be drawn in a line across the recess, as in
the drawing-room, but shall circle along the inside of the
windows. I refer myself to Mr Atkinson about the
fringe, but I think a little mixture of gold would look
handsome with the crimson silk. As for the library, a
yellow fringe, if any. I send a draught of the windows
enclosed; the architraves are not yet up in the library,
but they are accurately computed from the drawings of
my kind friend Mr Atkinson. There is plenty of time to
think about these matters, for of course the rooms must
be painted before they are put up. I saw the presses
yesterday; they are very handsome, and remind me of
the awful job of arranging my books. About July,
Abbotsford will, I think, be finished, when I shall, like
the old Duke of Queensberry who built Drumlanrig, fold
up the accounts in a sealed parcel, with a label bidding
"the deil pike out the een of any of my successors that
shall open it." I beg kind love to Mrs Terry, Walter the
Great, and Missy. Delicious weather here, and birds
singing St Valentine's matins as if it were April—Yours
ever,

WALTER SCOTT

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

P.S. - Pride will have a fall—I have a whelp of one of
Dandle Dinmont's Pepper and Mustard terriers, which
no sooner began to follow me into the house than Ourisque
fell foul. The Liddesdale devil cocked its nose, and went
up to the scratch like a tigress, downed Ourie, and served
her out completely; since which Ourie has been so low
that it seems going into an atrophy, and Ginger takes all
manner of precedence, as the best place by the fire, and
so on, to Lady Scott's great discomfiture.—Single letters
by post: double to Croker—with a card enclosed, asking
a frank to me.

[Lockhart]

TO COLIN MACKENZIE

MY DEAR COLIN,—The inclosed is of such importance
that I forward it immediately for no Deus ex machina ever
came more apropos to our Academy. I only wish it were
better worth Williams's while but I have no doubt that
his acknowledged scholarship and power of communicating
information will at once render the Academy respectable
and his own situation valuable. Having been three years
in correspondence with Mr. W. I can bear witness to the
careful and regular attention which he bestows on his
pupils to his attention to their peculiar bent and the
dexterity with which he renders learning lively. Charles
who was idle conceited and impracticable while at home
is now a steady hard reading Student & passionately fond
of his teacher. Morritt's nephew whom he tutored while at
Winchester was a crack scholar-so is Surtees who will
take honours at Oxford and who has often spoken to me
about Williams merits. I have no doubt that his
recommendations will be of the first order but I reckon more
upon [having] seen his pupils all of whom shewed a love
for and interest in learning which argued the greatest
skill on the part of the Teacher. I never saw Williams
myself nor have I the least interest in him excepting what
arises out of & bears upon his skill as a teacher-I mean
gratitude for my sons proficiency. I had letters from
Williams during the first quarter describing in the
frankest manner Charless merits & his faults with an
accuracy which I who had known him all his life could
scarce equald.

Of course this is a matter that cannot be hurried but
yet we cannot have better bread than is made of wheat
and I should [like] to have Mr. Williams claims considcred
soon after his certificates are brought forward for a man
of proved talents & scholarship in the prime of life an
enthusiast in his profession though possessd of a private
independence which makes him completely respectable
seems to be the very man we want. Of course you will
communicate with our brethren-I have [so] much to do
here that I will take a ride on Hamilton till Monday as he
writes me he is able to work. Yours truly
ABBOTSFORD 18 febry. [1824] WALTER SCOTT

[Edinburgh Academy]
TO HIS SON WALTER

DEAR WALTER,—I have been making such arrangements for your future employment as if successful cannot fail to give you much pleasure. Ld. Chief Commissioner has volunteered to apply to his son Sir Frederick for a place for you upon his staff which as he is to be Governor of the Ionian islands in room of Sir Thomas Maitland just dead cannot fail to be an advantageous and agreeable situation as well as highly respectable. Lord

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Commissioner also proposes that the appointment should take place at a period sufficiently distant to permit you to pass your examination at College. In the meantime if you correspond with Greenwood and keep a good look out I have little doubt to get you either a troop or a company so that you will have the rank of Captain. You will then my dear have to make your own battle with an occasional £50., to buy a charger or aid a shift of quarters. Of course I make your foot company if it should be one equal to a troop in pay. I Charles must for some years cost me a round sum of money yearly.

I miss a German book bearing my own name on the title page 2 which lay on the side table in the dining room. I hope you have got it as I should like ill to lose it.

Charles is with us now and is doing very well. Sophia continues to recover comfortably but we have left Anne to take care of her. Fine soft weather here birds singing and flowers springing. I will be here till Monday. Write so soon as this reaches and address to Edinburgh. I am always Dear Walter yours most affectionately
TO MARIA EDGEBERTH, EDGEBERTHSTOWN

MY DEAR Miss EDGEBERTH I do not delay a moment to send my warmest and best congratulations upon the very happy event which is about to take place in your family and to assure that you do me but common justice in supposing that I take the warmest interest in whatever concerns my young friends - All Abbotsford to an acre of Poyais that she will make an excellent wife; and most truly happy am I to think that she has such an admirable prospect of matrimonial happiness, although at the expense of thwarting the maxim, and showing that The course of true love sometimes may run smooth.

It will make a pretty vista as I hope and trust for you my good friend to look forwards with an increase of interest to futurity. Lady Scott Anne and Sophia send their sincere and hearty congratulations upon this joyful
occasion. I hope to hear her sing the petticoat of red
some day in her own house. I should be apt to pity

you a little amid all your happiness if you had not besides
other young companions whose merits are only known to
me by report my young friend Miss Harriet, to prevent
your feeling so much as you would otherwise, the blank
which this event might occasion in your domestic society.

Sophia, I hope, will be soon able to make her own
gratulations. She is recovering very well, and overjoyed
to hear such good news from your quarter. I have been
on a short trip to Abbotsford to set painters &c to work
to complete what Slender would call " mine own great
chamber " and on my return I was quite delighted to see
the change on my daughter. Little Johnie Hugh is
likewise much better but will require nursing and care
for some years at least. Yet I have often known such
hothouse plants bear the open air as well as those that
were reared on the open moor.

I am not at all surprized at what you say of the Yankees.
They are a people possessd of very considerable energy
quickened and brought into eager action by an honourable
love of their country and pride in their institutions
but they are as yet rude in their ideas of social intercourse,
and totally ignorant speaking generally of all the art of
good-breeding which consists chiefly in a postponement
of ones own petty wishes or comforts to those of others.
By rude questions free and unfeeling observations an
absolute disrespect to other people's feelings and a ready
indulgence of their own they make one feverish in their
company though perhaps you may be ashamed to confess
the reason. But this will wear off and is wearing away.

Men when they have once got benches, will soon fall into the use of cushions. They are advancing in the arts and literature and they will not be long deficient in the petite morale especially as they have like ourselves the rage for travelling. I have seen a new work—the Pilot 1—by the author of the Spy and Pioneer. The hero is the celebrated Paul Jones who I well remember advancing above the island [of Inchkeith] with three small vessels to lay Leith under contribution. I remember my mother being alarmed with the drum which she had heard all her life at eight o'clock conceiving it to be the pirates who had landed. I never saw such a change as betwixt that time and 1797 in the military state of a city. Then Edinburgh had scarce three companies of men under arms and latterly she furnished 5000 with complete appointments of cavalry artillery and infantry enough to have eat Paul Jones and his whole equipage. Nay, the very square in which my father's house I stands could even then have furnished a body of armed men sufficient to have headed back as large a party as he could well have landed.

However the novel is a very clever one and the sea-scenes and characters in particular are admirably drawn and I advise you to read it as soon as possible.

I have little news to send from Abbotsford. Spice is much better though still asthmatic. She is extremely active and in high spirits though the most miserable thin long backed creature I ever saw. She is extremely like the shadow of a dog on the wall such a sketch as a child makes in its first attempts at drawing a monster with
a large head four feet and a most portentous longitude of back. There was great propriety in Miss Harriet's dream after all for if ever a dog needed six legs poor Spice certainly requires a pair of additional supporters. She is now following me a little though the duty of body guard has devolved for the present on a cousin of hers a fierce game devil, that goes at everything and has cowed Ourisk's courage in a most extraordinary degree to Lady Scott's great vexation.

Here is a tale of dogs, and dreams, and former days but the only pleasure in writing is to write whatever comes readiest to the pen.

My wife and Anne send kindest compliments of congratulation as also Charles who has come down to spend four or five months with us just entered at Brazen Nose—on fire to be a scholar of classical distinction and studying—I hope the humour will last—like a very dragon.

Always my dear Miss Edgeworth with best love to the Bride and to dear Harriet very much yours,

WALTER SCOTT

[Butler]

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 191

TO JOHN WALKER, 65 REGIMENT, DUMBARTON CASTLE, DUNBARTON

SIR,-I should some time since have thanked you for your letter and for your enquiry. Your elegant work reached my family in safety and was highly acceptable. If I have not yet got out of the obliging author's debt I beg he will cause someone [to] call with a receipt for my subscription.
I do not know anything of Mr. James's poems, nor did I ever think of undertaking the charge of such a publication. To the best of my recollection I never heard of the gentleman's name or saw any of his compositions. Very frequently manuscripts have been sent to me which I really have no leisure either to read or criticize a task which I am generally desirous of evading if possible. But I never remember those you mention coming to me in such a way. My memory is not however so good as it was and I may have had such papers sent to me without my being unable [sic] to remember the circumstance. If I know the form or appearance or subject of the poems I will make search for it and return them to the party whom they may concern.

I received with safety the specimens you sent me of a new literary attempt, of which I can only venture to say that I think the publication can be attended with no discredit to you and that if you can get a bookseller to stand betwixt you and risque and divide the profits, which is their usual bargain. But from experience of the uncertainty of the publick taste and considering your honourable views of publishing for the assistance of others I would sincerely advise you to incur no pecuniary risque.

I have had some family distress lately, my married daughter having had a bad confinement which must allow for the long silence of, Sir Your obedient Servant

CASTLE STREET 2 March [1824]  WALTER SCOTT
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.
You are quite right about my unhallowed comparison between Lord Kilmarnock's inamoretta and Thurtell's - the former was certainly mad in white sattin, and the other not in white linen, but linen of the dirtiest complection. Still, notoriety is a fine thing, even when one is notorious only as a villain. Think of a Miss stretching her memory so far as to recollect she had danced with Jack Thurtle when he was an officer of marines, on board of Admiral Otway's flagship at Leith. The only chance of the man living in her memory was his becoming a murderer.

I am very happy to hear that Mrs. Clephane's factor continues to act well. I hope she will not spoil him as ladies do gentlemen by too much confidence and indulgence. Laidlaw will be happy to hear that he does credit to his recommendation. By too much indulgence I particularly mean the suffering accompts to get ahead. There is no such bar as settling them regularly excluding the certain inconvenience that arises from their smacking of age. Besides sums of money are always apt without gross dishonesty to melt into the hands of factors who perhaps use a few pounds at first in advance of their own salary, and end by getting into deep and serious arrearage.

Sophia has had rather a distressing time of it, but is now much better, indeed quite well, excepting weakness. I am very sorry for the loss of her infant, because I would willingly have had a cautioner for poor Johnnie Hugh. He is not strong, on the contrary very delicate and the parents are so much wrapt up in him, that it makes me tremble when I look at the poor little fellow. He is so smart and clever, and at the same time holds his existence apparently by so frail a tenure, that one is
inclined to think of the alarming adage of Gloster: -

"So wise and young they say never lives long." I

It is, however wrong to anticipate evil, and I have seen so many instances of wise young children growing up into buirdly hussies and stark young fellows, with no more wit than is necessary to keep them out of fire and water that I will e'en harden myself on the subject, and croak no more about the matter.

I think it more likely that the defunct gamekeeper and his dog have fallen under unjust suspicion in the matter of poor Puss. It is the instinct, both of dogs and cats, but particularly of the last, when in the extremity of age, and sensible of the approaches of death, to seek some secret place to die in, and thus the remains of these creatures are seldom seen, unless of such as have been killed by accident or violence. I have known many instances of this, but one I witnessed was so singular, that, even now, I cannot think how the creature managed. It was an old cat which belonged to a bachelor uncle of mine, and was almost of course a great favourite. We found it on the garden walk apparently in a fit. It had been very ill and had not eaten on the preceding day. My uncle concluded it was dying, and we lifted it off the walk, and the sun being intensely hot, we stuck some boughs of briar round it by way of arbour. While we walked two turns, it escaped from under the arbour, and by no inquiries could we ever hear any word of it again. Doubtless it had crept into the wooded bank of the river which was at hand in order to die unobserved—a singular provision of nature.
I am made happy by your good news from Rome.

What a pity so good and valuable a man as Lord Compton should have such delicate health. Morrit is unfortunate in having always cause of anxiety about the health of those he loves. That we may do as they do at Rome, (though without the apology of being there) we are to have a Fancy Ball next Thursday. I am told there are to be thirty Queen Marys. Having a suit of court mourning which will pass muster without being much out of the ordinary way, I will be there to see what they make of it. I fear we want wit and impudence to get over such ground handsomely.

Lord bless your old Aunt for bringing you down to the lowlands. I hope when Mrs. Clephane, Williamina, and you come within the magnetism of Auld lang syne it will draw you on to Abbotsford.

Ouiriske or Whisk is in great preservation but hauden down by a very fierce terrier of mine of the Pepper and Mustard breed, (hence called Ginger) which flies at it whenever it opens its mouth and Ouiriske's highland spirit being cowd by a luxurious effeminacy of life and diet she makes no play for the honour of her native Kintail. Mrs. Maclean Clephane will not like to hear this, but its very true for all that.

Do you know I have two great faults as a correspondent, one that I never know how to begin a letter--the other still more formidable, that when I write to those I like I can never end untill the paper ends it for me. Like a stone set on [an] incline, 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
destination. Now I would be most unreasonable to wish you my dear friend to bestow much leisure upon me and my letters but then you are to consider that you are not at present stationary but travelling a good deal and that my letters would be less worth reading even than at present if they [did] not contain many things that I should be sorry fell into any hand other than the honoured ones for which they are intended-So that you must really have the goodness by a line or two at least for I do not insist upon long letters to let me know in the first place how you are and then that you have received my letter and that I am to continue the same address or use another one. Remember my dear friend that when you form the impossible conjecture that I have forgotten you it may with much more justice occur to me that there is a great probability arguing from your silence that you have forgotten me an idea which would not surprise me though it would certainly give me much pain-for which reason your Ladyship may be well assured I will not rashly entertain it. So I hope my dear friend that this of ours is a sort of commercial treaty not with respect to bulk but with respect to value for I will willingly allow one line from your Ladyship to stand as a full requital for a page of mine-only you must send one to tell me how you are what you are doing and that you have received my letter and wish to hear from me again. Now this is a treaty which only waits for your Ladyship's ratification to be most faithfully observed by me since God knows there are few in the world and these turning daily fewer whose commands I would be more willing and anxious not only to obey but to anticipate. And let me hope I have at present in some degree explained the cause of my late silence as being
only the consequence of that on the part of Lady Abercorn.

You may rely upon it I think that the author of the novels you mention would never enter into any bargain as to producing a certain number of volumes within a given time. No creature can be entitled to reckon upon such a flow of spirits and regular continuation of good health and I believe an attempt to comply with such a contract as the newspapers have invented would be a very dangerous task both to body and mind. The labour must be great enough as it is and attended with much tear and wear of constitution and of intellect. Besides the supposed recompense large as it is would not be adequate to the author's profits in an ordinary way of publication. Two odd things have happened in consequence of the pertinacity with which the public have so erroneously posted me as the author of these novels-the first is that I got a letter from America accusing me of having encouraged that report for a large sum of money in order to conceal the real author whose name it was supposed would be obnoxious to the public on account of the infamy of his character this was good enough but a better incident still is the publication of a German novel professing to be translated from the English and bearing my name at full length on the title-page. So that I must not only bear my own faults and in the opinion of many those of that unknown gentleman but also all the devices with which the invention of others contrives to load either him or myself.

Your kind inquiries about my family I can thank God answer generally speaking in very agreeable terms. Your
Ladyship's acquaintance Walter is now again on full pay and Lieutenant in the 15th Hussars. He has been since his return from the Continent by the Duke of York's favour a student in the advanced class of officers who are allowed to reside at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst and makes I am informed considerable progress in mathematics drawing field surveying and the other scientific departments of military life-I think it likely that when he has gone through his examinations in summer or winter he will be placed on Sir Frederick Adams staff in the Ionian Islands which is a much better prospect than hanging about in Home quarters in English country towns. He was with us about six weeks at Christmas and is really become a very handsome young man and well bred withall. My younger son Charles is now with us-He has entered at Brazenose but does not go to Oxford to reside until the October term. If I do not deceive myself and I think I can judge impartially even on so tender a point he is a young man of high promise from being very volatile and idle he has since he resided for three years with a learned clergyman in England become a keen student and a promising scholar and full of that sort of pride which looks to future distinction-My daughter [Mrs.] Lockhart has been rather unfortunate-her eldest child came to this world rather too early and though a pretty clever and very engaging infant alarms me a little from the slenderness of its frame! and a sort of delicacy of health sometimes connected with premature development of intellect. Sophia was again confined about two months ago but lost her infant and has had but a slow and precarious recovery which indeed is yet far from complete. This is at present the only shade in our domestic horizon. My black-eyed
lassie is dancing away merrily and I believe generally
thought handsome but her hour if it ever comes is not
come yet.

You may not have heard of poor Tom's death in whom
one leading fault thoughtlessness blemished so many good
and noble qualities. His eldest daughter is married to
Major Huxley of the 70th regiment a very gentlemanlike
man who was in Britain last year. Tom's widow is
returned here with two younger daughters I very good-
looking girls and the younger (about thirteen years old)
very clever and amusing. The elder has refused some
good matches in Canada which her mother seems rather
to regret. The girls though hurried during the great part
of their life along with a marching regiment are so modest
well-bred and accomplished that I was proposing to
advertise His Majesty's 70th regiment as an excellent
boarding-school for young ladies. To be sure their father
and mother both well qualified for the task bestowed
constant pains to improve their understandings and
manners. I must add to complete my account of this
family that the only son Walter whom I have in a certain
degree adopted into my own family is one of the Cadets
for the Engineer service of the East India Company and
as such is following out his studies at the Company's

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College at Addiscombe where this class of their students
receive instruction. Walter my nephew whose talents
for arithmetic and mathematics are of a most uncommon
kind has fought himself up though much younger than
most of the students to the top of the class gained
mathematical prizes and is promoted to the rank of one of the
officers of the Corps of Cadets. This promises very well
will get ready promotion if he leaves college with the report of his superiors in his favour and the Engineer Department when followed by a man of talent is one of the best lines in India.

As your Ladyship has the advantage of Canning's all-powerful franks I send a book of my son-in-law Lockhart's upon Spanish literature which I think you will like. He is a most unexceptionable friend and husband very clever very learned and very handsome-addicted to satire though by which he has made himself enemies. He has written several things which are I think very clever.

I would with pleasure send you the supposed print from Lawrence's picture but none such has yet appeared. Indeed the picture remains unfinished the costume having never been settled. I don't like a real good picture to be quite in a modern dress ours being about the most unpicturesque possible. I might to be sure take the plaid about me as I sometimes do at public meetings of the Celtic Society. But I am no Highlander by birth or connection and to take their dress looks like assuming their character which I would not do holding that of my own province more highly. So that this important matter being undecided the picture is unfinished and probably will remain so for I have little idea of again visiting London. Why should I All whom I knew and loved are dead or dispersed and even in 1821 I felt it quite an altered world. We are not sensible of these changes in the same degree as they affect the scenes in which we move for new objects spring up to which we become attached though not with the same feelings. But the
changes made by time are strikingly felt when we return to a place from which we have been absent for many years.

I wish you would come to Scotland when you revisit Britain. You are fond of travelling and I would hope to detain you a few days or weeks at Abbotsford which has grown by degrees from a cottage into a manor-house too large perhaps for the property. Do dear Lady Abercorn think of this and I will travel with you and show you the lions wherever you would like to go.

I hasten to close this scrawl which justifies what I have sometimes thought that I neither know how to begin a letter or how to end one.

Believe me with the greatest respect and affection your Ladyship's ever obliged and grateful WALTER SCOTT

My address will be Abbotsford Melrose N.B. for the next two months. Mr Canning will I am sure take care of my letters.

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,-I was glad to see your hand after so total a cessation of correspondence. I thought you would have written from the great city I were it only to say how do you do? The work has gone on the slower for this trip & must now move at double quick time.

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT

I think your name of Redgauntlet is excellent.1 One fault it may have—that of inducing people to think the
work is a tale of Chivalry—and disappointment is a bad thing. Otherwise the name is a great hit—

I inclose the bills—I could have wishd that the new affair had been brought forward as I am exposed to pay (as I mentioned to you) nearly 2000 or better at Whitsunday & reckoned on some part of the new volume or the produce of the 4th of the present for my occasions which just clears so much debt at four per cent. I can easily discount bills of yours & Constables for the amount at 3 or 4 months.

I hope Cadells augury will prove true. I never liked Saint Ronans—this I think better of—

I like your whirligig lamp of all things and thank you for it—I understand it perfectly & am sure while the sulphuric acid is kept fresh it cannot miss fire.

As to your London trip I could have foretold the issue before you set out. I do not believe Cadell will give you that advantage in printing which will enable you to monotype, to take the Encyclopedia would ruin young Constables printing offices which we cannot expect he will do unless upon a total crash.

I wish you could get & forward to me the newest set of Debretts Baronetage.2 I want it for some armorial drawings. While Cadell is in town I wish he would look after my set of Ordnance Maps. I think Constable or he has a note of them.3 Yours very truly

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Sunday [circa March 1824]
[Stevenson]
TO MRS. CARPENTER

EDINBURGH March 7, 1824
DEAR MRS. CARPENTER,-Lady Scott proposes to write herself to thank you for the very sincere pleasure your proposed visit to Abbotsford holds out to us but as the good lady is like those who do not always ride when they put their boots on & as I am writing to Rose & can use his cover I anticipate her in begging you will not let the visit depend on the state in which you happen to find your spirits but come to us secure of the kindest welcome we can give whether you feel sad or gay at the time. If the former feeling should predominate we will not torment you with trying to make you merry against the grain but you shall have time & freedom to do exactly as you please. On business I need hardly repeat that whatever you determine upon will be quite agreeable to me. If the increased income from the sale of stock cannot be rendered equally certain & regular in the payments I am far from wishing any alteration in the state of the security. At any rate the matter is not pressing. I do not quite understand if Sophia has omitted her first name (Charlotte) in signing the deed or if the engrosser of the deed has express'd it. If the former is the case she will of course willingly prefix her initial : she never signs the two names at full length. If the engrosser of the deed has made a blunder I should suppose he must engross it again without putting you to further expense. Certainly her name is Charlotte Sophia & she generally signs C. Sophia. In Scotland the engrosser of the deed always adds the date which I have reason to remember as it was the very day before Sophias confinement : the young people will do any thing & everything to make the conveyance regular. I am sorry you are so much harassed
about these matters of formality especially as in my poor opinion there is a great deal of useless expence & trouble incurred where there is neither dispute nor the least likelihood of any. But I am not an English lawyer though a Scottish one & therefore speak with profound reverence of the scruples of the English law. This I know that if you please you can have the best advice in England at no expence at all for my friend Sir Samuel Shepherd (now our Lord Chief Baron) is at present in London & the high eminence of his character & situation (he was long Kings Attorney General) would render his impartiality indisputable. If you think it would save expence or make you easy I could introduce Mr Hankey or Mr Barber or both to him & you might rely upon his giving them the soundest advice without costing a single farthing. I believe no man living would be more willing to do me a kindness or is at the same time a more upright character never existed. If you think his advice can be of any. The date of the signature was 23d January & all three signed it together. Present my kind respects to your cousin & say how much she will oblige us by coming with you to Abbotsford in July. You will find Charles who does not go to Oxford till October. I am always with sincerest regards Dear Mrs Carpenter

[Autograph missing]
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO DR. GABELL, 2 BINFIELD, WINDSOR

[8th March, 1824]

I TRUST you will pardon the present intrusion on your
patience both from your regard for the Revd Mr John

Williams Lampeter and your well known zeal for the advancement of the great work of public instruction.

The Committee of Directors of the new Edinr Academy having taken under their consideration Mr Williams' Testimonials and yours in particular were very much satisfied with the prospect of obtaining the services of such a person as Rector of their new Institution. It was however stated by one gentleman that a rumour was in circulation that although a man of great attainments he had heard of his not being a man of very equal temper and that he had been very unpopular among the Boys at Winchester so much so that although he had the advantage to enjoy your good opinion you had found it necessary to appoint another person in his room—also that he had stood for a fellowship at Baliol and notwithstanding his high erudition and the favour of the Master the other fellows opposed his coming among them on account of the peculiarity of his temper. Lastly that tho' by his great learning there was no doubt of his doing duty to a small number of pupils yet our authority doubted whether from what he had heard of him he was a desirable person for the management of a great school.

I am perfectly at a loss Sir to reconcile this information to the many respectable testimonies laid before us and individually I happen to know that if Mr Williams has really a bad temper he is the most successful hypocrite living for my son who was three years under Mr Williams'
Tuition and inmate of his house considers him as the best humoured man living. But as such a rumour has reached the committee they feel it due to Mr Williams as well as to themselves to state the circumstances to you well aware from Dr Gabell's high character that upon such an occasion he would be incapable of preferring the partiality of friendship to the necessity of doing justice to such an undertaking as ours. You may perfectly rely upon the honour of the Gentlemen concerned for whose prudence and if necessary for whose silence I venture to offer my own as a pledge.

I entreat you Sir to excuse this liberty for which the cause of Education must be an apology and to believe me Revd Sir, Yours &c WALTER SCOTT

Please to address Sir Walter Scott Bart under cover to Sir Walter Scott Bart under cover to John Russell Esq W.S. George Street Edinr.

[Edinburgh Academy]

TO LORD MELVILLE

MY DEAR LORD,-We hear with great pleasure that your indisposition is giving way and I hope that the relaxation of severe weather is felt in London as well as here and may be serviceable to you.

What leads to my present intrusion is the probability of the Situation of Keeper of the Record of Entails becoming shortly vacant either by the death or resignation of my old colleague in office James Ferriar who is scarcely able now for business. The situation has always been conferd on one of the Principal Clerks of Session and my
predecessor George Home held it till his retirement when he resigned it in Mr. Ferriars favour. The emoluments may be from 150, to 200 - As I served such an apprenticeship for my office as Jacob did for Rachel discharging the duty without drawing any emoluments for six years I hope I will not be thought greedy in applying for a situation in some measure belonging to it and which was held by my predecessor. Yet I probably would not have troubled your Lordship but as in the Case of the situation of Kings Clerk sufferd any of my brethren to get the situation but for the condition of my sister in law Mrs. Thomas Scott who with two fine girls of daughters is reduced to narrow circumstances by her husbands death - to be sure they will [not] know any inconvenience that I can save them from but the possession of this small office to which your Lordship may think I have as much pretension as any of the other Clerks of Session will enable me to do so with more ease than otherwise. When you come to Abbotsford your Lordship will I think be easily satisfied that as a Builder & Planter my purse cannot be supposed the most replenishd in Scotland.

Of course nothing can be done in this matter at present but I trust when opportunity occurs your Lordship may think it not unreasonable to hold me in remembrance providing it does not interfere with important claims or engagements. The manner in which your Lordship had the kindness to consider my wishes before disposing of the Situation of Kings Clerk induces me to hope I shall not be held on this occasion altogether an unauthorized intruder. I have the honor to be very much your Lordships faithful & obliged humble Servant.
TO LIEUTENANT WALTER SCOTT, KINGS HUSSARS, R. MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST, BAGSHOT, LONDON

MY DEAR WALTER,-I have your letter which I must say I have been expecting for some time. Something however has happen'd last week which I can only hint to you in a mystical sort of way. You must know Sir Adam and Lady Fergusson brought their niece Miss Jobson 1 here to dinner who seems a very sweet pleasant young woman and has none of the conceit of an heiress about her. Now Sir Adam made a sort of explanation to me of his and his Ladys views towards the young lady to understand the nature of which I beg you to read over the first scene of the Merry Wives of Windsor supposing yourself Mr. Abraham Slender that I am representing the worshipful Justice Shallow and our friend Sir Adam Sir Hugh Evans and that a lady already named is Sweet Mistress Anne Page. I understand she is to pass the summer or part of it at Gattonside House and if you have courage to make the attempt you will have plenty opportunity and as Sir Adam thinks a fair chance of success. I need not point out the great advantages on
the ladys side but there are some on ours also which
would make the match not so remarkable though there
[are] as many wooing at her as at Tibbie Fowler of the
Glen renownd in song.1 But she has seen a little of the
world now and I understand has a good deal of steadiness
of character.

Now if you think this matter worth prosecuting it will
be necessary that you be at Abbotsford in the Summer and
I have no doubt that leave may be obtaind by me from

Sir Alexr. Hope if he succeeds to the establishment. I
have only to add that Sir Hugh Evans is of opinion that
Mr. Slender will not be crossd by the influence of any
Mr. Fenton.

Seriously if you can make up your mind on this matter
and render yourself acceptable in my opinion you may
do worse. There are no unpleasant stipulations of any
kind and you would pursue your profession with the
advantage of a comfortable independence. I am to
suppose that our friends Sir A. and Lady F. would not
have come so far forward in a matter which had not a
face of probability.

You know I have always treated you with the utmost
confidence and therefore expect the same in return and
that I would do everything in my power to contribute
to your happiness.

I will match your old officer of the African Corps with
Henry Cranstoun 1 who has been here telling long stories
out of Gil Blas and Joe Millar as if they were the newest
and wittiest things in the world and to mend the matter
Cats have no terrors for him for old Hinz has sate staring him in the face this half hour.

Mama is pretty well and Anne as usuall. Soph is getting stouter and her child is also better but poor Johnie is a tender plant.

Probably the usual term of vacation will suit well enough to come down instead of employing it in sketching in Kent. But whatever be your resolution we have agreed to say nothing of it untill the time approaches but let the Lockharts and everyone else suppose that you stay all the summer in England as originally intended.

If you desire to break off the matter entirely you will let me know immediatly and I shall inform Sir Hugh Evans that Master Slender is a second Lord Henry.

His thoughts were still on honour bent He never stoopd to love No lady in the land has power His frozen heart to move.1

Yours most affectionately, WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 9th March [PM. 1824]

"five hundred pounds and possibilities are goot gifts " says Sir Hugh Evans.2

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE
DEAR CONSTABLE,—The arms which you kindly procured to be cut for me are wanted to put in some books in Jock Stevensons hand—Will you give him an order for them on the person in whose hands they may be for the time—I regret not being able to take farewell in person but expect to see you in the Summer at Polton 3 once a howff of mine. Always yours truly WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 10 March [1824] [Stevenson]

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TO ROBERT CADELL

DEAR SIR,—In our friend James's absence you will be often troubled with my correspondence. My proofs are to be sent by the Blucher as usual but with this addition "To be left at Morose-bridge toll-bar" which will bring them safe. I beg you will have the kindness to order Lingards history 1 for me and make a bookseller of me for the price. I am just setting off[f]. Yours truly


[Stevenson]

TO DANIEL TERRY, LONDON

ABBOTSFORD, March 13, 1824

MY DEAR TERRY,—We are now arrived here, and in great bustle with painters, which obliges me to press you about the mirrors. If we cannot have them soon, there is now an excellent assortment at Trotter's,2 where
I can be supplied, for I will hardly again endure to have the house turned upside down by upholsterers—and wish the whole business ended, and the house rid of that sort of cattle once for all. I am only ambitious to have one fine mirror over the chimney-piece; a smaller one will do for the other side of the room. Lady Scott has seen some Bannockburn carpets, which will answer very well, unless there are any bespoken. They are putting up my presses, which look very handsome. In the drawing-room, the cedar doors and windows, being well varnished, assume a most rich and beautiful appearance. The Chinese paper in the drawing-room is most beautiful, saving the two ugly blanks left for these mirrors of d--n, which I dare say you curse as heartily as I do. I wish you could secure a parcel of old caricatures which can be bought cheap, for the purpose of papering two cabinets a l'eau. John Ballantyne used to make great hawls in this way. The Tory side of the question would of course be most acceptable; but I don't care about this, so the prints have some spirit. Excuse this hasty and pressing letter; if you saw the plight we are in, you would pity and forgive. At Baldock, as I have had at you. My mother whips me, and I whip the top. Best compliments to Mrs Terry.—Believe me always yours,

WALTER SCOTT

TO JAMES SKENE

ABBOTSFORD, 13th March 1824

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. 1 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             215

(8-215) Surtees, and my own son—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, 1
(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
breeding, and well acquainted with Mr. Williams, but I doubt there is little time for receiving answers,2 and I think with you that we should decide on the 22nd. Pray let our friends know how the business stands. I never heard Blackwood's Magazine received any contributions from Williams, and I do not believe it. I know, however, that Williams extinguished the bonfires at Lampeter which were kindled in honour of Saint Caroline,1 and perhaps that is as great a crime. For God's sake let us have a full meeting, and let our friends be confidentially apprised of what you tell me. To secure the stronghold of education has been a part of the Whig tactics for twenty years past. They have not wealth or numbers to found schools, but by a constant system of manoeuvres they endeavour to intrigue us out of our natural influence in these matters. But if with our eyes open we allow them to get on our backs and ride us with a cobweb in our mouths, I for one think we will deserve the fate we meet with. I have always expected this, and I am glad the thing is put upon a right footing. I hope Dr. Gabells's letter will arrive in time.-Yours truly,

WALTER SCOTT

[Skene-Tytler and Skew's Memories]

TO COLIN MACKENZIE

ABBOTSFORD 13 March 1824

MY DEAR COLIN.-I am favoured with your letter this morning and gratulate you upon your success in your Treasury matter-Indeed I should have thought it very strange and even ominous if your wishes after the talent
with which you have conducted the affairs of the Society 2
had faild to receive attention even when they could be
only insinuated or perhaps guessed at. Richard Mackenzie
is a good fellow and will I am sure be a credit to
your recommendation.

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 217

Respecting our Rectorship I can say only little because
of course much must depend upon our answers from
Oxford and elsewhere. My vouchers for Mr. Williams
present and long-enjoyd character are the Bishop of St.
Davids 1 & Mr. Harford of Blaize Castle-a man of great
wealth, accomplishment and singular pleasing manners-
a traveller and who knows the world like a man that has
lived in it. He is Lord of the Manor of Lampeter and
of course has reason and access to be well acquainted with
Mr. Williams character and that which he expressed to
me was most favourable. I have written to him, also to
Major Evans of Highmead and caused Charles write to
Colonel Lewis of some Welch place or other, the principal
gentry in his neighbourhood. I have caused Charles
also write to Surtees 2 at Oxford who with several other of
Mr. Williams pupils will I believe be most happy to bring
evidence in his behalf and surely the inmates of his house
for two or three years, young men of family and education
should be good evidence in favour of one whom they had
an opportunity to know so well. I only doubt if in the
course cross posts &c. I can get answers so soon as the
23rd-I hope however my own opinion of the report of
the opinion of Mr. Harford and the Bishop of Saint
Davids when I had in view a thing as important to me as
an individual as the rectorship can be, namely the desire to
know if my son was suitably placed will be worth something.

I highly approve of your writing to the gentlemen
you name at Oxford. Indeed it was only the apparent

acquiescence of Mr. Horner which made me advise
Williams to dispense with all but the necessary certificates.
- You will easily believe if anything really disgraceful
can be imputed to Mr. W. with truth, I will be the first
man to give up the point. But there is a wide distinction
between actions which indicate want of heart or honourable
feeling and the ordinary faults of manner into which
a solitary student working his way into the world with a
consciousness of talent and an ignorance of the time and
manner in which wit and acquired information ought to
be displayd and which is only to be learnd in good
society. Some of the most distinguished scholars I have
known who have forced their way up from the lower ranks
by dint of talent were decidedly most disagreeable
companions to those who could not receive their real
knowledge in excuse for their aberrations from the path of
ordinary behaviour. Again as to the follies or absurdities
of young men at college, Why the Lord help the best
of us if these are not to suffer at least a decennial
prescription. Thus I speak totally ignorant of what our
Oxford applications may produce-For myself as a man
conscious of many follies and in a religious sense too many
vices, I have much commiseration with the frailty of
others and can see with great equanimity one learned
Whig flourishing whom I know a fit subject for Bedlam
and another whom the report of his present friends at
one time said merited a post on the tread-mill for most
dishonourable swindling and applying to his own use
the subscription received for the relief of a distressed
patriot bound to Botany Bay for having been a little too
eager in the great work of revolution. I own however
that in the case of a Tory I might not have the same
latitude in the latter circumstances.

Skene writes me that Lesley 1 the Marplot of neat devices has let out the history of the opposition to Williams and he has doubtless acquainted you that it is because the fellow as he terms a gentleman of ten times his learning is supposed to have written two papers in Blackwoods Magazine after which you know it was only necessary for a staff to beat the dog. Leonard Horner seems to have been pretty active to find one—At least I will certainly ask him why he did not speak to Dr. Jenkyns, 1 Mr. of Baliol, said to be Williams friend and have endeavoured to learn his cause for supporting a person so obnoxious as Williams is represented to have been—Your very judicious application will probably supply this gap in the evidence and I trust timeously. It will be no light matter of general averment that will change my opinion on Mr. Williams merits founded as they are on the evidence of the pupils and his neighbours and not brought forward to serve any immediate purpose but in consequence of my own investigations for my own satisfaction and of which in my sons improvement I have received the strongest confirmation. But the evidence which is satisfactory to me may not be so to others and I have neither right nor wish to press it upon our friends—The rectorship is not half so necessary to Mr. Williams as he is to the establishment—In fact I am surprized at his taking it. As to Mr. Fisher 2 I have not the least doubt he is a Whig of one degree or other otherwise depend upon it he would not be so supported by the whole cry. It is and has been long their tactique to get and keep possession of public schools and they make up by assiduity and union what they want in influence to accomplish their
They do not scruple to employ our best and most honourable feelings on these subjects to appeal to our candour, our humanity, our sense of honour and whenever they gain a trick it is always by making some well-natured Tory take the lead. I suspect you will find Hay I has been humbugd in this manner. After all I have no children to be bred up Whigs, those I have are content to be no wiser than their father. If I thought there was any difficulty of carrying Williams I would sprain my ancle on purpose and stay where I am.

Into our schools and colleges they creep. They've sense to win what we want sense to keep. I should have liked extremely to have talked the matter over & considered whether in the event of Williams being out of the question we might not try Mauldon who is an excellent man in point of private character. I do not fear any loss to the school by chusing Williams. Wilsons class is larger than ever Dugald Stuarts was & they did their worst against him in the way not merely of calumny but of truth for his youthful eccentricities all of which were of course raked up were of a very singular description. Yet you see how the appointment has turned out. Take a man of talents & you will seldom fail in your object.

I have written to Skene and to Robt. Dundas, Arniston. But I fear I shall have as on other occasions the sad fate of Cassandra who could never get any one to believe her prophecies till the event proved them true.

But for the distress in your family I should have offerd
myself to Harcus on Sunday and we might have gone on
together on Monday. It would be a terrible sacrifice of
time to ask you to come here on Saturday—I hope in
God things are mending with you & if so perhaps you
might think of it. We durst not trust to a journey on
Monday from this distance as we must see how my
friends stand affected as soon as possible.

[unsigned]
Addressed: Colin Mackenzie Esq of Portmore
Harcus Cottage, Eddleston
[Brotherton]

TO LADY DAVY, 23 LOWER GROSVENOR STREET, LONDON

MY DEAR LADY DAVY,—We are bound to proceed in
the matter of our election with the greatest impartiality
we can. Mr. Mauldon's character is most excellent but
his youth and want of experience and of the authority
attendant upon experience are disadvantages to him.
Believe however your recommendation can do him no
harm with me.

Since I am writing I have a family question to
ask you of rather a hobbyhorsical nature. I am you
know a herald and I have made a little entrance
hall at Abbotsford with a good deal of blazonry. I got
well enough through the eight quarters of my paternal
coat though chiefly belonging to persons who like Poins
were proper men of their hands and younger brothers. I
But having lost my good mother who was a wonderful
genealogist I have been on her side only able to climb
back as far as her great grandfather John Rutherford of

Grundisnook upon Jedwater who is said to have been a younger brother of the Hunthill family. Now this John Rutherford had for wife a certain Isabel Kerr daughter of Kerr of Bloodylaws upon Oxenham water of which family I understand yours is descended and hence a connection which was very intimate between old Dr. Rutherford my Grandfather and Dr. Kerr of Northampton and hence I have the honour to claim you in some sort for my cousin. I want therefore to know providing your Ladyship can tell me how your uncle or father carried the arms of Kerr that I may put them in their place in the little Gothic Hall aforesaid. As for the other intermarriages of the doughty Rutherfords I must e’en paint clouds on the shields where they should be placed and announce to all mankind that I cannot pretend to be a canon of Strasburgh. These things are foolish enough when accurate but something rather worse than contemptible when assumed without authority—Any sketch or impression of a seal or verbal description will serve my turn. Excuse this trouble from an admirer of Griffins and wyvers and lions rampant and reguardants and the whole Menagerie of Heraldry.

Lady Scott joins me in begging you will visit Tweedside this season which my dear Lady Davy affords the great chance of our meeting for I have no business in London and God knows little pleasure in going there for any other purpose. Except yourself and two or three old friends the place is a waste to me—a waste the more unpleasant that I remember how it was formerly peopled. Amidst the advantages of forming friendships with men more advanced in years than oneself there is this vile drawback that you seem to grow old before your day. You see the children
of your friends children sometimes very different from
their fathers in possession of their houses and estates and
are yourself a stranger where you used to be most intimate.
So pray come my dear friend and see Abbotsford which
besides its whimsicalities is really as comfortable a gentlemen's
residence as any in the neighbourhood I need not say

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 223

how happy we are always to see Sir Humphrey when his
wanderings lead him our way I beg kind compts to him
and am always dear Lady Davy Affectionately and truly
yours WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 14th March [PM. 1824]
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO ROBERT CADELL

DEAR SIR,-Please send these leaves to the transcriber
who will now be supplied regularly—indeed I think of
having Mr Gordon out here in the beginning of next
week to be at my hand.

I send two sheets of Swift for MacCorkindale & a little
parcel for John Stevenson-Pray let McCorkindale know I should like to see all
Swifts life as it goes through press Yours truly

ABBOTSFORD Monday [15 March 1824] W SCOTT
(private)

TO ANNE SCOTT
MY DEAR ANNE,-I had your kind letter and am much concerned on account of your mother's illness. It prepared me to expect what today's post acquainted me with—the death of your grandmother. Her state of health and the extreme verge of life which she had attained makes such a deprivation an event not to be deeply lamented but still the tearing asunder of so near a bond of humanity even when it has lost much of its hold through age and infirmity is a shock to the survivor and I will be much obliged to you to let me know how your mother is. The Erisipelas has of late been a more common complaint than usual in this country for diseases as well as doctors have a kind of fashion & the infinite variety of nature is such that she does not permit us even to suffer in exactly the same way which we did a year or two past.

I have not heard lately from Walter—pray scold him a little when you write to Addiscombe. Death has deprived him too of an excellent friend in Sir Thos. Reid.

We are pegged up or rather hermetically sealed in one corner of this house while a host of painters occupy the rest. The worst evil is the smell of the turpentine which gives me a constant headache though I keep it a secret as I do not intend to quit the fellows to their own devices especially among the lions rampant & griffins volant which begin to decorate the hall. It is lucky dear Anne that the world has baubles fitted for all ages & lucky too when the taste continues to be pleased with the means of amusement which circumstances put in our power. So I go on quartering and parting per pale as I used formerly to course hares and ride high-trotting horses like Mad Tom over nine-inch bridges—there is a slip of morality
for you to bring out with a sigh the next Sunday evening.

Lady Scotts asthma is I think better despite the turpentine but Anne has hacked herself to death in Edinburgh & is looking ill & thin; the red nurse & the brown doctor (cow namely & poney) will I hope bring her round very soon.

Remember me affectionately to your Mother & to Eliza.3 And tell Eliza Uncle begs she will attend to her schooling particularly. I hope to have some pleasant news to send your mama soon. Farewell my love and

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 225

whenever you want any thing mind you let me know-& believe me very affectionately Your uncle & friend

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE 17th March [1824]

Excuse the wax-I have none as it happens of the colour which the letter requires & I hate wafers.

Say everything that is proper on my part to your uncles upon the loss they have sustaind.

[Huntington]

TO ROBERT CADELL

MY DEAR SIR,-I do not believe anything very serious has been done about Shakespeare for no agreement was ever enterd into & consequently although I have the 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 a work of the least value it must be very long in hand & would probably take two or three years at least beyond the space you propose. It is a sort of work which cannot be hurriedly executed.

(8-225)I intend being in town on some business on Monday & 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 your assistance, is now finished, and Mr Hay 1 has drawn out all their armorial bearings with great accuracy, and is transferring them to the Hall. I just [want] the armorial bearings of one family with which you can easily supply me—it is the coat of the Olivers, which I find in no book of heraldry, though it must be well known to you: Pray send it by post, either in description or a heraldic sketch. . . . Very truly yours

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(8-226)WALTER SCOTT

(8-226)ABBOTSFORD 20 March [1824]

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES SKENE
ABBOTSFORD, 26th March [1824]

MY DEAR SKENE,—I send you Surtees's letter concerning Mr. Williams. It is directed to Charles. Mr. Surtees is a young man of excellent principles and great promise as a scholar, about twenty-one years of age. Probably a letter from Major Evans of Highmead addressed to me has reached Mr. Russell to whose care it was addressed, in which case I beg you will take the trouble to open it and communicate it to the Directors if you see proper.

Our opponents will be very busy, but they can but bring the Crambe bis cocta, the repetition of the same report which the Wykehamites are necessarily interested in spreading to justify their own treatment of Mr. Williams. I trust to you to keep our friends up to this Whig gossip, for such it is. Aytoun spoke fairly about the influence of opinions out of doors. For my part, knowing how easily a cry is raised, I will be the last to trust the vox populi. For the reputation of the school, one month of Williams will set it on its legs, and I think Horner and Cockburn will not drive matters to this extremity, but will make the best of a bad bargain.

I have a letter from one MacTulloch, Mr. Russell's clerk, in which he, pretending to give the shortened list of candidates, has omitted the name of Ridley. Has Ridley retired or is this gross negligence or something worse, or is it but a slip of the pen in my particular letter? I beg you will inquire into this. I have written my sense of it to send Mr. MacTulloch.
Adieu, sleep with one eye open, and believe me ever yours, WALTER SCOTT

TO JAMES SKENE

ABBOTSFORD, Sunday [28th March 1824] (1)

MY DEAR SKENE,-The enclosed puts Mr. Williams' character into a striking and, I conclude, a fair point of view, and accounts for the origin of much of the scandal. Major Evans is a man of fortune, residing in his immediate neighbourhood, son-in-law to Lord Robert Seymour. Mr. Aytoun's principle is totally inadmissible. What man of common-sense would give up a charge to come down here upon a trial[.] In one sense, indeed, he is always on a trial, and may be parted with according to the terms of the prospectus upon very short notice if found unworthy, and Mr. Williams on his own offer of service has expressly taken out of the way any delicacy we could have on this point arising from circumstances of a pecuniary nature.

I agree with you we cannot easily get over Barker. I have little doubt private influence has been used to take Ridley out of the field. I wish Barker had been rather an under- than an English master. But I do not see how we can put any suitable person in his place. I have good opinion of Thistlethwaite. It is true he may be rather too good for our purpose, but such a character as his will keep the school high.
Heber sends me enclosed a long tirade addressed to him by Mr. Hare of Trinity College, to be shown to me, repeating the charges against Williams, but Heber intimates at the same time Hare is a Whig, and he himself desires to be considered as saying nothing on the subject.

I shall answer these properly.

Your order of battle is excellent, and by adhering to it we shall be secure of victory. I know nothing these gentlemen can have to say except producing the records of the New College, which I told Cockburn I would admit without seeing them. But they will lump the Rectorship as dogs do pudding, and try to play some back game. I will be with you on Friday. - Yours truly,

WALTER SCOTT

Our friend Sir Robert is, I understand, much stumbled. [Skene's Memories]

TO LORD MONTAGU

MY DEAR LORD, - I have been more than once on the point of writing to your Lordship merely to say that you owe me a letter at least if not two - But then Duns in the epistolary way have not the ready apology of urgent creditors of a different description who can always plead they have a sum to make up and therefore modestly hope their correspondent will settle his little accompt. I on the contrary easily supposing your Lordship has more important business than writing to me had little room to
complain when I reflected that I had nothing to say on my part which could be very interesting to you.

I think however that at present you will be glad to learn authentically the state of my poor neighbour Gala's health who has had a dreadful & very near a fatal accident-if indeed he still escapes from the consequences. He had a very bad fall in hunting about eight days ago or more & cut his head very severely but as he lost much blood, & had no fever no consequences were for five or six days apprehended except suffering and I had heard on Thursday night that he was continuing to do well-But we were greatly alarmd at two the next morning by an express coming to seek ice a sudden & very violent fever having taken place in the course of which the pulse rose to 140. Luckily I had caused the ice-house to be filld on the only occasion which offerd this last year otherwise I believe there was not an ounce nearer than Edinburgh. The application was made with success but in spite of this refrigerating application the pulse only abated to 120 and the medical men seemd to give up all hope. Happily a favourable crisis took place after the intervention of many hours & it is now hoped he will do very well the crisis having been passd. As Gala has more talent sense & acquired information than one half of my neighbours supposing their best qualities creamd off and beat up together I am proportionally glad at this fair chance of recovery & your Lordship both in respect of his merit and your family connection with Gala will I am sure be glad to hear that the physicians now entertain the most sanguine hopes of his recovery. So young-a few years married-with an infant family & only one son when the estate is strictly entaile on heirs male were circumstances
(8-231) independent of Galas merit to make his case generally interesting.

(8-231) I should be greatly obliged when your Lordship can spare a few lines that you would let me know how Lady Montagu—your ladies—the Duke Lord John and all my young friends are doing—if there had been illness I should probably have heard but it is always a greater satisfaction to have positive evidence that all are well.

(8-231) I have finished my mansion here (outside) to the amazement of all beholders—but I have a great contempt for that commonplace expostulation Lord what will all the people say Mr. Mayor Mr. Mayor.

(8-231) The painters are busy with me but the joiners the vilest knaves of the whole party seem in no hurry to part with my bookshelves. I think they bring boards into the room & amuse themselves by drumming upon them so great is the noise and so little in comparaison the progress—

(8-232) I have been transplanting trees on Sir Henry Stuart of Allantons plan—although the greatest coxcomb living he does that matter admirably without either lopping & topping or propping & staying the trees in their new situation. It is as he practises it positively a discovery & a great one for those who would hasten natures tardy operations in forming a place.

(8-232) I am always with kind Compliments to Lady Montagu to Lady Anne & the married young ladies as well as the unmarried Dear Lord Montagu Most truly yours.
TO ROBERT CADELL

DEAR SIR,- I send some copy-We have been off the
hooks here with the apprehension of losing my dear
friend Mr Scott of Gala who has been at death's door by
a fall from his horse. He is better but his state still
precarious.

I send some sheets of Swift. The carrier will bring a
terrier dog for Mr Constable which the folks at the shop
will please take great care of as it will elope if let loose and
they will send it to Mr Constable by the first opportunity.
Pray take care of the inclosed & believe me Yours very
truly
W. S.

[ABBOTSFORD 29 March 1824]
[Stevenson]

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 233

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR CONSTABLE,- Since I receivd your letter I have
been on the look out for a companion for you and have
now the pleasure to send one bred at Abbotsford of a
famous race. His name has hitherto been Cribb but you
may change it if you please. I will undertake for his doing
execution upon the rats which Polton was well stocked
with when I knew it some seventeen or eighteen years ago.
You must take some trouble to attach Mr Cribb otherwise
he will form low connections in the kitchen which are not
easily broken off. The best & most effectual way is to
feed him yourself for a few days.

I congratulate you heartily my good old friend on your
look forward to domestic walks and a companion of
this sort and I have no doubt your health will gradually
be confirmed by it. I will take an early opportunity to
see you when we return to Edinburgh. I like the banks of
the Esk which to me are full of many remembrances
among which those relating to poor Leyden must come
home to you as well as me. I am ringing in my improvements
painting my baronial [hall] with all the scutcheons
of the Border clans and many similar devices. For the

rooftree I tried to blazon my own quarterings & succeeded
easily with eight on my fathers side. But on my
mothers side I stuck fast at the mother of my great great
grandfather. The ancestor himself was John Rutherfoord
of Grundisnook which is an appanage of the Hunthill
estate & he was married to Isobel Ker of Bloodylaws.
I think I have heard that either this John of Grundisnook
or his father was one of the nine sons of the celebrated
Cock of Hunthill who seems to have had a reasonable
brood of chickens. Do you know anything of the pedigree
of the Hunthills

The Earl of Teviot was of a younger
branch Rutherford of Quarrelholes but of the same
family. If I could find out these Rutherfords & who they
married I could complete my tree which is otherwise
correct-but if not I will paint clouds on these three
shields with the motto Vixerunt fortes ante. These things
are trifles when correct but very absurd and contemptible
if otherwise. Edgerstane cannot help me. He only knows
that my grandfather was a cousin of his & you know he represents Hunhill. My poor mother has often told me about it but it was to regardless ears. Would to God I had old Mrs Kedie of Leith who screeded off all the alliances between the Andersons of Ettrick House & the Andersons of Ettrickhall though Michael was the name of every second man and to complete the mess they intermarried with each other.1

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 235

My kindest Compliments attend Mrs Constable. When you have time to write I will be glad to know that Cribb came safe. I am always Dear Constable Very truly yours WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Monday [29 March 1824]

The dog goes by this days carrier & is addressd to Princes Street.

A terrier dog

For Archibald Constable Esq

To be deliverd at the Shop of Messrs Constable & Go Booksellers No 1 Princes Street Edinburgh.

[Stevenson]

236 LETTERS OF 1824

TO [JAMES BALLANTYNE]

MY FIDLES would be renderd much more piquant by the occasional use of a Musical phrase.1 Sure you could help me to this.
All the Novels are in the Country. I think the work had best stand till I go there on Saturday se'nnight-on Monday you shall have copy.

You never send Running Copy of any thing. I want the volumes of Swift so far as not yet sent. Also 2 copies of Richardson's volumes which I have not even seen. I will get some Swift for you as soon as possible (having first the running copy wanted). Knowing how my time is occupied you should always give me a little premonition.

[without signature]

[ circa end of March 1824]

[Glen]

TO MRS. HUGHES

ABBOTSFORD 1st April 1824

MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-I write in haste to say I have received your very acceptable letter. I rejoice in Dr. Hughes' recovered health and in the renew'd prospect of your northern journey. I would almost have advised the delay for a month or six weeks for our Scotch springs are very chilly matters though our summers are like our neighbours' & our autumns excellent. But we must be thankful to take you when duty health &c permit.2 Our motions are regulated by my official attendance on the court which carries me to Edinburgh from 12 May to 12 July. I shall be here till 12 May therefore and beg you to come as soon as you can. I would have been
delighted to see the young tourist & hope for that pleasure another day. Lady Scott joins in Compliments to the Doctor & I always am Dear Mrs. Hughes most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

All the world knows that Abbotsford is four miles from the Capital city of Selkirk lying on the north west road to Carlisle. We hope you will make your visit a week at the very least.

TO JAMES SKENE

ABBOTSFORD, Thursday [1st April 1824] (2)

MY DEAR SKENE,—Although I am to be with you before four to-morrow, I think it as well to send the enclosed by the Mail coach as they not only contain some very important evidence in Mr. Williams' favour, but an account of Mr. Hare's conduct (Mr. Homers friend) not much to the credit of his fairness or liberality. I allude to compelling a young man of New College to withdraw a testimony in favour of Mr. Williams as being a slur upon the College. It seems a little hard that, not being contented with disposing of their own patronage, these gentlemen Wykehamites should meddle with ours. You will be pleased with Surtees's letters and zeal. I am always truly yours, WALTER SCOTT

I look upon Hare's letter to Heber as extremely ultroneous and uncalled for.

[Skene-Tytler and Skene's Memories]
TO HIS SON WALTER

DEAR WALTER, I just have received yours and Justice Shallow proceeds to let Mr Abraham Slender see as far into the mill-stone as he himself does. Both Mr Slender's indispensable conditions have been considered and acceded to. Sir Hugh Evans & the Justice are equally of opinion that it would be the worst and most imprudent thing in the world that Mr Slender should give up his profession. Respecting name Mr Slender remains in undivided possession of his own without subtraction or addition. Moreover Sir Hugh says that Mrs Anne Page whose fortune is entirely in her own hands would not he thinks be averse to sell her Fife estate as she does not admire the neighbourhood and to buy where it might be agreeable to Mr Slender. But then Sir Hugh in the overflowing of his soul is so keen a friend to the proposal that what he says must be taken with some qualification.

I have waited five or six days in vain for a fit opportunity to talk with Sir Hugh on the amount of Mrs Pages certainties and possibilities. In my opinion if they should not reach so far as to make Mr Slenders situation (with what he may expect from the Justice) easy & independent & insure him against the casualties of life, as Master Slender prosecutes a poor profession, much temptation to the negotiation would be taken away. I will endeavour to combien the good knight as we say who have traveled in France & I will acquaint you with [the result].
It is clear that your coming down here must be considered as entirely experimental and not binding you or Anne Page to anything. What I should like to be satisfied of are Principles, Temper and manners. Deficiencies in any of these prime articles would be a real scrape and perhaps as the mother is a Tartar the second qualification should be carefully examined. Supposing these essential points all right you are still to please yourself as to her person & so forth. Upon her connections I would just remark that we are but cadets of Raeburn who are cadets of Harden and therefore, though gentlemen, are much like what the French call Gentillatres and the highlanders Duniewassells.1 In the present day there is no aristocracy so strong as that of wealth or talent and no one thinks of making some sacrifices of the prejudices of birth to acquire the former. Witness the valiant knights & squires now laying siege to Mrs Anne Page. I therefore would not have you take up poor Annes follies who rather makes herself ludicrous by some affectation of superiority. With regard to connection you have less need of it than most folks but this match did it go forward would include a political interest of the most influential sort which would almost insure your rise in your profession. This if necessary may be afterwards explained. Gentle relations (like Maxie our chief) are apt to be damnably troublesome in the way of requests & the great relations of our wives have a bad trick of looking over their noses whereas such as you suppose belong to Mrs Page (of which I know nothing) may be kept at bay with a little civility & sometimes are apt to remember that "my cousins Sir W. and Lady S--" are words which sound handsomely in a will. So if the girl pleased you in other respects & you pleased her which
may be as much of a question I would not disturb my 
mind on that subject were I in your case. Your own 
situation would hold you so high that hers could not 
materi ally affect you.

This is a subject however on which I would not wish 
to exercise any controul-my advice would be that unless 
something remarkable should turn out between hands 
you may as well come down to Scotland during your 
vacation. Cela ne tire a rien-you do nothing but what is 
the most natural thing in the world and your future 
advance or retreat will depend upon your own observation, 
upon your reception and upon the other circumstances 
of the case. If you are of this opinion you can write to 
me in such a stile as I can shew to Sir Hugh Evans expressing 
some readiness to improve your slight acquaintance 
in a certain quarter. There is no fear of your being 
snapd up in spite of yourself. I am much concerned 
to say that in consequence of a bad fall when hunting 
on the Rink Hill 1 we have almost lost Gala. He has 
been dreadfully ill-indeed given over by the Doctors & 
at two o'clock on Thursday morning we were alarmed by 
an application for ice which most fortunately the ice-house 
is stocked with. It was applied to the head & brought the 
pulse down from 150 to 120-He is much better but 
subject to relapse and the medical men think his state 
very precarious.

Mama is pretty well but the cold weather hurts her 
asthma [sic]. The wind seems still to blow through snow. 
Spice and Ginger are very well-eat up the cold meat 
provided for breakfast this morning as Robinson Crusoe 
says to " their exceeding refreshment." They desire
TO LADY LOUISA STUART, GLOUCESTER PLACE, LONDON

MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,- Your very kind and most welcome letter I was in one sense not merely red hot coals but a whole torrent of scalding lava poured on my head and yet in another it lets me see that your Ladyship has been very kind in overlooking my long stupid and ungrateful silence which I had really kept till I was ashamed and afraid to break it there is something so miserable in bringing forwards all the rascally excuses which one has palmed upon themselves for putting off from week to week and from day to day the thing which one ought to do and (such is our strange inconsistence) wish to do and like to do and yet do not do that the poor culprit sometimes stands too effectually self condemned to venture even to solicit pardon. L. L. S. have been three letters which have been traced on the leaves of my asses-skin and still more deeply on my asses pate for many months-the meaning of which was write to Lady Louisa Stuart-But as your goodness has spared me from the censure which I have deserved I will plead my pardon as a traitor does his remission and enter upon my rights as a correspondent without farther apology since in fact I have none to make worth listening to. Our worst news here
is that my best and most valuable friend and neighbour Gala has been at death's door in consequence of a fall in hunting our best that he has escaped-at first the extent of the injury was not known nor was there any danger apprehended worse than a deep ugly cut in the head must necessarily be attended with. But the fever rose so high that his life was at one time entirely despaired of and many days he was in the utmost danger. It pleased God which I shall always be grateful for that we had secured the only chance which the season afforded to fill the ice-house here and were able to supply them. It was applied to his head continually and with an effect which even bleeding could not produce. And so what we provided as mere article of luxury has contributed to save the life of this excellent young man. He is now out of danger and I have excellent accounts of him this morning perhaps your Ladyship may have an opportunity to send a note to Petersham I understand a late letter of mine to Lord Montagu carried the first news of his danger there fortunately the worst was then over. He fell at least fifteen feet down a sort of precipice and the wonder of all who witnessed the accident is that he was not killed on the spot. I am deeply grieved at Morritts distress-I was afraid from the moment he adopted these young people in themselves unexceptionable (most especially the girls and I trust the young man also) that the hereditary weakness of constitution would be the means of giving him very much uneasiness. I did not indeed conceal from him my opinion that situated as he was on Mrs. Morritts death without any object on which to fix those domestic affections of which no man has a larger or warmer portion he ought to have formed a second matrimonial engagement where if he had had good sense
and good temper (and he is not a man to be taken in by mere outside) he could not have failed of happiness. Providence who gave him wealth talents general esteem and a high station in society with one of the best and most benevolent of hearts seems strangely to have counter-balanced these splendid advantages by keeping his affections on the torture for so many years through the indifferent health of those dear to him—I always thought Miss Martyn a twaddling disagreeable woman with something like misplaced pretension about her but her services in the sick chamber and her devotion to the young ladies must naturally have given her a very different rank in poor Morritts estimation who helpless [as] a man must find himself during his nieces protracted illness cannot look on her but as their instructress whose presence gives them assistance and himself comfort. So upon the whole he must feel this a woeful aggravation of his domestic uneasiness. I think very little of the volumes I sent your Ladyship and were I not a builder and a buyer of books and land would long since have resigned the office of standing public tale-teller. But while it is worth a great many thousand pounds a year what mortal wight can refrain from labouring his brains. I think the next will consist of two tales one of which will be an extract from the crusade history. Your late and present melancholy occupation my dear Lady Louisa are the penance we pay for having enjoyed in earlier days the countenance and protection of friends and relations, older than ourselves and I know by experience how sad it is to see those whom we love gradually weeded away from the world in which we are left. In my youth I gained much of the limited information of which I may be possessed by keeping company with those older and wiser than myself and I
sigh when I think of the great number of excellent persons with whom I had some intimacy that are now no more. Still there is some comfort that those who have lived in youth with the aged may be said to have collected the wisdom of two generations instead of one. I sometimes laugh to myself when I hear the younger people about me talk of the improvement of the world and the concentrated talent and wisdom which the age has supplied seeming not to be aware that such men as Adam Smith, David Hume, Robertson, Adam Ferguson et caetera lived in that which preceded ours. Hume was before my time but I knew all the others.

An accident which must have been very alarming has I find happened at Ditton with the fall of a lamp with its massive leaden counterpoise: fortunately no one was much hurt though Charles Douglas was slightly cut.

Death lies in ambush around us even in our most peaceful and social moments. I will be extremely desirous to see the miniature of the Montagu family and will hint to my Lord M. that I wish he would bring them down. They are the most pleasing though I rather suspect the most difficult resemblances. The reduced size naturally softens the countenance diminishes the effect of any harshness or disproportion of features and renders the likeness pleasing without flattery. Most portraits of full size unless those which are of the first order of merit have a sort of absurd caricatura look whether owing entirely to the artist or connected with the air of pretension which the subject is apt to assume I cannot tell. The portrait at Ditton which your Ladyship notices was the last which poor Sir Henry Raeburn ever put pencil to and unluckily did not receive his last touches but is still a better picture (the
subject considered) than any one but Lawrence could at present produce. I believe the increased expansion of countenance may be traced in the splendid original. When I had last the honour of waiting upon you I was scarce recovered from a very long illness and was much pulled down as they say. I have a great horror at the idea of becoming corpulent which would be a much greater inconvenience to me than any one else so I sincerely hope I am not feeding off I but have only attained my natural embonpoint. I rise early (it has but just struck seven) take much exercise and eat only twice a day. My breakfast would to be sure ruin a poor man who might chance to board [me] on low terms but my dinner is very moderate. I have Lord Castlereagh here with me on a visit—a very fine goodhumoured young man but they must have been mad if they sent a young man of his rank to Edinr. to study. It is positively the idiest place I know and Misses and Mammas and second rate Bucks, not to mention some remnants of the old school make it the most dangerous place I know for a young man of immediate consequence and future expectations. My sons have nothing of the first and very little of the second and yet merely as smart young men and reasonable partners in a quadrille they have so many provocations to idleness that I am always delighted to get them out of Edinr. though at the expence of losing their society. I am delighted my dear little half god-daughter is turning out beautiful. I was at her christening poor soul and took the oaths as representing I forget whom. That was in the time when Dalkeith was Dalkeith—how changed alas I was forced there the other day by some people who wanted to see the house and I felt as if it would have done...
me a great deal of good to have set my manhood aside
to get into a corner and cry like a school boy. Every bit
of furniture now looking old and paltry had some story
and recollections about it and the deserted gallery which
I have seen so happily filled seemed waste and desolate
like Moores

Banquet hall deserted
Whose flowers are dead
Whose odours fled
And all but I departed.

But it avails not either sighing or moralizing—to have
known the good and the great the wise and the witty is,
still on the whole a pleasing reflection though saddened
by the thought that their voices are silent and their halls
empty. I have been building by degrees a house which
I long to show Lady Louisa Stuart because it is a good
deal out of the common run—neither castle nor priory

1824          SIR WALTER SCOTT    247

—but an attempt at the old manor house of a comfortable
country family. I have gamboled a little in the entrance
hall which is a Dalilah, as Dryden says of some of his
flights 1 of my own imagination, which I know was not in
very good taste when I did it but why should a gentleman
not be a little fantastic as Tony Lumpkin says " so be he
is in concatenation accordingly." 2

Having filled my kiver with nonsense I must in common
charity and fair play send to Sir Alexander Don for a
frank. All the world says that this privileged person is
going to be married to a certain Miss Stein, but as he does
not say so himself I scarce can persuade myself that it is
true.3 I am always my dear Lady Louisa your truly
obliged and grateful humble servant

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 4th April 1824

I cannot conceive how the direction was blundered.
These beasts of booksellers who live by other peoples thoughts are the last men in creation who should presume to think upon their own account.

[Abbottsford Copies]

TO ROBERT CADELL

DEAR SIR,-Tomorrow or rather Wednesday I will send what is wanting of Swift & some copy. This has proof Sheets.

Croker has sent me a copy of Mrs Howards correspondence I therefore send one volume by this parcel of that set you were so kind as to send and I will keep the other to ballast my next dispatch. Yours very truly

Monday [5 April 1824] WALTER SCOTT

The inclosd note is about my subscription to Playfairs Monument 2 which I see had escaped my memory. In fact I forget the amount but beg you will take the trouble to pay it whatever it may be & let me know the sum.

[Stevenson]

TO HIS SON WALTER
MY DEAR WALTER,-I took the first proper opportunity of comme bien Sir Hugh Evans and the result is as follows. Lochore is at present things being on the mending hand worth from £1200 to £1400 per annum. This property I understand Mrs Anne Page is not very desirous of retaining: it cannot be called worth less than £45000 or from that to £50000. There is besides a very large personal property but old Mr Page speculated with a great many thousands on the Waterloo bridge which produce no return. There is cash in the funds and so forth producing income to about the extent of £20,000 of principal. So that the said Mrs is worth from £60,000 to £70,000 diminished only by the widows jointure of £500 per annum. In other words your joint income might amount to £1500 or £2000 a year sufficient for a good deal of stile and yet for saving something to indulge any favourite whim or to make provision for contingencies.

Now these are no empty nuts, nor do I believe there are many pair of mustachoed jaws in H. Majys. service that would not be glad to crack them. But you must make up your mind immediatly for some arrangements will be necessary that Lady Evans who is warmly your friend may bring about your meeting Mrs Anne in the right and delicate way so that you may have an opportunity of seeing whether the thing suits the parties chiefly concerned. If on the whole you give the matter up it is best to write me a letter such as I can show Sir Hugh stating your youth and love of your profession as the reason for declining such a valuable opportunity. But if you mean to try your fortune say when you will be in Scotland and that without loss of time that we may not 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. 2

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 Premit Nox alta. 1 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) discredtitable 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.]
6 April [1824]

You may misconstrue a part of the above as if I thought your leaving the army a probable or desireable event-by no means-but if no war breaks out some years hence and if you should go on half-pay or if I (if I last so long) should break much you might probably in any of these events think of lying bye for a while alors comme alors.

[Law]

TO HIS SON WALTER

DEAR WALTER,- Your letter foolishly addressed to Castle Street (which costs a days delay & 7d besides of postage) only reached this morning and as matters seem to be pressing I do not wait for a stamp but inclose a letter of credit on Messrs Coutts for £50 directing them to answer your draught for that amount. You will of course in drawing your bill direct it to be placed to my accompt & forward the letter. I think you have done very sensibly to propose coming down-ones own eyes are alone to be trusted.

I hope Mrs Carpenter if you travel with her wont make you wait so long in town as she did me-and rather wonder she should think of coming before the 12 July has brought us here. As for your travelling expences laissez faire a Don Antoine. If there is to be a campaign you must take the field smartly to be sure & some camp equipage may be necessary. But more of this when I see Sir Adam which will not be till the end of this week as he
is looking after some property to purchase for his son. Land has made an awful start. 15000 profit has been offered & refused for Riddell.

The Xth have behaved like coxcombs but Battier 2 must be an ass - he is I am informed incurably ruptured a proper complaint for a cavalro officer. Lord Castlereagh is here just now sworn brothers with Sir Charles they go out and toil the whole day and " catch no fish " friday was an exception when they went to Ashestiel and brought home a miraculous draught of six dozen.

You are quite right to go to Col McDonalds ball & it was careless in you to take the wrong day for the levee. There is a bit and a buffet for you.

On consideration if Mrs Carpenter came here in June Mama and Anne might remain to receive her at Abbotsford although I am not liberated till the 12 July. I believe I will have occasion to write soon so now conclude as being your affectionate father WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 13 April [1824]

Mama and Anne are well & send kind love. Here is Siberian weather-the country two or three inches deep in snow which alarms us for the lambing season. A letter of yours addressed to a Mr Heigham has been returned here after long travelling. Shall I forward it to you or keep it till you come.

Addressed : Lieut Walter Scott/15th Hussars R.M. College Sandhurst
TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK, WINDSOR

MY DEAR LORD,- You might justly think me most unmerciful were you to consider this letter as a provoke requiring an answer. It comes partly to thank you twenty times for your long & most kind letter 1 and the information which it conveys on many points so interesting to me and partly which I think not unnecessary to send you for information to Captain & Mrs. Scott that Gala may I trust be considerd as quite out of danger. He has swum for his life though & barely saved it. It is for the credit of the clan to state he had no dishonour as a horse man by the fall. He had alighted to put his saddle to rights and the horse full of corn & little workd went off with him before he got into his seat & went headlong down a sort of precipice. He fell at least fifteen feet without stopping & no one that saw the accident could hope he should be taken up a living man. Yet after losing a quart of blood he walkd home on foot & no dangerous symptoms appeard till five or six days after when they came with a vengeance. He continues to use the ice with wonderful effect though it seems a violent remedy.

How fate besets us in our sports and our most quiet domestic moments-Your Lordships story of the lamp makes one shudder & I think it wonderful that Lady Montagu felt no more bad effects from the mere terror of such an accident but the gentlest characters have often most real firmness. I once saw some thing of the kind upon a very large scale. You may have seen at Somerset House an immense bronze chandelier with several
hundred burners weighing three or four tons at least.

On the day previous to the public exhibition of the paintings the Royal Academicians are in use as your Lordship knows to give an immensely large dinner party to people of distinction supposed to be patrons of the art to literary men to amateurs in general and the Lord knows whom besides. I happen to be there the first time this ponderous mass of bronze was suspended. It had been cast for His Majesty then prince Regent and he not much liking it I am not surprized he did not as it is very ugly indeed had bestowd it on the Royal Academicians. Beneath it was placed as at Ditton a large round table or rather a tier of tables rising above each other like the shelves of a dumb waiter and furnishd with as many glasses tumblers decanters & so forth as might have set up an entire glass-shop the numbers of the company upwards of 150 persons requiring such a supply. Old West 1 presided and was supported by Jockey of Norfolk on the one side & one of the Royal Dukes on the other. We had just drunk a preliminary toast or two when - the Lord preserve us - a noise was heard like that which I conceive precedes an earthquake the links of the massive chain by which this beastly lump of bronze was suspended began to give way and the mass descending slowly for several inches encounterd the table beneath which was positively annihilated by the pressure the whole glass ware being at once destroyd What was very odd the chain after this manifestation of weakness continued to hold fast. The skillful inspected it and declared it would yield no further and we I think to the credit of our courage remaind quiet and continued our sitting. Had it really given way as the architecture of Somerset House has been generally esteemd unsubstantial
it must have broke the floor like a bomb shell and

carried us all down to the cellars of that great national
edifice. Your lordships letter placed the whole scene in
my recollection. A fine paragraph we should have made.

I think your Lordship will be as much pleased with the
plantation on Bowden moor. I have found an excellent
legend for the spot. It is close by the grave of an unhappy
being calld Wattie Waeman (whether the last appellative
was really his name or has been given him from his
melancholy fate is uncertain) who being all for love and a
little for stealing hung himself there 70 or 80 years since
(query where did he find a tree) and lies buried in

that unconsecrated ground at once to revenge himself of
his mistress and to save the gallows a labour - Now as the
place of his grave & of his suicide is just on the verge
where the Dukes land meets with mine & Kippilaws (you
are aware that where three Lairds lands meet is always

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 255

a charmd spot) the spirit of Wattie Waeman wanders
sadly over the adjacent moor to the great terror of all
wandering wights who have occasion to pass from Melrose
to Bowden. I begin to think which of his namesakes this
omen concerns for I take Mr. Kerr of Kippilaw to be out
of the question. I never heard of a Duke actually dying
for love though the Duke in Twelfth night be in an
alarming way - on the other hand " Sir John Graeme of the
West countrie " who died for cruel Barbara Allan is a
case or point against the knight. Then in extreme cases
your Duke loses his head whereas your knight & Esquire
is apt to retain it upon a neck a little more elongated than
usual. I will pursue the discussion no further than the cards
appear to turn against me. The people begin to call the
plantation Waemanswood rather a good name.
It is quite impossible your Lordship should be satisfied with the outside view of my castle for I reckon upon the honor of receiving your whole party adestis as usual in the interior. We have plenty of room for a considerable number of freinds at bed as well as board. Do not be alarmd by the report of the Gas which was quite true but reflects no dishonour on that mode of Illumination. I had calculated that fifteen hundred cubic feet of gas would tire out some five & twenty or thirty pair of feet of Scotch dancers but it lasted only till six in the morning and then as a brave soldier does on his post went out when burnd out. Had I kept the man sitting up for an hour or two to make the gas as fast as consumed I should have spoiled a good story.

My hall is in course of having all the heavy parts of my armor[ial] collection bestowd upon it and really though fanciful looks very well and I am as busy as a bee disposing suits of armour battleaxes broadswords and all the nicknacks I have been breaking my shins over in every corner of the house for these seven years past in laudable order & to the best advantage.

If Mr. Blakeney be the able person that fame reports him he will have as great a duty to perform as his ancestor at Stirling Castle for to keep so young a person as my Chief in his particular situation from the inroads of follies & worse than follies requires [as] much attention and firmness as to keep highland claymores & trench engineers out of a fortified place. But there is an admirable garrison in the fortress kind & generous feelings and a strong sense of honour and duty which Duke Walter has by descent.
from his father & grandfather. God send him life &
health and I trust he will reward your Lordships paternal
care and fulfill my hopes - They are not of the lowest but
such as must be entertaind by an old and attachd freind
of the family who has known him from infancy - My
freind Lord John wants the extreme responsibility of his
brothers situation and may afford to sow a few more wild
oats but I trust he will not make the crop a large one.
Lord Castlereagh & his tutor Mr. Turner to whom Mr.
Short introduced me have just left us for the south after
spending three or four days with us. They could not
have done worse than sending the young Viscount to
Edinburgh for though he is really an unaffected natural
young man yet it was absurd to expect that he should
study hard when he had six invitations for every hour of
every evening. I am more & more convinced of the
excellence of the English monastic institutions of
Cambridge & Oxford - They cannot do all that may be
expected but there is at least the exclusion of many
temptations to dissipation of mind. Whereas with us
supposing a young man to have any pretensions to keep
good society & to say truth we are not very nice in
investigating them he is almost pulld to pieces by speculating
mamas and flirting misses. If a man is poor plain and
indifferently connected he may have excellent opportunities
of study at Edinr. otherwise he should beware of it.

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Lady Anne is very naughty not to take care of herself
and I am not sorry she has been a little ill that it may be a
warning. I wish to hear your Lordships self is at Bath.
I hate unformd complaints. A Doctor is like Ajax 1 - give
him light & he may make battle with a disease but no
disparagement to the Esculapian art they are bad
guessers. Your Lordships complaints proceed I think from
the stomach & are peculiarly within the reach of medicine if their real character can be ascertained. I am truly glad the venerable & venerated Duchess has got a medical man whom she respects in some degree equally to Dr. Baillie though who so remembers him must place others at a great distance. Yet even he could not make her Grace forget the "poor creature small beer." I trust Lord Stopford [Omission] your Lordship's letter (unpleasant on that subject only) seems to intimate. My kindest compliments I had almost said love attend Lady Isabella - We are threatened with a cruel deprivation in the loss of our friend Sir Adam the first of men - A dog of a Banker has bought his house 2 for an investment of capital and I fear he must trudge. Had I still had the highland piper 3 in my service who would not have refused me such a favour I would have had him dirk'd to a certainty. I mean this cursed Banker. As it is I must think of some means of poisoning his hot rolls & butter or setting his house on fire by way of revenge. It is a real affliction - I am happy to hear of Lady Margaret's good looks. I was one of her earliest acquaintance & at least half her godfather for I took the vows on me for somebody or other who I dare say has never thought half so often of her as I have done - And so I have written out my paper and I fear your Lordship's patience. My respectful Compliments attend Lady Montagu & the young Ladies of Ditton. Always most truly yours WALTER SCOTT

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 opend 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

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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
night. I have a letter from Constable 2 who writes in excellent spirits. I am always truly yours.

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Monday [19 April 1824]

[Stevenson]

TO MRS. HUGHES

MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-I write in haste merely to say that from Greta Bridge you should go over Stanmore to Brough which brings you into the great north western road by Appleby Penrith & Carlisle & from thence by Longtown Langholm Hawick Selkirk which last place is within four miles of the house I am writing in. Not being sure at what rate you venture to travel on account of Dr. Hughes' health I cannot chalk out your route further than to say that neither Brough Carlisle or Langholm are very good sleeping places but may all be born[e] with in case of necessity. The horses are plenty but the stages between Penrith & Carlisle & again between Langholm and Hawick are long and heavy. In hopes of seeing you about the fifth I am very truly your most respectful & obliged WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE Saturday [17th April 1824] (4)

There are fine old ruins at Bowes Brough Penrith Appleby, memorials of the grandeur of the Cliffords. The castle at Appleby is particularly well worth a visit. If you stay a little at Greta Bridge pray see Rokeby which 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
to gather on the chain of friendship (to use an Indian
expression) which your Ladyship has been so kind as to
brighten by your kind letter of 20 March 1 which reached

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(8-261)my hand about a fortnight ago. I am truly sorry you
should stay at Paris when you find that it does not suit
with your health. In winter and spring I should suppose
Paris cold. When I was there in August 1815 I felt it
unsupportably warm and was unusually listless and
inactive during the middle of the day on that account. I
wish you could have quitted the French capital immediately
and tried what early hours and quiet would have
done for you upon Tweedside which the inhabitants think
the healthiest residence in the world. But I fear your
return to Rome for the winter will put this out of the
question for this season. Really in the short period of fine
weather Scotland has much to interest and amuse
strangers but for eight months in the year the climate is
so rough and so uncertain that it requires to be a native to
endure it and even amongst ourselves complaints of the
lungs are too common and very fatal. Yet it is not excess
of cold which we have to complain of but rather the
variable quality of the atmosphere around us. For
instance all this last winter there was but one day when
they could collect ice for the Ice-house at Abbotsford.
Most fortunately or to speak more properly most providentially the gardener being an alert person had the ice-house filled on that occasion which has been the means of saving the life of one of my best friends and nearest neighbours John Scott of Gala. He had been thrown down a precipice while hunting but though his head was dreadfully cut no damage to the skull was apprehended. But after three or four days a fever of such intensity came on that the pulse mounted to 150 and could only be kept under by the constant application of ice to the patient's head to which the physicians who were long in total despair ascribe his present progress towards recovery. Had we not fortunately been able to supply the remedy there was none to be had nearer than Edinburgh for none of our neighbours had been upon the alert as we were. Thus you see dear Lady that Ice may be a great rarity and a matter of high consequence to boot in this northern climate of ours severe as I acknowledge it to be. It was not many weeks before this accident that I had like to have had a bad accident on the same hill called the Meiglet and on a similar occasion. I had turned out to see the fox break cover which I often do when the hounds are in my neighbourhood and had dismounted from my pony to run down the hill which was too precipitous for riding supporting myself on the shoulder of one of our strong forest yeomen when some stones giving way I fell very awkwardly with my leg under me. Luckily the man whom I held by was a Hercules for strength and though my fall dragged him at length atop of me yet his resistance made my descent gradual and I came off with a slight sprain instead of a broken leg. I promise you I will keep the brow of the Meiglet in future. Your Ladyship is to suppose my health is pretty good since
I am risking my precious limbs in such frolics my ordinary health is very good. It is indeed as confirmed as I ever possessed it in my most vigorous days but I use a great deal of exercise and rise early in order to diminish some tendency to become [more] of the alderman than I should like to be. Perhaps your Ladyship may have seen my father who was rather corpulent towards the end of his life though originally a very fine active man. My lameness would I fear become more inconvenient were I to get too much embonpoint.

Your Ladyship asks me about my sister-in-law's talents. They consist in strong sense and knowledge of the world with an unusual fortitude in encountering and surmounting distresses and dangers of which it has been her hard lot to encounter many. But she has no literary turn beyond reading and liking a book in the ordinary way. She has had much distress lately in her family—dangerously ill herself and now seriously alarmed on account other youngest daughter a girl of most uncommon talent. Whatever she has been taught since she came to Europe she has excelled in and in America she contrived to manage the squaws or Indian women by threatening to prophesy evil to them. Once or twice some things she threatened them with came out true and of course that was enough to establish her reputation till her mother coming to the knowledge of the source of her ascendency (she was then about ten years old) put a stop to her predictions. From this you may see she has a peculiar character. This was very like some of her father's oddities. But I fear we shall lose the poor child. She has had a severe fever and now is extremely weak a severe trial to her mother who now has this addition to the many unpleasant
circumstances attending her return to her native country.

But I trust the poor girl will yet be preserved to [omission]

I can easily conceive that Soult's collection of pictures must be magnificent. He had the readiest mode of collecting them during his Spanish campaigns and however nefarious such modes of acquisition are still they are the common cause of transference where the arts are concerned for many long years. And one cannot but be pleased to see the works of such masters as Velasquez and Murillo pass from the obscurity of Spanish chateaux and convents into countries where they can be seen admired and appreciated. In one respect Bonaparte's collection was of use in making these noble works of art which once occupied the Louvre easily accessible. But there was I think little taste in the manner in which they were arranged since out of 800 fine pictures you never saw above 30 or 40 and the spoliation which brought them there was perpetually mixed with one's admiration of the things themselves. I have forgiven him however (since he is dead) for this and many other offences. He was a strange mingled phantom of grandeur and terror and a little meanness withal as ever bestrode the destinies of the world and his own close was as extraordinary as his rise. I wish we had given him a more gentlemanlike keeper than him to whom he was intrusted. But it is only for our own sakes I could have wished this for to him the confinement would have been the same whether the bars of his cage were gilded or not. Sir Pulteney Malcolm tells me escape was never out of his head. I should not have believed him had he said otherwise and as it was his keeper's business to keep him fast the irritation of the devices of the captive encountering with the
precautions of the officer appointed to prevent his escape
must have always given rise to scenes unpleasing to
contemplate. He might have been a great man and

was only a great soldier—he might have been the
benefactor of the human race and he was the cause of more
blood being spilled than had flowed for an hundred years
before. He lowered the standard of virtue and public
feeling among the French and soiled their soldierly
character by associating it with perfidy and dishonour.
Still I think the sufferings attending his double fall are
d a great atonement for the faults of his character. By the
way I was reading a very clever memoir of the campaign
of 1814 by a Baron Fain (I think) one of his aides-de-camp. It is clear to me that his successes during that
awful struggle which he supported with so much talent
and against so much odds were the ultimate cause of his
refusing peace on the one hand and on the other of the
allies and in particular the Emperor of Austria insisting
on his dethronement. Thus his high military talents
through which he rose were also the cause of his fall.

I do not understand the controversy between the
Duke of Hamilton and Lord Stanley nor can I answer
your Ladyship's question how the titles came to go to the
heirs general instead of the heirs male in the Abercorn
line but I believe there was a surrender and a new
creation. I speak at random about it—I know the
Dukedom of Chatelherault decidedly a male fief was
always considered to belong to the Abercorn family.

I will make a parcel of one or two of Lockhart's books.
and send them to Sir Coutts Trotter to wait your arrival in town in case they cannot be safely sent to Paris. I cannot say I like his last 1; it is full of power but disagreeable and ends vilely ill. I do not believe he writes in Blackwood's Magazine though it continues to flourish. It is too much of a party publication and I think it is a pity for him to interfere in matters where you make very bitter enemies and only lukewarm friends. He is just now in London Sophia at her father-in-law's recovering strength fast as does her baby—they are recommended to try sea-bathing and Mrs. Lockhart who is as fond of her as if she were her own daughter proposes to take her to Largs or Helensburgh or some other place on the Firth of Clyde for that purpose.

I think the length of this epistle about nothing will make your Ladyship dread such a correspondent in future; if it is very dull indeed the apology must be the congenial stupidity of my present situation at a circuit town and in attendance upon the judge during his residence there. We have very little criminal business to attend to on this progress but in return make a great deal to do with what we have. I Yesterday we contrived to spin out by a trial of several hours respecting the theft of a piece of cheese (it had not the dignity of a whole one) by two wretched boys-to-day having positively nothing to do the Judge has walked away to the top of the next mountain and I sit down to bestow my tediousness like Dogberry on my dear Lady Marchioness. I must however at length release you with the assurance that I am always dear Lady Abercorn your most faithful most obliged 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
will ever occur again—that is no reason why you should embrace the plan if you are dissatisfied with it in other respects—but it is a reason and an excellent one why you should not be rash or precipitous in forming your opinion. I have some reason to believe that Mrs Annes best qualities are those which are not most intrusive. If she possesses as Sir Hugh says sound good sense and warmth of heart any rust which may have occurred from want of the usage de monde may be rubbed off—I think it amounts to a little shyness and reserve. I speak however rather from hearsay than personal observation.

I mentioned in my last that I think you should not be here before the beginning of July—it would serve no good purpose and might awaken the tattle of Edinburgh which in the state of the case would be unfair both to Mrs Anne and to you—to her especially.

I hope you will not neglect the Duke’s next levee—it is highly proper you should pay your respects there as the only mode of expressing your gratitude—a call on Greenwood would also be proper. I am glad you get shoved upward in the corps. With a resolution to do one’s duty one can always please a sharp commanding officer unless he is very unreasonable indeed. I wish they would send the XV to Scotland instead of Ireland. But you will have your old duties to return to if the Ionian scheme should fail. All this we will talk off [sic]. Do not forget your French and German. You should take some lessons in Italian: if you go to the Ionian Islands it will be highly necessary—Yours affectionately

WALTER SCOTT
(8-269)JEDBURGH-CIRCUIT 21 April [1824]

(8-269)I suppose you must have been joking with Lady Evans about Mrs Anne for she conceives you had a wish to be introduced to her.


TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

(8-269)My DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-We have been extremely solicitous about my dear Niece Eliza and sympathised most sincerely with the distress which this severe Visitation must have caused you. When you drop me a line it will be a very great pleasure to me to learn that she continues the dear little soul to recover from the necessary state of weakness.

(8-269)Your own views with respect to the disposal of your family seem to me sensible and judicious only I should think it rash to buy a house at Ayr till you were quite certain how your affairs will ultimately stand. I have not heard from the war office otherwise I would instantly have written but there are several things which might happen to amend your present income. There is a small post in my own department likely to become vacant by the death or the retirement of [the] senior clerk of Session Mr. Ferriar now upwards of eighty. It belongs to my office and was held by my colleague Mr. Home. I had no thoughts of asking it because I do not like seeming
greedy after the loaves & fishes. I have askd it however & Lord Mellville under one condition has promised me the preference. I believe it is better than 200 a year & the whole business can be managed by my Assistant & is carried on in my office so it can cost me nothing but a little superintendence. Now I propose that if I get this place you & the nieces shall draw the emolument which I take to be about 200 sometimes better. If this arrangement and that of the halfpay should take place you would probably think of Edinr. where the best masters could be had for Eliza who seems so admirably qualified to profit by them and the best society for Anne and yourself. In that case a house at Ayr would hang on your hands and be a real inconvenience for the same reasons which make such property cheap just now would make it cheaper when you came to sell. In fact houses in a country town are the worst of all property and often will neither let nor sell. I would therefore rather look out for a furnishd house till your means were finally ascertaind & never mind a score of pounds or double the sum to make yourself comfortable.

I have not had a line from Walter and am really not much pleased with him on that account but I believe he is in truth very hard wrought and we shall all see him bye & bye.

The worst of Ayr is its great distance which forms an objection to the place so far as we are concernd and therefore I would not willingly see it adopted as a permanent scheme. Be so good as to say nothing to any one of the views I have mentiond as if a breath of them was getting abroad they might be misrepresented and defeated.
At present success is pretty certain.

My kindes[t] love to Anne and the poor little patient. I pray drop me a line to say how she goes on.

Can you tell me what arms Huxley bears. I want them for a hobbyhorsical purpose as I am putting some scutcheons into my hall which is now almost finishd & very handsome it is. Ever Yours affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 28 April [1824]

TO WILLIAM DALLAS, W.S.

ABBOTSFORD, 29th April 1824

MY DEAR SIR,- Will you excuse my intruding on you a rather hobbyhorsical request I am finishing a new old entrance hall hung about with armour and knicknacks, and I wish to place on some of the old oak pannelling the armorial bearings of what was formerly called Kith, Kin, and Ally.

Among other creditable families, we have always called each other cousins, in virtue of which claim I beg you will have the kindness to indulge me with a description or drawing-it matters not which-of the arms which blank or an impression of a seal, which will do as well, and I hope you will have no objection to my making the
proposed use of them with those of the Keiths, Swintons, Halliburtons, and other reputable folk. Excuse the trouble I give you on such a trifling matter. Yours, etc.

WALTER SCOTT
[James Dallas's Family of Dallas]

TO JOHN GIBSON LOCKHART

[2nd May 1824]

MY DEAR LOCKHART,-I received your letter yesterday with the very agreeable news that you are well and well amused. I have also most gratifying letters from Soph concerning her health and the babys so I hope we shall meet on the 12 with renewd health and pleasant prospects on all sides. It will be a great consolation to me for abandoning my matters here which are now in great forwardness-the hall is almost entirely finishd and looks very feudal.

When you come down 1 we will determine what should be asked for your brother I mean par preference for I am afraid we may be in the condition of those petitioners who must not be chusers-I believe no immediate appointment could be obtained and good education in the interim will be indispensible

Williams came here yesterday I like him much-there is no rudeness in his manner-none whatever-and he is the only schoolmaster whom I ever found totally free of pedantry-full of information besides and a very pleasant companion. He has been most kindly received
at Edinburgh—even by those who least wish'd him there—

But imagine the narrow minded jealousy or self diffidence

of the geeze of the old school I who refused to allow him to

see that establishment & subjected themselves to all the

inferences arising from such illiberality. Horner who was

with him complain'd to the Provost but M[r] W. with

better taste sent his compliments and he would be happy

to see them at the New Academy when it was started.

Remember me kindly to all freinds in Piccadilly to poor

Lydia 2—Will Spencer—Rogers—Croker—and swear Rose

on the bible—book to come down early to us—if he jibbs

swear Hinaaes which will do as well.

There is some thing very alarming in Sir Robert

Dundas's case—no formd disease yet a pulse above no the

ordinary beat being 60—gout appeard but did not fix—

this looks ill or doubtful at least. He will be a great loss.

If you see Terry tell him we are all anxiety for the mirrors.

I wish you would pick me up a few good caricatures as

far as a guinea or two will go. I design them for the

chamber of retirement & remember the pens of Bramah

whose last avatar seems to have had for its object the

abolition of pen knives & the relief of weak eyes. Your

letter dated 26th only reachd me yesterday being the first.

When you see Theodore remember me very kindly to

him—Sayings & Doings are excellent.3 Perhaps this may

miss you I will therefore be brief. Lady Scott, Anne &

Charles are all well and send love—Charles is as big as

bull beef fussing about to do the honours to Mr Williams

and divertingly anxious to put every thing before him in

its proper importance. But there is much kindness and

gratitude in all this officiousness [MS. cut]

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]
TO WILLIAM BLACKWOOD

(8-274)MY DEAR SIR,-Permit me to introduce & recommend
to your attention Dr. Hughes one of the Canons
Residentiary of Saint Pauls together with his lady. They
may require a little advice and assistance about seeing
what is memorable in Auld Reekie which none can afford
so well as C. N.1 of whom they are great admirers. They
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
tomorrow night-happy to see you at eight if you can
call. I leave a passage confused by your printers p. 39
to dumple (2) as you list. I have had a herculean labour this
last week getting my library into some rough order before
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
unfavourable termination of the account at the War
Office and that my poor brother is brought in Debtor for a larger balance than we had been led to expect-no less than 3122.- and I am called upon for the sum of 1000 for which I am his security. I fear there is little chance of bringing this matter to an issue otherwise than by paying the money but I wish to know in the first place what you who are on the spot and must understand these matters think or can learn on the subject. The worst of the matter is that even our loss will not I fear save poor Mrs. Scott's pension. I have been so long accustomed however to conceive these affairs as totally desperate that I shall be glad to see them ended in how disagreeable a manner soever.

Walter writes me a letter in which he seems to intimate the probability of his being sent off as an artillery[-man] instead of remaining for the Engineers at Christmas. I shall be very sorry for this and beg you or Mr. David will enquire how his prospects stand and write me whether any interest can be exerted to procure him the superior appointment. May I also beg you to let me know what expenses &c. are necessary to make him comfortable in his outfit and I will remit the needful. He gives me a sort of statement about it which I do not quite understand. He also mentions some doubt about what settlement he may be named to & seems to point at Bengal. Let me know your opinion of this and also in what quarter application should be made for ascertaining his destination. I am very ignorant in all such matters which occasions you this trouble from Dear Sir your faithful humble Servant.
Will you let me know in general how Walter keeps his ground in the Academy: he has been a very bad correspondent of late. My kind compliments attend your brother David.

[Brotherton]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

My dear Miss Clephane, - I was obliged to defer answering your letter until I reached this place yesterday, and got from Sir William Forbes the exact state of the cash belonging to you in their hands, which amounts, I find, to £2432. 4. 0. I have made out a draft for this sum, which you will sign and return inclosed to John Gibson Esqre. W.S. who will receive and apply the money. I have more of it than I thought, but we will try to put up as much of it as we can. The rest may be replaced in Sir William's, till some opportunity offer of laying it out to advantage, on which I will consult some of my friends. I wish the money - that is to say the very cash, to go through Mr. Gibson's hands because he keeps of course regular books which are not so much in my way.

I am just fetched in from the country perforce to attend my duty here. I never left it more reluctantly, for
although I had the horrible labour of arranging all my
books in a new bookroom yet it was still a kind of labour
of love, and the weather began to grow kindly, and the
young larches to show their tender green so that to leave
was really a vexation. However I shall be back there in
July, when I hope I may look forward to the pleasure of
seeing you all in the course of the vacation, to which I
look forward with as much pleasure as ever I did in the
days of the High School. I must beg your excuse for a
very short letter as I have been rather too late of sending
the needful. Love to Mama and Williamina. I don't
approve of the last sacrificing her music for drawing-
the former is much more of a social accomplishment,
besides excellence in music may be much more easily
attained by a mere amateur than excellence in drawing
or painting. A song sung with feeling and truth of
expression is pleasing to everyone, and perhaps more
pleasing than a superior stile of execution to all but the
highest class of musicians. It is different with drawing,
where that which falls short of perfection is not so highly
valued. Not but what I think sketching from nature is
a faculty to be cherished in all cases where nature has
given the requisites. It encourages the love of the country

and the study of scenery. But figures seldom answer, for
how can a young lady acquire the necessary knowledge
of anatomy? I am always My dear Miss Clephane Most
affectionately yours

WALTER SCOTT

When you send the enclosed to Mr. Gibson you can tell
him to advise with me about the disposal of it. I fear
I cannot do anything just now for your poor woman.
TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(8-278)DEAR JAMES,-I am attending to your exhortations & winding up my bottom as well as I can. I send proof & copy-In some pages lately sent the lady is erroneously call'd Annabel-pray restore her original epithet Lilias. I wish you could remit today to Messrs Coutts on my account 250 as I find I am about 200 behind hand with these gentlemen-You shall have it on Monday out of Cadells 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 of the 18th Century is the Title-& the 3d. volume will be half finishd on Sunday-On Monday I would be glad to see you when most convenient.

TO ROBERT SCOTT MONCRIEFF

(8-279)MY DEAR SIR,-Poor Sandie is gone-I have a 10 lying by me which I had intended for his use and which must now go to his decent funeral. I am a total stranger how these things are managed and would be much obliged to you to advise the poor lad his nephew about it. Of course one would wish it as private as is consistent with decency & no unnecessary expense incurred as I fear.
there may be little debts. But I should like myself to see
my very old acquaintance’s head laid in the grave where
he will have the peace he can scarce be thought to have
had whilst living. Probably you will wish to do poor
Alister the same kindness. Yours truly

signed WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Sunday morning [16 May] 1824
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LORD MONTAGU

MY DEAR LORD,-I am truly grieved that after writing
you an idle letter upon the nonsense of the hour I feel
now calld upon to express my sincere sympathy with the
severe family misfortune with which you have been since

aflicted by the death of the late excellent Marquis of
Lothian 1 -When we have turnd a certain period of life
which I am afraid your Lordship as well as I has attaind
(though I am the older of the two) Fate acts upon the
society in which we have past our happiest days like an
invading enemy who taking one fortress after another
announces gradually but surely the successive fall of those
which remain. In this point of view I cannot help
feeling the deepest sympathy for your Lordships venerable
mother 2 whose old age has been exposed to so many
deprivations of this affecting kind. There are some
characters whom Providence alicts as if it were for the
purpose of shewing us how afflictions are to be borne.

In another point of view this family loss points out the
prudence of your Lordships conduct on the late opening
in Selkirkshire since it is doubtful perhaps how Mid
Lothian may be now filld but as I know your Lordship
will be a warm assenter and Lord Melville a good &
favourable listener to all the pretensions which can be
reasonably formd on behalf of my young Chief I hope
that as he is now (so time runs away) not very distant from
[his] majority 3 means may be found of keeping open for
him the respectable situation held by his father and

grandfather which places him at the head of the Lords
Lieutenant as other circumstances make him natural[ly]
the most influential among the Scottish nobility. I hope
he will bear it poor dear and have indeed little doubt of
it only a full cup is always carried with more difficulty
than an empty one.

I hope the Bath expedition soon goes on and will be
happy should this find your Lordship there for I think
it may be of service in the complaints you talk of. Then
it will be an assurance of an early visit to Scotland. The
winter and Spring have been remarkably favourable.
Indeed I never saw anything so much so but we have cold
eastern winds and mists here which I flatter myself are
peculiar to Edinburgh and never reach Tweedside which
I left unwillingly about a week ago. Rents seem to
remain uncertain but land is rising at an awful rate
30 years purchase is commonly given and 13000 has
been offerd & refused of profit on the estate of Riddell.1
Horses are rising very high indeed and I even I
made a good deal of money of[f] three or four colts which
I had taken merely to stock some very rough outfield.
One of them of my own breeding I refused 50 guineas for.
I hope this will augur a mending of times in other respects
but farm stock is still low.
MY DEAR WALTER,-I could not answer your last till I came to Edinburgh when I saw the Chief Commissioner who informd me that Sir Frederick would be most happy to receive you into his establishment as a supernumerary with the understanding that you should get on the actual staff as soon as it could be managed. In the mean time you take your own time of going out and must in the first place pass your examinations & leave Sandhurst with such a character as may advance your subsequent views. In point of time if you are with us by the end of July or beginning of August it will be time enough for the purpose you wot of 1 and we will also have the pleasure of your company during the Shooting season a diversion you have not enjoyd for some time & with respect to the rest alors comme alors-if matters should suit you will be an independent man-if otherwise no poorer than you are.

With respect to your military promotion I am no competent judge. If there were a strong probability of speedy promotion in the 15th. as you seemd to apprehend it would
be a pity not to get a troop [if] possible at the regulation price before you leave that regiment especially as I apprehend that by quitting before you will in a great measure lose the heavy difference which was paid to get you on full pay. Except for this consideration your plan of getting rank by an unattachd company seems a good one & perhaps I may have interest enough to carry it through for you. I will speak to Lord Chief Commissioner and get him to consider the matter and if he approves which I will learn before dispatching this letter I will make the application.

-- Turn over

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 283

Sunday 17 May

I have not got speech of Lord Chief Commissr. But I have advised with Sir Thomas Bradford who approves of the plan of proposing to buy an unattachd company and therefore I have written to Sir Herbert Taylor to request H.R. Highnesses permission for that. You ought really to make a point of going to his levees sometimes. The Duke has been very kind and that sort of civility is the only way you have to shew your sense of it.

Report says Battier has made a bad hand of his duel and gone off the field with the spittle in his face after all for that the Marquis after standing the shot sent him special word by the seconds that he considerd there were two gross falsehoods in his letter. I am informd his Colonel was of Poines rank 1 & that they resided in the Swan with two necks, Ludlow [ ], an odd place from which to sally forth for a duel with a Marquis.
These however are the reports of Lockhart who is a most accomplishd gossip. I am glad to say that Soph is quite well and in her best looks as is little Johnie. Always your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH

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Here we are for the Session. Left Abbotsford with infinite regret last tuesday.

[Bayley]

TO JAMES CURLE

DEAR MR. GUR[L]E]-Your note gave me pleasure as I had been for two days very anxious about the health of my very old and excellent friend Chas Erskine having heard a confused and alarming account of his attack. I am in great hopes that the danger is now over and that his convalescence will be progressive. It is an awful visitation. I am glad the Icehouse was of use—it is the second time that this place which I accounted a mere luxury has been beneficial to a valued friend's recovery.

If Mr Usher wishes to have more money you will be so good as to let me know. And I beg to know particularly how Mr Erskine goes on. Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 20 May [1824]
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.

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT

(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.3 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
as a sucking turkey in these matters but am of course desirous to use my little interest at the Horse Guards to the best advantage.

Begging to be affectionately remembered to the Lady

I am always truly yours WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 20 May [1824]

TO MRS. HUGHES

MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,- No ticket is necessary. Just drive to the Parl. Square walk into the court & ask for me at any one- I think you may let it be half past twelve as I shall scarce be disengaged to attend you till then. Always yours W. SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Tuesday [25th May 1824]

TO HIS SON WALTER

MY DEAR WALTER,- I have your letter on the subject of my application to the War Office. I have not yet heard in reply as I dare say I should have done if the proposal to purchase had been inadmissible. I write at present chiefly to caution you about expressing any strong opinion or making yourself any way busy in Battiers business 2

SIR WALTER SCOTT
as it would be prejudicial to you were such a thing reported at Headquarters and there are always birds of the air to carry the matter. Whoever or whatever the parties were I never saw an affair of honour more strangely mismanaged though poor Battier seems to have been made a tool of by others. Westerns sudden death is a singular feature of the affair which seems [to] have been attended with mischief and discredit to all concerned from first to last. It will give me serious pain and displeasure should your name be mixed with it more or less and if I have shown too much anxiety in my apprehensions of such an event it is because my experience in life has taught me to observe how very easily and thoughtlessly young men from old companionship get into serious scrapes. You have such fair prospects of advancement in your profession that you must be a good deal on your guard.

Mamas health is much reestablishd. She and Anne talk of going to Abbotsford on Saturday to stay a fortnight and to superintend the finishing of the rooms. I design next Saturday to go for two days to Tyninghame to have a chat with the old peer of Haddington and to return on Monday. The subsequent Saturday I will go to Fife and Kinross with the Chief Commissioner for two or three days so the term of my widower state in Castle Street will not be very long.

I observe with pleasure that you are studying hard. You may fairly count all July into your residence if you please for according to our arrangements your being at Abbotsford in the beginning of August will suit perfectly well so do not work yourself too hard.

After very severe weather we have some that is very fine indeed and the wind seems to have left the east corner
in which it stuck pertinaciously for the better part of a month to the great retardment of all vegetable productions.

My niece Eliza is still unwell and the Doctors think her liver is considerably affected. It is great pleasure [sic. pity] as she is a very clever and amiable girl. I am like to have a considerable loss by my poor brothers affairs first and last. I am always Dear Walter your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 26 May [PM. 1824]

I have just received the inclosed which answers our purpose as to your going upon the Staff and leaves you time to stand for purchase in your present regiment when an opportunity shall offer. I scarce suppose this will render you particularly popular with another R.H.1 but that cannot be helpd. You will have the more need to look out sharp that there be no ground given for misrepresentation.

Addressed to Lieut. Walter Scott
Royal Military College
[Law]

TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

MY DEAR SIR,-My friends would judge me very unjustly if they reckoned the frequency of my recollections respecting them by that of my letters.2 To the natural and constant reluctance which I have had to writing I have now to add the apology of my eyes becoming weak, a bad prospect for me who makes so much use of them. I have this comfort however that my good mother whose
eyes became weak shortly after she was forty enjoyed
the use of them with some precautions until she
attained the extreme verge of human life being able with
assistance of her spectacles to read in her eighty-fifth
year. It is not any positive dimness or imperfection of
the visual nerve of which I have to complain for I see

You should come and see Abbotsford which as Augustus
said of Rome (I love magnificent comparisons) I found of
Brick and have left of marble. It is really a very
handsome old manorial looking place both without and within,
with a fine library, a Gothick hall of entrance and what
not. But in truth it does not brook description any more
than it is amenable to the ordinary rules of architecture-
it is as Coleridge says

But yet I think the effect is pleasing on the whole. Pray
come to see it and the lake in which Walter saild his fairy
frigate poor fellow he is now at the Royal Military College
as one of the advanced students and I think it is likely he
will shortly sail to the Ionian Islands as one of Sir
Frederick Adams Aids-de-camp it depends however
upon exchanges and purchases and other matters-if
(8-289) 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 alarmed 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 I 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

DEAR JAMES, - I am rather surprized at not seeing a mark of yours on the inclosed sheets. I beg you to read them carefully as I always value your corrections & criticisms & think myself surer of escaping errors.

[EDIN: 3 June 1824]

W. S.

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TO ROBERT CADELL

DEAR SIR, - I inclose the Advertizement for vol. I of Swift. Also the whole copy for Vol. X. The last still needs to be corrected in one or two places where there are references to other volumes & you will see there is a manuscript article of some length. I can make the necessary Additions in your shop tomorrow with the help of your running copy. I hope your index is better than the last. Ever your obedient Servant

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Thursday [3 June 1824]

TO LADY ABERCORN

EDINBURGH, 4th June 1824

MY DEAREST LADY ABERCORN, - Your kind letter of the 20th May 1 reached me yesterday so that it is probable
that by writing in what is called course of post not my wont I confess this may kiss your hands before the 15th June when you propose leaving Paris. I am truly sorry to think there is no chance of my seeing your Ladyship which I should look forward to with so much pleasure. It is just about the time when we look with some confidence to a few weeks' settled weather in Scotland where there really is nothing to complain of except the uncertainty and severity of the climate so that if you could have extended your tour a little northward I think I could have promised your Ladyship some amusement among our hills and glens of green bracken.

I have been terribly distressed at poor Byron's death. In talents he was unequalled and his faults were those rather of a bizarre temper arising from an eager and irritable nervous habit than any depravity of disposition. He was devoid of selfishness which I take to be the basest ingredient in the human composition. He was generous humane and noble-minded when passion did not blind him. The worst I ever saw about him was that he rather liked indifferent company than that of those with whom he must from character and talent have necessarily conversed more upon an equality. I believe much of his affected misanthropy for I never thought it real was founded upon instances of ingratitude and selfishness experienced at the hands of those from whom better could not have been expected. During his disagreement between him and his lady the hubbub raised by the public reminded me of the mischievous boys who pretend to chase runaway horses-

And roar Stop, Stop them, till they're hoarse
But mean to drive them faster.

Man and wife will hardly make the mutual sacrifices which are necessary to make them friends when the whole public of London are hallooing about them. Sir Frederick Adam's last letters state that poor Byron's loss will be inestimably felt by the Greeks. He had influence with their chiefs which he employed in recommending moderation in their councils and humanity in their actions very contrary doctrines to those preached by some hot-headed folks from this part of the world. The worst of the Turks is their religion which embraces the doctrine of fatalism to the most blighting and withering extent under which the human mind can never become progressive and so they remain the same Turks which they were in the days of Mahomet the Magnificent.

Lockhart is not author of the books you mentioned. A Mr. Gait who has tried literature in several other modes and all unsuccessfully had the merit at length of writing them and discovering a degree of talent which no one conceived could belong to him.1 Lockhart however wrote one or two tales of fiction uncommonly powerful in incident and language. His first was called the Confessions of Adam Blair 2 a Scotch clergyman who succumbs to strong temptation and according to the rigorous morality of the presbyterian church suffers degradation. There is I think a want of taste in printing some part of the story something too broadly but perhaps that was unavoidable in telling such a tale. It is written with prodigious power. A gayer book which he
wrote some time ago entitled "Reginald Dalton" had
great success and he very lately wrote a little volume
called "Matthew Wald" which is a painful tale very
forcibly told—the worst is that there is no resting-place—
nothing but misery from the title-page to the finis.

I have been spending two days last week with old Lord
Haddington who although a Hamilton is not I think
much known to your Ladyship. A stroke of an apoplectic
nature and the violent bleeding to which he was in
consequence subjected has given him a constant giddiness so
that he leans on two servants when walking. But it has
left untouched one of the best arranged and most powerful
memories I ever remarked in any one. He got on the
subject of the Suffolk letters on which he could certainly
write a most entertaining commentary for he has all the
vivacity and gaiety of youth mixed with the extensive
experience of old age. It must be owned that if our
forefathers were not in fact worse than we are in point of
morals they were at least less decent in their impropriety
and the same may be said of our foremothers. I always
thought the beautiful Miss Bellenden mother of the old
Duke of Argyle and Lord Frederick Campbell was a very
exemplary person but certainly the jokes which seem to
have passed current between her and Lady Suffolk were
of a very free description.

Well I am getting into scandal though somewhat
antiquated so I will write no more at present. Trusting
your Ladyship will honour me with a line from Fulham
where you will find something lying for you believe me

always dear Lady Abercorn your truly obliged and
grateful friend

SIR WALTER SCOTT

WALTER SCOTT
TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-295) MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I have been scheming to look in upon you any day this three weeks past but the great sickness among our learnd body the Clerks of Session has interfered with my wishes. In the mean time Lady Scott & my daughter have gone off to the Country for this week past and left me alone here with Charles for my companion. We propose to go to Roslinn one day the beginning of next week and if you feel yourself well & hearty to face such an invasion we will look in upon Mrs Constable & you time enough to wash our hands before dinner as we mean to walk through the woods. If you can with perfect convenience receive us on this occasion as in fact to see you is my principal object either Tuesday or Wednesday I will suit us equally. Lady Scott had proposed to be of the party but for her excursion to Abbotsford where she remains for the summer putting 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 thing to the elaborate account of the game of golf which you were so good as to transmit me as I am still an admirer of that manly exercize which in former days I
I occasionally practised. I fear however that the activity of other gentlemen has anticipated any remarks which I could offer especially as I have no books by me at present. The following particulars I mention merely to shew that I have not neglected the wish of the gentlemen golfers.

I should doubt much the assertion that the word Golf is derived from the verb to gowff or strike hard. On the contrary I conceive the verb itself is derived from the game & that to gowff is to strike sharp & strong as in that amusement. If I were to hazard a conjecture I should think the name is derived from the same teutonic expression from which the germans have Cobb a club & the lower dutch Keoff which comes very near the sound of golf. The exchange of the labial letter b for bf is a very common transformation. If I am right the game of Golf will just signify the [use] of the Club.

I have visited the old House No. 77 Canongate 1 and I see the scutcheon with the arms still in high preservation but it appears to me that they are not older than the 17 century.

There is a latin inscription mentioning that Adam Paterson was the name of the successful hero in the game described as proper to Scotchmen. I would have taken a copy of it but my doing so attracted rather too much attention. It would be easy for any expert plasterer to take a cast both of the arms & inscription to ornament your club room it is really a curious memorial of the high esteem in which the game was formerly held.

I fear the club will think me very unworthy of their
(8-297)attention but if any thing else should occur in the course
(8-297)of my reading I will not fail to send it to you. I am with
(8-297)best wishes for the sport of the gowff Club in the field and
(8-297)their conviviality in the clubroom very much your &
(8-297)their obedient Servant               WALTER SCOTT

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(8-298)I should have said that from the inscription it appears
(8-298)that Paterson gained as much money at a game of gowff
(8-298)as built his house.1 There is no mention of the King having
(8-298)played either with or against him.

(8-298)EDINR. 9 June 1824
[British Museum]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(8-298)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I wish you joy of your returning
(8-298)health & vigour-I am sorry you went west when I was
(8-298)not at Abbotsf'd. On friday next 18th June Lockhart
(8-298)Charles & I propose our pilgrimage to Roslinn & to dine
(8-298)with you. Some engagements of Lockharts make us take
(8-298)a wide berth in the way of date. I am sure you must have
(8-298)been delighted with Naworth.2 Yours truly

(8-298)WALTER SCOTT
(8-298)EDINR, Friday 11 June [1824]

[Stevenson]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE, POLTON, LASSWADE

[Copy]

(8-298)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-Your plan of Mr Leslie coming
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  

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(8-299) several American gentlemen. Now not being acquainted  
(8-299) with the artist's 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 I 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

MY DEAR LORD,—I was much interested by your Lordship[s] last letter. For some certain reasons I rather prefer Oxford to Cambridge chiefly because the last great University was infected long ago with liberalism in politics and at present shews some symptoms of a very different heresy which is yet sometimes blended with the first I mean enthusiasm in religion. I mean not that sincere zeal for religion in which mortals cannot be too fervid but the far more doubtful enthusiasm which makes religion a motive and a pretext for particular lines of thinking in politics and in temporal affairs. This is a spirit which while it has abandon the lower classes where perhaps it did some good for it is a guard against gross & scandalous vice has transferd itself to the upper classes where I think it can do little but evil disuniting families setting children in opposition to parents and teaching as a new way of going to the Devil for Gods sake. On the other hand this is a species of doctrine not likely to carry off our young freind and I am sure Mr Blakeneys good sense will equally guard him against political mistakes for I should think my freind Professor Smyths historical course of lectures likely to be somewhat whiggish tho' I dare say not improperly so. Upon the whole I think the reasons your Lordships letter contains in favour of Cambridge are decisive although I may have a private wish in favour of Christ Church which I dare say will rear its head once more under the new Dean. I But then I agree with your Lordship that the Tutor could hardly have been avoided yet would not have answered. Something happend lately in which I thought the said tutor acted like a narrow minded and almost an uncandid
man. This however is inter nos for it only respects a
narrow-mindedness which I would not have liked to see
in the character of the D of Bs tutor. The neighbourhood
of Newmarket is certainly in some sort a snare for so many
young persons as attend college at Cambridge but alas
where is it that there lie not snares of one kind or other.
Parents and those who have the more delicate task of
standing in the room of parents must weigh objections
and advantages and without expecting to find any that
are without risk must be content to chuse those where the
chances seem most favourable. The Turf is no doubt a
very fashionable temptation especially to a youth of high
rank & fortune, there is something very flattering in
winning where good fortune depends so much upon
shrewdness of observation and as it is called knowingness,
the very sight is of an agitating character and perhaps
there are few things more fascinating to young men whose
large fortune excludes the ordinary causes of solicitude
than the pleasures and risks of the race course. And
though when indulged to excess it leads to very evil
consequences yet if the Duke hereafter should like to have
a stud of racers he might very harmlessly amuse himself
in that way to a considerable extent if he did not suffer it
to take too eager possession of his mind or to engross his
time. Certainly one would rather he had not the turn
at all but I am far more afraid of sedentary games of
chance for wasting time & fortune than I am of any active
out of doors sport whatsoever.

Sir Adam and Lady Eve are like to be turnd out of
paradise-namely their castle at Gattonside. Old paradise
did not number a neighbourhood among its pleasures
but gattonside has that advantage and great will be the
The Ladies after whom you enquire are connections of the Vogrie family though I believe they are not related to it by blood or at least the connection is very distant indeed. The present Vogries father was twice married and his second wife by whom he left no family survived him. Being a buxome young widow (very pretty by the bye) she married a second time & to save the awkwardness I suppose of a change of name selected Captain Dewar of Gilstone a small property in Fife a dashing clever man but of a character rather more congenial to the Shires of green Erin than to our mountains. His chariot in short ran upon the four aces and was therefore apt to have a wheel out of order. He was well known in his day at Bath & other places where play is deep & I fancy was on the whole a winner. He died some time since leaving only daughters—the eldest as I believe was married on the father of the present Sir John Anstruther of Anstruther who is your Lordships present Lady Anstruther and the Misses Dewars are I suppose his sisters. I never heard any thing but what was honourable of Captain Dewar and rather wonder your Lordship has never seen him at Arniestone where he used to be in the late Chiefs time. But I recollect some years since he wished to have the management of his grandson Sir John Anstruther's property and the court of Session would not hear of it not considering his habits as favourable for a person holding the responsible character of a Tutor or Curator for a minor. So this as Joe Hume says is the tottle of the whole.
Adam and Eve are off to see country cousins in Aberdeenshire. I parted with them at Blair Adam on Monday & taking a fit of what waiting maids call the Clevers I started at six this morning & got here to breakfast. As it blew hard all night there was a great swell on the ferry so that I came through

Like Chieftain to the highlands bound
Crying boatman do not tarry 3
Or rather
Like Clerk unto the Session bound.

I could have borne a worse toss and even a little danger since the wind brought rain which is so much wanted. One set of insects is eating the larch another the spruce many of the latter will not I think recover the stripping they are receiving. Crops are looking well except the hay which is not looking at all [well]. The sheep are eating roasted grass but will not be the worse mutton as I hope to prove to your Lordship at Abbotsford.

I beg most respectful compliments to Lady Montagu who I hope accompanies your Lordship north. I am always my dear Lord Your faithful to command

WALTER SCOTT

LETTERS OF 1824

I am here according to the old saying Burd Alone 1 for my son Charles is fishing at Lochleven & my wife and daughter happy persons! at Abbotsford. I took the
opportunity to spend two days at Tyninghame. Lord Haddington complains of want of memory while his conversation is as witty as a comedy and his anecdote as correct as a parish register.

I will be a suitor for a few acorns this year if they ripen well at Ditton or your other forests. Those I had before (raised in the nursery not planted out) are now fine oak plants.

TO ROBERT CADELL

DEAR SIR,- Will you be kind enough to let John Stevenson have a set of the Novels & tales to complete my set of the Author of Waverleys works as republishd in 8vo. which I have sent to the binder. Yours truly

W SCOTT

16 June [1824]

TO MRS. HUGHES

MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,- I have to offer you my best thanks for two letters the last particularly welcome as it assured us of your safe arrival at your resting place

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 305

without our good & kind Dr. Hughes having suffered any inconvenience from the journey. I was rather anxious on the last score for my wife accuses me of the three sins which beset a Scotch Landlord, over walking, over
talking and over feasting the guests whom I delight to
honour. As for over talking that must be as it may—over
walking is now a little beyond my strength and over
feasting I always regulate by the inclinations of my guests
and Dr. Hughes is so moderate in that respect that
there is no fear of any one hurting him. Not that I ever
was much of a bon vivant myself but in our cold country
although abuse of wine is now unknown in good society
yet the use of the good creature is more than with you in
the South for which climate & manners are an apology.

I am very happy you have made your pilgrimage well
out & seen those you must have been interested in seeing.
I am particularly obliged for the hint you have given me
about Southey. I thought he had taken me en guignon
though I could not guess why. I know he has owed me

a letter since 1818 and when he made a tour through
Scotland I with Telford the engineer never looked near me
although not far from my door. But it is of little
consequence who is in fault when no unkindness is meant and
so I will write to him very soon and I thank you kindly
for having been the good natured friend 2 who when as

I think Richardson says the parallel lines are in danger of
running along side of each other for ever gives one of them
a chop out of its course and makes them meet again. I

I am sorry Mrs. 0. P. has past into the next letter of
the Alphabet and turned Q. I hate all conversions of mere
form they are usually a change of garments not the heart.
Wordsworth is a man and a gentleman every inch of him unless when he is mounted on his critical hobby horse & tells one Pope is no poet. He might as well say Wellington is no soldier because he wears a blue great coat and not a coat of burnished mail.

I owe you among many things the honor of a most obliging letter from the Duke of Buckingham about the MS supposed of Swinton. I hope the Duchess will make out her tour; the best way of inducing her Grace to honour us by looking our way is to assure her that our hospitality such as it is is never ostentatious and therefore no inconvenience to ourselves.

Charles will I am sure be grateful for Mr. Hughes' patronage and I trust he will profit by the acquaintances he may procure him at Oxford. I know nothing so essential to give the proper tone to a young mind as intercourse with the learned and the worthy. Charles does not leave me till October. In the meantime I hope to have a visit from "my gay goss-hawk" Walter the only one of my family whom you do not know and who is a fine fellow in his own way & devoted to his profession.

Thank you for the verses on old Q; they are both witty and severe yet give him little more than his due for he was a most ingeniously selfish animal. I have given the music to Sophia in the first place who will impart it to her more idle sister. Besides both Mama and Anne have been at Abbotsford for three weeks during which time I have not seen them. I was never half the time separated from my wife since our marriage saving when I have been "furth of Scotland" as our law phrase goes.
I quite agree with you that Byron's merits and the regrets due to his inimitable genius should supersede every thing else that envy may wish to dwell upon. Our lake-friends were narrow-minded about his talents & even about his conduct much of which might be indefensible but only attracted loud and virulent stricture because of the brilliancy of his powers.

To swear no broader up on paper & to a lady the deuce take your Mr. Whitgreave. He may call himself Mr. Higgins now if he will without being challenged by Him of Higgins-Neuch who is gone to the shades below where the race of Higgins as well as of Percies & Howards must descend. His successor is called Mr. Burn Calender which I hope will satisfy your ear.

I would be quite delighted to become proprietor at any reasonable rate of the old chimney piece. It would however be necessary that someone on the spot be employed on my behalf an expert joiner who compleatly understands his business to take it down & pack it with sawdust and shavings (or what do you call them in English I mean planings of wood) in a proper packing case & it might be sent by sea from Liverpool to Glasgow where there is daily communication & Lockhart would cause someone there [to] send it through the canal to Edinburgh for so old a material must be tender and very easily broken. A few guineas will be no object to me to secure this point so the packing is carefully attended to.

By the way Mrs. Paterson who experienced your bounty is now she writes me 1 in a tolerable way of providing for her family and much to her credit with a very grateful
feeling for kindness shown assures me she is extricated
from her difficulties and in no need of farther assistance
than good wishes. Her eldest son is taken off her hands
and promises to succeed well. So true it is that moderate
assistance will often help those effectually who are really
willing to help themselves.

I begin to be ashamed of my letter for as your friend
Mungo says "Adod it is a tumper." I will stifle this
modesty however in respect I very seldom trespass upon
the patience of my correspondents unless they are in a
hurry for answers & moreover because I had so many
kindesses to acknowledge. I go to Abbotsford on
Saturday 2 for three or four days which will be a great
refreshment. Remember me most kindly to the Doctor
& believe me always most respectfully yours

EDINBURGH 16 June 1824           WALTER SCOTT

On looking at your letter this morning I find the
chimney piece must be asked from Lord Craven 3 and about
this I feel much delicacy. I am not fond of obligations
and do not know his Lordship in the slightest degree.
Besides there is a sort of affront in asking a man for a
curiosity of this kind as your request must be founded
upon the supposition that he has not himself taste enough
to value it. If he would take better care of it himself it
would answer my purpose. If I had any friend to sound
Lord Craven it would be a different matter.

[Heffer and Wells]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE
DEAR JAMES,-The public must take its own way with respect to Redgauntlet 1 as with regard to more important matters. The sale will tell better than anything else how far it will go. I am as firm as Benlomond with respect to any anxiety of an authorial character & we shall know best by Caddells books a month hence how the thing has arrived. Meantime I go to Abbotsford on Saturday and shall send from thence or bring on my return on Tuesday the commencement of the Crusading tales. A good deal is already written but I want to consult books which I have there.

Of course I will comply with Messrs Robinsons wishes. I would have left out Robinson 2 but as they have taken that I think they should take the Memoirs of a Cavalier. You will go on with these two damnd castles after the Italian. I will bring the others from Abbotsford on Tuesday & we will have an accurate computation. If you think a bottle of wine will assist us Charles & I will take a friendly dinner with you (barring Company) on Thursday or Friday.

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 311

Please to seal & forward the inclosed letter to Mr Paterson having first made entry of the Note which is inclosed to him for my long accompt which is however very reasonable considering the trouble of the Gothic

Before returning the proof of Swift I must consult the original copy which I will do tomorrow in Parl. House & bring it down with me to the office. Yours truly

16 June [1824] CASTLE STREET W. S.
TO HIS SON WALTER

DEAR WALTER,-Having got a frank for Annes letter who by the way had forgot your direction I add two lines within it just to say that our divided family are at present all well. I was over the water at Blair Adam from Saturday last till tuesday morning when I returnd to breakfast after a good toss on the ferry the wind having blown a gale during the night and not having quite subsided. Charles remains till today to fish Lochleven trout and visit the old Castle. On Saturday I intend to take French leave of the Court and go out to Abbotsford. I have never before been so long separated from Mama unless when out of Scotland. From Annes information you are going down to sketch in Kent which I think is a very wise plan. It is only practice which gives freedom of hand and truth of eye-I wish when in Kent you would learn how they manage to rear such fine chestnut trees which they use for the hop-ropes. In our country they always grow to bushes but there they shoot up into long poles. I suppose they plant them in mass and very close. I will remit you 50 when I hear from you that you want it and where your address is. For I conceive this letter may wander a little before finding you. I am always yours affectionately WALTER SCOTT

EDINBR. 16 June [PM. 1824]

TO HIS SON WALTER

DEAR WALTER,-I wrote you a few lines yesterday
and have received yours this morning. I inclose a bill for fifty pounds which will serve current expenses: if you want a score more for travelling you shall have it. Please observe that though the best inns and first rate accommodations may not be particularly objectionable to your taste my purse may like those of a moderate scale. However continue to be a good lad and you will not find me unreasonable on money matters. You do not say anything on the subject I wrote about with some anxiety. I conclude my warning was not necessary or if necessary will be of course attended to. It is amazing over what trifles people will sometimes break the neck of their fortunes especially in your profession. You may if you will prolong your sketching in Kent till the beginning of August for that is as early I think as it will be necessary for you to be at Abbotsford with reference to our former subject of correspondence. By the way I found Mrs Anne Page and her mother at Blair Adam which is near Mrs Anne's own estate of Lochore. My old friends Lord and Lady Abercromby were also there and we had a pleasant party. Old Madam Page has a singularly unhappy manner which she has not however transmitted to Mrs Anne at least so far as I could remark. The sight of the beautiful woods and valley of Lochore from the windows may perhaps have influenced my judgement but I conversed with her a good deal and when her shyness wore off found her pleasant and totally unaffected. Of all this however you will judge for yourself-thank God I am only responsible for my owr tastes and so let every herring hang by its own head.

We are threatened (I hope it is only a menace) with a
visit from the Duke and Duchess of Buckingham at Abbotsford and there is again an uncertain rumour of the Duke of Wellington designing for Scotland. Should he really come to Abbotsford I shall be most desirous you should be at home at the time. As for other Dukes and Drakes I can manage them single handed.

On Saturday I intend to make a bolt as far as Abbotsford the Lockharts and Charles go with me to return on Tuesday. I trust to find Abbotsford in beauty and wish you were there to see it. I am always Your affectionate father WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 17 June 1824

TO THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

My LORD DUKE,-I am equally flattered and ashamed of the trouble which your Grace has had the great goodness to take in order to gratify my idle curiosity. I own my curiosity was very much fascinated by the report of a memoir found in the Bastille, and written, as was alleged, by one of an ancient family, with which I have the honour to be connected. But the sense of your Grace's kindness, and the honour of your acquaintance with which you descend to offer me, would be a compensation for a far greater disappointment.

I should not have ventured, considering that our accommodations cannot be of the first class, to offer the Duchess of Buckingham any convenience that these can afford her Grace, had I not been sensible that the
Duchess's goodness will consider the meaning of the invitation, and compare them not with those her Grace is most accustomed to, but to such as are afforded by a Scotch Inn. It is true our late much lamented friend the Duchess of Buccleugh used to make our roof her home occasionally, but as the Lady of my Chief, she was bound to think herself well entertained, providing on our part there was nothing omitted which could show our sense of her kindness.

We do not live in the most romantic and picturesque part of Scotland, but the country round us is very pleasant, besides having to boast of the ruins of Melrose and other objects of antiquarian interest. I can only add, that if your Grace should accompany the Duchess on her proposed tour, it will give us a double honour and pleasure to see the Lord of the far-famed Stowe,1 among our wild hills and moors. Also, that we have room enough, such as it is, for any friends who may belong to the Duchess's party, and that we have enough of hard beds, forest mutton, and tolerable claret, which are the chief ingredients of border hospitality, including always the sincere and respectful welcome, which the Duke and Duchess of Buckingham are sure to find wherever they visit. I have the honour to be, with a sincere sense of your Grace's goodness. My Lord Duke, Your much obliged And most respectful, humble servant WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH, June 17, 1824

The Duchess of Buckingham must not quite form her
expectations of Scotland on Mrs Hughes' report, for our
good friend brings so much disposition to be pleased
wherever she comes, that she is, perhaps, if that be a fault,
gratified with what is in itself not of very much value.

[Willis's Current Notes]

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TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,-Walter 1 will deliver this in his
own person as large as life-& that is much larger than
when you or even when I last saw him. The boy has really
shot up wonderfully. His examination has terminated very
satisfactorily & I think he has insured the engineers-a
great matter as the service is inexpressibly better besides
the chance of civil employment. If Lord Dalhousie goes
to India as is talkd of it will be a great matter for Walter
but go who will we will find some way of getting at him.

I sincerely hope the symptoms you mention are only
those of remaining weakness on poor Elizas constitution.
Quiet and cheerful domestic society will soon I hope in
God bring back her natural good health.

Walter will tell you how he came to change his route
and you will act according to your own ideas and wishes
respecting his stay at Ayr-only remembering that after
12 July we are all at Abbotsford & his bed ready. So if
you see time hangs heavey or that there is any little
idleness creeping on you can forward him to me and he
can take a spell at the mathematics with Mr Thompson.
By the way if he can get any person to work with at Ayr
were it only an hour or two in the day it keeps up practice.
I am with best love to Anne and Eliza always Dear Mrs.
TO JOSEPH TRAIN

DEAR MR. TRAIN, - I have received two very kind letters from Lord Liverpool and Mr. Peel on the subject of your promotion. It seems the appointment is with the Board of Excise not with the Treasury. But they have recommended you to Mr. Lushington which one would think would be sufficient from their natural high influence.

I remain, Dear Mr. Train, Your obedient Servant

EDINBURGH, 23 June, 1824

TO HIS SON WALTER

DEAR WALTER, - I presume you have by this time my letter franked by Sir Alexr. Don addressd to the College and covering a Drat to your order by James Ballantyne on Tritton and Barclay for 50 which I sent immediatly on receipt of your letter. If this has not come to hand write instantly that all inquiries may be made but computing the dates as nearly as I can it must I think have reachd you. If it has not you may draw on Messrs Coutts as you propose and I will write to them to answer it. If you have been detaind at College it is not 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 immediately for Messrs Coutts apprize me that they have been requested by Messrs Greenwood to say whether

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(8-318) 2037 Sterling have been lodged as the regulation price of a Captains commission. I must do all in my power to get the money together as getting this step would put you on velvet and I will write to both the parties accordingly that it shall [be] remitted without loss of time.

(8-318) Certainly I expect you to visit us as formerly proposed. On which subject I said more to you in the letter covering the cash. I wish you would let me know whether you have heard any thing from Greenwood & Coy and when the cash is wanted.

(8-318) I have just come here for a start of two or three days but return on Wednesday.

(8-318) Address to Edinburgh till after the 12th of July. Yours 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 very pleasant description have prevented my attending to the Bannatyne measures of late. I am however of decided opinion that to do the club credit & be useful to
History the works undertaken by the association should be of a substantial and useful kind. If we can get permission for a genuine Melville 1 it will be a great matter.

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 319

If not I would like to see a genuine Pitscottie with such variorum notes as our joint reading might suggest. I have one for the famous Bulls head. In a word let us have the most curious of Scottish authors illustrated by the most curious of Scottish Antiqs. All these we will treat of at large. Meantime I send the List as I cannot attend the meeting today. Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

[early July 1824]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY, KESWICK, CUMBERLAND

MY DEAR SOUTHEY.-Do you remember Richardson's metaphor of two bashful lovers running opposite to each other in parallel lines, without the least chance of union, until some good-natured body gives a shove to the one, and a shove to the other, and so leads them to form a junction. Two lazy correspondents may, I think, form an equally apt subject for the simile, for here have you and I been silent for I know not how many years, for no other reason than the uncertainty which wrote last, or which was in duty bound to write first. And here comes my clever, active, bustling friend Mrs Hughes, and tells me that you regret a silence which I have not the least power of accounting for, I except upon the general belief that

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I wrote you a long epistle after your kind present of the
Lay of the Laureate, and that I have once every week proposed to write you a still longer, till shame of my own indolence confirmed me in my evil habits of procrastination—when here comes good Mrs Hughes, I gives me a shake.

1824

SIR WALTER SCOTT

The years which have gone by have found me dallying with the time, and you improving it as usual—I tossing my ball and driving my hoop, a grey-headed schoolboy—and you plying your task unremittingly for the instruction of our own and future ages. Yet I have not been wholly idle or useless—witness five hundred acres of moor and moss, now converted into hopeful woodland of various sizes, to the great refreshment, even already, of the eyes of the pilgrims who still journey to Melrose. I wish you could take a step over the Border this season with Mrs Southey, and let us have the pleasure of showing you what I have been doing. I twice intended an invasion of this sort upon your solitude at Keswick—one in spring 1821, and then again in the summer of the same year when the coronation took place. But the convenience of going to London by the steam-packet, which carries you on whether you wake or sleep, is so much preferable to a long land journey, that I took it on both occasions. The extreme rapidity of communication, which places an inhabitant of Edinburgh in the metropolis sooner than a letter can reach it by post, is like to be attended with
a mass of most important consequences—some, or rather
most of them, good, but some also which are not to be viewed
without apprehension. It must make the public feeling
and sentiment of London, whatever that may chance to
be, much more readily and emphatically influential upon
the rest of the kingdom, and I am by no means sure that

it will be on the whole desirable that the whole country
should be as subject to be moved by its example as the
inhabitants of its suburbs. Admitting the metropolis to
be the heart of the system, it is no sign of health when the
blood flows too rapidly through the system at every
pulsation. Formerly, in Edinburgh and other towns, the
impulse received from any strong popular feeling in
London was comparatively slow and gradual, and had to
contend with opposite feelings and prejudices of a
national or provincial character; the matter underwent
a reconsideration,—and the cry which was raised in the
great mart of halloo and humbug was not instantly
echoed back, as it may be in the present day and present
circumstances, when our opinion, like a small drop of
water brought into immediate contiguity with a bigger,
is most likely to be absorbed in and united with that of the
larger mass. However, you and I have outlived so many
real perils, that it is not perhaps wise to dread those that
are only contingent, especially where the cause out of
which they arise brings with it so much absolute and
indisputable advantage.

What is Wordsworth doing? I was unlucky in being
absent when he crossed the Border. I heartily wish I
could induce him to make a foray this season, and that
you and Mrs Southey, and Miss Wordsworth, my very
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 323

(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

MY DEAR SHARPE,—Jock 2 has been veracious on the present occasion for I had the Session records (your extracts) for a day and calld to tell you so. It was wrong in me [to] take them—not on your account for I know you would not mind the freedom—but because it might make him think lightly of such an irregularity where the parties are in a different relation to each other. I do not indeed know any other person wt whom I would have taken the same liberty. I was much entertaind with your extracts—Certainly if it were possible to stop old women's tongues the Kirk Session of Humbie 3 made a fair effort. By the way I have got a-joug which I intend to put up at the gate with the mottoe Serva jugum. It will serve to hang a bridle upon.

I have seen very little of you this Session having been so frequently absent on my day of leisure. Now I want you to quit your painters (by the bye their contiguity is bad for the eyes) and spare me a week or two at Abbotsford this fine weather. You shall have your own room & breakfast at your own hour. I will neither walk you nor talk you when you are disposed to sit still or be silent & you have a large bookroom and plenty of queer reading—Item a coach benempt the Blucher sets out from your vicinity in Princes Street thrice a week at 8 a.m.1 and sets you down within a mile of Abbotsford where the carriage shall meet you. Bring a gossoon with you or not just as you like—there is plenty of room. My wife heartily joins in this request.

I am in no earthly hurry about the ballads—the 5th
volume of my own collection is now at John Stevenson's
for you. It came with some books to be bound.

I will call at Forrest's and try to get the cabinet 2 for I

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 325

have got a present of some imitation medals besides what
I have of Bony's.

I will probably call today-if not this parting is well
made as we go tomorrow. I have the Diana but I have
never yet had courage to read it-I shall on your
recommendation. Pray say yes to my invite and let me know
when the voiture shall attend you at the Melrose toll-bar.

I inclose the music of the Heir of Northumberland.1
Yours truly W. SCOTT

9 July [1824]
[Hornel]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE 2

MY DEAR JAMES.-We must do what we can but the
public is like the Lady in Goldsmith's Essays. She came
to be displeased and displeased she was. The fact is I
have written till I have taught others as Captain Bobadil
proposed to teach fencing " almost if not altogether as
well as myself." 3 The world wants novelty more than
superior excellence in what is now rather a less favourd
stile. The wonder is that they have been constant so long.
All this must be heedfully considerd. Yours truly

CASTLE STREET 9th July [1824] W. SCOTT
I got the Caleb Williams. I am taking a formal opinion from Ld. Ch. Baron which he has promised to give me in detail upon the law of Caleb's case. I send Henry in case it can be added to the volume of novels in hand without making it too thick.

[Stevenson]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR CONSTABLE, - Today at two o'clock & I fear I will be detained in the court till that time I must meet some friends at the Waterloo tavern on the subject of a monument for Mr. Watt. I inclose you a summons if you have not received one already in case you cannot attend. I will call at the shop as I come from the meeting and hope to meet you either there or at my own house. Yours truly

CASTLE STREET Friday [9 July 1824]      W SCOTT

I think the business cannot last an hour.

private

[Stevenson]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR CONSTABLE, - I will be delighted to see Mr Leslie. I think you should show him the way and set things going at Abbotsford. I am afraid I have mislaid his letter to

SIR WALTER SCOTT

you and am now in the agonies of an Interlocutor of sale which must be written by court-hours so cannot look for
it just now. Health and comfort to you. Yours truly

W SCOTT
CASTLE STREET Saturday [10 July 1824]

I hope you are thinking of Turner who is a complete
Captain Dalgaty.

[Stevenson]

TO MRS. J. G. LOCKHART, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET,
EDINBURGH 2

MY DEAR SOPHIA,-When I spoke with you about
Johns youngest brother I ought to have said that though
my interest at the Justice House was exhausted for this
year yet in all probability the young gentleman would
not leave Britain immediatly and I dare say I could get
an appointment military or medical for 1825 or 1826.3
The engineer-line is an extremely good one where there
is the necessary turn for mathematics & mechanicks.
In the medical line there is this advantage that on getting
to India it may readily be laid aside for any other in
which our young freinds talent for languages may be
renderd more useful. Indeed the facility of acquiring
languages is one of the readiest steps to success in India.
You can lay all this before our freinds at Germiston &
Capt Lockhart and assure them of my great readiness to
assist if it is thought desireable. I wish I could promise a
writership but these are less easily come by. I will do
my best however with pleasure and if my services can be
useful I should like to have as soon as possible an account
of the young gentlemen's age studies bent of inclination &c.
Pray give my love to my pretty violet & kiss Doni Hu.

Mama walkd to Chiefswood yesterday & back again & found all in apple-pye order. I gave you the slip on Saturday with regret but I had a bad rheumatism in my head and wishd to get home as I knew the journey next day would make it worse. I am always Dear Sophia

Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Monday [circa July 1824]

Law

TO [SIR ROBERT PEEL]

MY DEAR SIR,-Allow me to make my best acknowledgements to you and Lord Liverpool for the seasonable whisper to the Board of Excize which I have little doubt has put my poor friend Train en train. On the honour you do me in wishing for a portrait I will say little because I feel a great deal.1 In general I am of the humour of a large wolf-greyhound of my own who from his beauty and rarity invited every artist who saw him to pull out his sketch book. Poor Maida took it very quietly for some time and accomodated them by assuming such postures as they required till at length he lost patience and shewd the most unequivocal signs of displeasure if he saw pencils or a pallet and if he was [not] at the time under any controul which he dared not dispute he got up and fled to the stable for refuge. Now though neither fair nor rare I have for one reason or other been frequently subjected to the rather tiresome process of sitting for my picture and I am expecting a domiciliary visit from Leslie 1 the American who is employd by some of his countrymen to
invite me to subject myself to that operation and which
more goodness than my desert I cannot handsomely decline.

But certainly to be painted for your halls and by
my friend Sir Thomas is very different from an ordinary
sitting and although I had no thoughts whatever of
visiting London next year I will certainly if God send life
and health come to London in Spring were it for that sole
purpose and in truth excepting to give Sir Thos. an
opportunity of finishing a portrait which His Majesty
commanded and to eat my mutton at the Roxburghe
club I have little business there.

Now why could I not have said all this at once and
without bestowing such a share of my tediousness upon
you whose time is so much better employd. But when
was ever statesman approachd without some selfish or
interested view of some kind or other and not to differ
from the rest of mankind I am by endeavouring to
represent what is a great honour conferd upon me into as
important a favour as possible granted by me to you-in
order to palliate the shamelessness of asking another
personal favour of you so very soon after your great
kindness in the matter of Train which I am conscious is
of itself far more than I could claim. My present petition
however is in favour of a very near connection and I think
a youth of the most remarkable talent for acquiring
languages who (Murray and perhaps Leyden excepted)
ever fell in my way. He is brother to my Son-in-law
John Lockhart a boy about fifteen years old who has
carried away all the prizes in languages at the Glasgow
college.1 His father though an excellent man is old and
no conjurer so instead of making the lad follow out his
classical pursuits by sending him to Oxford or Cambridge
he kept him at home to learn what he pleased and how he pleased. At one time he secluded himself in his own room for a month or two and came out talking as good Gaelic as you would wish to hear from Lochaber—at another he came down acquainted with the Talmud and posed the Hebrew professor—but all this is throwing away time and talent and it has occurred to his brother and me that were he to have any reasonable prospect of getting out to India as a Cadet suppose a year and a half or two years hence he might employ the interval to advantage in studying the Oriental languages great proficiency in which has always led to prosperity in the East. But his father will not part with him for such a purpose unless I can hold out to him something better than my own assurance that I will do my utmost. It unluckily happens that my direct India influence is expended for the present having had the good luck to fire two applications for a nephew and a cousin and to kill with both barrels. You are aware that Scotland is in every sense a breeding not a feeding country and that we send our children and relatives to India as we send our black cattle to England. I can only say that since I dealt in this exportation trade my cargoes from John Leyden's time downward have usually been of good quality and have given satisfaction to Mother Company. My present stock of griffins is very promising the nephew aforesaid being rather a crack scholar at Addiscombe and my cousin an excellent arithmetician.

I should wish to put the young Lockhart as soon as possible to the appropriate studies but I repeat that the favour I ask you is your interest for a cadetship of horse or foot within the space of two or three seasons so that
as the boon has a tractus futuri temporis 1 as we lawyers call it
you must be so good as to hold that it was to be asked a
twelvemonth hence and not at this very unbecoming
time. But I am afraid my verbiage will not recommend
my pretensions any more than an indifferent cooks bad
butter is admitted as a passport for her stale fish. So I
will een draw my letter to a close being with much regard
and respect Dear Sir Your most obedient and obliged
servant                           WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 12 July [1824]

[Owen D. Young]

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TO MRS. MEIK,1 RANKEILOUR STREET, ST PATRICK SQUARE,
EDINBURGH

DEAR MRS MEIK,-Mr David Haliburton was here
yesterday and brought me the very agreeable intelligence
that he has secured a cadet-ship for Patrick who will sail
for India next Christmas to enter on the great scene of
human life. It is early to begin on it, but I have no doubt
he will do well. Mr Haliburton will take care to chuse the
presidency where his uncle Dr Meik is which I believe
to be Bengal. Pray write me a line on this subject. I
conclude Patrick will visit his South country friends this
season and your brother will I am sure take the trouble
to bring him here. Should you come out with him
yourself it would give Lady Scott & me great pleasure if
you would spare us a few days.

I saw my Aunt Mrs Scott of Raeburn remarkably well
on Monday which was Saint Boswells fair & for a wonder
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without rain. All I have to add is that if I can be of
farther use in Patrick's matters it will give me great
pleasure & that I am always Dear Barbara Your
affectionate cousin                      WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE. 20 July [PM. 1824]

TO HIS SON WALTER

DEAR WALTER,-I have your letter and observe that
like the redoubted Major Sturgeon 1 you have had your
marchings and counter-marchings your sousings and your
sweatings. Our weather has on the contrary been
delightful and even Saint Boswell on his fair day has
suspended his habitual diabetes. This took place on
Monday last and we went there in force encouraged by
the fine weather. The crops I think are the finest I ever
saw. If Lord Guildford 2 had been at home and had
known you were in the neighbourhood he would have
been civil to you for I know him very well but he is
seldom resident in the country.

I find the letter to Coutts which gave me some surprize
is merely a circular to ensure that those who propose to
purchase have the cash forth-coming and I will endeavour
to be provided accordingly as I should be extremely
mortified did you lose your chance of preferment. It may
be then considerd whether you should not exchange for
the infantry where promotion goes faster on. I am glad
to say Major Huxley is like to be aid de camp to Lord
Dalhousie.
We may expect you here I suppose in the course of next month which will be time enough for your reconnoitring party in these parts. I suppose Sir Adams party will not be here till the 12 at soonest as they are on a highland tour.

To save trouble your marching money (say 20 or 30) is at Coutts who will answer your draught for such a sum and place it to my accompt.

Mama is quite well and sends love. Both little Walter and Charles are here the latter big with the hope of carrying a gun this season but he is too absent to be a proficient in field exercises. He has had some weeks of Leatham and has a much better seat on horseback than formerly.

Sophia and Lockhart are quite well. I find you visited Miss Dumergue when you went to town which was quite right. I remain always your affectionate father.

ABBOTSFORD 20 July [PM. 1824] WALTER SCOTT

TO HIS SON WALTER

MY DEAR WALTER, I have your letter this morning. Mine which seems to have missd you I informd you that your presence was not necessary and would not be useful here untl about 12 Augt. I hastend to shew Sir Adam your letter and he and I both agree that it would be a very serious affair to miss the examination. On the other hand it is very desireable when a matter of th[is] important nature is once started that it should go either off or on.
And it is my opinion that you should if possible get three weeks in August to get down here. I am not sure which of the Hopes is now your governor but I have interest with all the family and have no doubt I can make my way to him when you advise me which he is and where to be addressed. The Almanacks still bear Sir Geo: Murrays name. Now what I would have you do when you are in London is to see either Lt. Col. MacDonald (your guardian angel being of that clan I believe) or Sir Herbert Taylor and ask in the way of consultation whether it would be a very improper request to make for a month or three weeks leave to attend some family business of a very particular nature for which Mrs Carpenters visit to Scotland may be mentiond as an excuse or pretext. In short learn how the land lies and write me. I observe what you say about the troop which is very sensible and considerate. If you have a right to be preferd to purchase I apprehend cases must now and then occur in which there is no evading your right and better wait for such with patience.

Don Antoine always remembers his promises. In his last he told you you had credit for 30 at Coutts but if you want more you may make it 50. If you step into the Compting house Sir Coutts Trotter or Sir Edmund Antrobus will be glad to see you.

Lest I should not have been plain enough you will understand a party of friends have taken possession of Sir Adams house so that he cannot receive the visit he expected untill about the 12th August when it is to take place. Putting this matter off would have the great inconvenience of throwing the scene into the medisance.
of Edinburgh whereas here the intimacy of the families
and the retired state of the country may permit such a
thing to glide on—or off—without attracting any observation
which would be very desirable.

Mama,1 [the] Lockharts, Anne and Charles all well and
send love to you and Miss D[umergue] and Mrs Nick.

I beg you not [to] miss a levee of His R. Highness if one
occurs. But if not I think you should pegg down to Sandhurst
as fast as possible and make up by hard study for what
time you may according to my plan lose in August. Write

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to me on receipt of this or rather when you have advised
with Lt. Col. MacDonald or Sir Herbert—if you liked you
might consult with Colonel Stanhope who would willingly
advise you but do not take young counsellors in an affair
of this important kind.

I received your letter this morning so set you example
of a close correspondence. Yours truly and affectionately
WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 25 July [PM. 1824]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[27th July 1824]

DEAR JAMES,—I send some copy. I am a little down
hearted about it but am getting on. When I do not
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 balance these payments being
(8-336) made. Here is delicious weather. Yours truly

(8-336) W. SCOTT
[Stevenson]

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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
diseases arising from an inflamed & perverted state of

the blood seem to grow frightfully common. Ice has lately been applied here with great success arresting the progress of blood to the heart. The winter has been so open that no ice-house in the neighbourhood could be filled excepting my own & it has been eminently useful in the cases of two of my best friends & brought down the fever immediately.

After all it is a cruel thing this dancing away again from old England after seeing so few friends but I suppose it must be; it is the worse for me as I intend to be in town in Spring if circumstances will permit.

Nothing can interest me more than the last verses 1 of poor [Byron] born as he was for something so noble and only prevented from attaining the highest point in public esteem by the faults which I think flowed from a morbid temperament which like the slave in the triumphal chariot so often accompanies genius to humble her and her triumphs. The unfinished state of the lines the heartfelt pressure of care and unhappiness under which they are written and the longing for closing the season by an honourable death render them as melancholy and as impressive as any verses I ever read in my life. There are one or two errors of the pen I should suppose which render it difficult to make [out] the sense of particular passages.

We expected rather an appalling visit for little folks from the Duchess of Buckingham but her Grace found the seas of the Hebrides so rough (for she went as far as Dunvegan Castle) that she broke her purpose of trying
the mainland. I never saw her but have heard she is intelligent and amiable. I expect a more interesting visitor however than even this dignified guest and that is my friend and former ward Countess Compton who is a highly accomplished and most agreeable woman. I think your Ladyship never met [her]. She has promised to come with all the bairns and I have engaged by a wild and unusual road through our pastoral hills to guide them here in person from Moffat performing in one day's journey what usually requires three.

I can easily conceive your Ladyship must have been amused with Basil Hall and struck with the very direct and almost abrupt mode in which he always prosecutes his object of inquiry. He has written an excellent book full of practical good sense and sound views and I admire how as a traveller he has said so much about the manners of the people yet avoided any breach of the confidence of private society upon which travellers think themselves entitled to trample merely because they are travellers.

As to the book you inquire about I greatly doubt its seeing the light till November—it is going on but interrupted by various amusements and occupations. My son Walter came down on me two days ago rather unexpectedly. He had much the appearance of a wild Arab being burnt black with the late sunny days which he had spent in sketching and making military drawings in Kent and having chosen to let his moustaches and beard attain a formidable growth. He has really a most
Saracenic appearance and were not Kamehameha
departed I should certainly have passed him off for King of the Sandwich Islands at a review of the yeomanry which we attend to-day—By the way was it not a foolish fuss they made about these poor savages besides cramming them to death as children do their pets.1

Our gracious Sovereign has been very civil to me desiring Wilkie to introduce my ancient figure in a large picture he is painting for his Majesty of his reception at Holyrood.2 My younger son also figures as one of the Knight Marshal's pages of honour so there will be enough of us. Like you I admire his royal constancy—there was an idea that that was all over but habits become inveterate at a certain period of life. Now here is a long letter and as little in it to the purpose as three sides of paper and a bit of another can be well supposed to contain. It is time to stop.—Believe me my dear Lady Marchioness, always affectionately and respectfully yours,

WALTER SCOTT

[TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK]

MY DEAR LORD,—I am very glad to learn by your very kind letter that Lady Montagu is not the worse of her various and unexpected duties which while no one can discharge them so willingly and so well were after all of a nature very harassing and agitating especially as her kindness of disposition in such a cause would also most probably induce her to exceed her strength. I trust dear Lady Isabella is now quite restored to health. Since she
I was to be surprized it could not have happened in better quarters than at the almost paternal roof of Ditton.1

I am anxious to hear of the Duke & Mr Blakeney whom I wish particularly to know. If I hear of them at Bowhill I will try to inveigle them down to this place where I have now got myself into tolerable order and beat out of doors all the mechanics who for two years have been half the amusement and half the plague of my life. Your Lordship & Lady M. are missing the finest season ever seen in Scotland-scarce a drop of rain till yesterday & hay so plenty notwithstanding that I bought it of the first quality at 4d 1/2 per stone. Two months ago I looked to pay a shilling and I have e'en taken the opportunity to buy as much as will serve for two years. The crops look beautiful and all is plentiful save the garden where the fruit is devoured by wasps in a manner which I never before witnessed. They leave us neither peach nor cherry out of a fine show of both.

I have been out two days affording the light of my countenance to the Selkirk & Roxburghshire yeomanry. Government are acting with culpable short sightedness in throwing cold water on this most constitutional & loyal species of force. I should be glad to know where we would have been in Scotland had they not been able in the absence of regular troops to march 1000 yeomen into Glasgow in one morning. I think they are quite right to insist upon this corps being as well disciplined as their nature admits and being regularly mustered but it is very impolitic to disgust them by cutting off their small allowances considering the individuals make considerable sacrifices both of time & money and considering also that
this wretch'd oeconomy goes to impress them with an idea that their service is overlooked & held cheap. I wish we may not sup the sauce of this one day for as sure as I am writing in my own great chamber as Slender says so surely are our freinds at the helm in this & one or two other Scottis[h] matters holding a false course.

When a man turns it is time to draw bridle - he may bestow his tediousness but not his ill humour on his freinds. The Forest troop were flatterd & delighted with your Lordships interference in their behalf and made a most gallant haloo for Lord M. as well as their young landlord.

As for my motions about which your Lordship so kindly enquires we shall be quite stationary here all the season and delighted to see you & Lady M. within our walls.

We have now reasonably good accomodation for night also so I hope you will extend your favours in point of time as much [as] your leisure will permit. I am sure a visit at Bothwell will do Lady M. much good.

My son came in suddenly the other day from drawing military sketches in Kent under a burning sun varied with thunder storms. He is burnd as black as a Moor and being bearded like a pard was taken by the yeomanry for some stray Aid de Camp of the deceasd King Tamahmeah.1 My kind respects attend Lady Montagu & I hope your Lordship will always believe me your truly faithful

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 3d August [1824]

I deliverd your Lordships message to Sir Adam about his Lyon young.
TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-This I conclude will find you in the Great City and I hope you have not forgotten your promise to visit us on your return. Permit me to remind you about my Ordnance maps. I have those of Cornwall Kent Dorset Devon Sussex Pembroke Wilt[s] & Surrey Essex with an Index map. All others I want and they are highly useful to me. Almost all our long job here is now ended except some glasses which have been long promised us from London. The library is uncommonly handsome and quite full nay overflowing into my study which is also shelved. I presume you will bring Mr Leslie when you come down: his very ingenious countryman Newton 2 is at Chiefswood at present & makes a pleasant addition to our society, occasionally.

Will you take the trouble to convey to Mr Wiffen [] 1,1, to be paid when we meet as my subscription to his very beautiful 1st volume the translator has done justice to the poet and the artist to both. My best Compliments to Mrs Constable whom we expect to see by & bye. Pray let me hear of your motions. I have ceased to enquire after your health. Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 3 August [PM. 1824]
TO OWEN REES, MESSRS. LONGMAN AND COY.,
PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON

(8-344)DEAR SIR,- I send the notices you want which have at
least the advantage of being quite genuine though not
perhaps very dignified. I could add dates proofs &c if I
were in Edinburgh where most of my family papers now
are. My descent from the Lairds of Harden (wild fellows
in their day) is proved by their deeds of entail settling the
estate on my great grandfather and failing the family
of Raeburn I am next Cadet of Harden so a good swinging
plague might give me 10,000 a year but it is quite as well
as it is. I would like to see the proofsheets of the article
for the compositor considering my bad hand will make
sad work with our Scottish names.

(8-344)The Editor will observe my title to Supporters ranks
on a grant of our Lord Lion King at arms which was
subsequent to the entry of my arms in the Herald's books
in London.

(8-344)I will be happy to see you here when you are next
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
frank to cover the inclosed half yearly payment of 100.,
being a cheque for 50 and now send it at the charge of
double postage rather than pass the term farther. This
is on your own accompt not that of the girls notes.

We had a letter from Walter two days since mentioning
his safe arrival at College. His parting gave us all the
greatest regret as his manners are extremely good joiind
to a most goodnatured and actively obliging disposition.
There is no one here who does not miss him in our

1824                SIR WALTER SCOTT              345

different departments and Lady Scott in particular as he
was always her principal Aide de Camp. I have a long
and satisfactory letter from Major Huxley. The
connection with Lord Dalhousie cannot but prove highly
advantageous to him. I called at Dalhousie Castle to
return my thanks and express my sense of Lord and Lady
Dalhousies very uncommon kindness but they were
unluckily at Edinburgh. I then expressed my thanks in
writing & had a most kind answer from Lady D. holding
out some hopes of our receiving them here an event
which would give me particular pleasure. There is still
a report that he will go to India but I have not heard it
from any good authority. Should he carry Major Huxley
there as I trust he would it might be a very advantageous
thing for our friend.

I am happy to hear from every quarter that Elizas
health is getting confirmed and strengthen so I trust she
will reap permanent benefit from her last illness working
away all the unseen and unmedicinable complaints which
linger about the system of young folks till carried off by
some good brushing disorder.

We were truly grieved by the bad news of Mr. David
MacCullochs health which I heartily hope may be
exaggerated. I am aware how much you must feel on this occasion from the mutual affection which subsists betwixt you. There is no remedy save to hope the best.

We have been here nearly a month amidst the finest weather possible and the highest appearance of excellent crops. Hay which we thought would have been scarce & dear to be had at 6d. per stone. Heaven make us thankful for peace and plenty. Lady Scott is the only grumbler and that against the wasps who eat all our fruit. I wish your girls were here to help them. Let me hear when convenient that the inclosed reaches you safely. I hope you will be able to come to town during the winter months for Annes comfort and Elizas schools. She must not let her laming slip. My wife with Anne & Sophia-Walter and Charles-for for once we are all here together send kindest regards to you and my nieces. Believe me allways Your affectionate brother WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 5 Augt. [1824]

[Helpston]

TO WILLIAM CLERK, PRINCIPAL CLERK TO THE JURY COURT, EDINBURGH

ABBOTSFORD 7th August 1824

MY DEAR WILLIE,-Time has been that I would have been a little annoyed at what has given your kindness and delicacy unnecessary rafling.1 Indeed to tell you the truth
one reason for not letting off a stave or two to the
praise of Kenmure was the unpleasantness of being
brought before the public on every occasion like Gows' band which plays at all manner of festivals. But after all
my life would be a sore one if I had the delicacy of our
friend Cran[stoun]. I thank the Gods that have made
me of sterner stuff - I have been struck up and down too
often to be very sensitive about the matter and I have
endeavoured for my own comforts sake to separate myself
so far from my Literary self that I think I can view the
ascent or descent of the latter with all thereto belonging
with about the same interest I would take in the Walter
Scott Leith Smack or the no less nobly nominated stage.2
Perhaps I would not have exactly expressed myself in
the terms of my letter to a public company when sober
but had I partaken of the festivities of the day I might
probably have said something still more extravagant and
you may be assured yourself and assure Mr. Kennedy if
necessary that I have not the least painful feeling on the
subject unless that it makes me rather sorry I did not try
the song upon the old principle. In for a penny. So I
really take an interest in the Gordon of Kenmure and the
party seems to have been a most joyous one. It would
be a most agreeable termination to this little incident
should it be the shoeing horn to draw on a visit from you.
We were at Newton - i.e. I was - but I think the Knight
is going to be noosed after all 3 -our regale was dull and
dignified - grave and gentlemanlike in the extreme -
course small mirth stirring.

By the way our honest friend Culvenan had proposed
me the same task which you did to which I made some
similar answer so that if Mr Maitland had not mentioned the matter honest Leatherhead certainly would and on the whole I have great reason to be thankful. Always my dear Clerk Yours entirely WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,- I am delighted I am begun to interest you.

Tomorrow I go to Lees in Berwickshire to meet Mrs Coutts 2 & return on Monday.

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 349

Please to enter in your Book two Abbotsford notes of mine pr. 275 each dated 17 Current & payable at Constables one at 6 and the other at 12 months & see this is not left undone they are payable to Baird.

I return proofs and send copy also a note for 2d post.

Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

friday [20th August 1824]

[Stevenson]

TO MRS. COUTTS 1

MY DEAR MRS COUTTS,- That which we wish earnestly we are sometimes rather tiresome in trying to secure; so there is perhaps little reasoning for my troubling you with a note to remind that we entertain the hope of seeing you with Miss Goddard 2 and my friend Dr Thomas some time in the week after this which may be most convenient
for you. We have plenty of room, such as it is, for your suite, that is numbering it on its effective strength, not on the number of the Morning Post. When you honour me with any notice of your motions, my address is Abbotsford, Melrose, and the post leaves Edinr. at five o'clock. Much health and happiness from the land of cakes. I remain dear Madam Your most obedient and respectful

W. S.

LEES, Monday [23d (1) August 1824]

Too early for a light—must try to twist this into a proper complication of folds.

[Coutts and Co.]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DRUMLANRIG CASTLE

MY DEAR LORD,—I had your kind letter in course but have delayd answering it my motions being a little uncertain. And now such is the crossness and cantankerousness of our posts that possibly my corporal presence at Drumlanrigg may outstrip this letter. I mean God willing to sleep tomorrow at Betocks Bridge 3 near Moffat & next morning to give Sir Adam and his Lions who are at or about Kirkmichael some practical instructions upon their plans of planting & building to which I should be competent if bought experience is worth anything. On the same day Thursday 26th. I propose to dine at

Drumlanrig. I bring my son in law Lockhart with me as
company through the hills which I hope is not too great
am intrusion on the hospitality of the Chateau. I intend
with your Lordships permiss[ion] to stay friday & return
Saturday. I am aware your mornings are mornings of
business and will bring a pony that I may revisit some of
my old haunts.

Mr. Oddie & his freind have not yet cast up. When
which I hope will not be before my return to this place
they shall be most welcome to all the hospitality which
their time and inclination permit them to accept.

My motions towards Dumfriesshire would have been
sooner announced but I was down to Lees to hail like all
the rest of the world the Diva Pecunia as she crossd the
border. Mortals call the goddess Mrs. Coutts-I fear I
shall not see Lady Montagu but in the agreeable hope of
meeting your Lordship soon I am most respectfully yours

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 24 Augt. [1824]

Lest I should excite alarm of any kind by having
announced the vicinity of the Knight of the Lions I add
that it is not his purpose at present to make any more
than a lionizing morning visit at Drumlanrigg to shew the
lions of that residence to his own lions.

[ Buccleuch]

TO LADY COMPTON

MY DEAR LADY COMPTON,- When you promise your
young folks some bonne bouche bye and bye they are very
apt to trouble Mama with enquiries when bye and bye is
likely to come and I in expectation of the very great pleasure of seeing you all at Abbotsford begin now to pluck your sleeve and enquire after your motions. Besides if your Ladyship is true of promise and allow me the pleasure of escorting you safely through our hills some arrangement is previously necessary to secure horses and

though this cannot be till the precise time of meeting is fixed yet it may be as well to consider it a little beforehand. I came to this place yesterday by the road I propose and found it all capital good except about two miles which are rather rough but quite safe and practicable. There is a very decent Inn called Betocks Bridge two miles on the west (or Dumfries) side of Moffat where I will meet you or if any strange and unavoidable cause of delay should occur will send my son to be your guide. You must have horses from this place to go through to Saint Marys Loch and I when assured of your motions will take care that horses come from Selkirk to meet you there you must say how many you will want. Betocks Bridge is just [about twenty miles] from Dumfries and you must calculate so as to sleep there and we shall easily get to Abbotsford to a late dinner or early supper on the following day. Would I could ensure such a day as the day before yesterday when you and yours could see our pass without the vapours mists and darkness which are as proper to it as to the far end of Mirzas bridge. I do not however wish your Ladyship to lose the skin of your forehead as I am like to do in the cause or even to be burnt like a brick which has befallen my companion Lockhart. I really question if an Italian sun has more strength.

I am here for two days to look at my young chief and spend a while with his excellent uncle who besides his
sterling worth has an admirable perception of quiet fun.
The plantations [word indecipherable] around the house are fast rising to supply the devastation of old Q. but it is still impossible to consider how much the fine old castle has lost by being deprived in a great measure of its natural garland of mighty oaks without wishing the selfish old wretch what one should not wish to any poor living (I mean dead) soul. Still Drumlanrig shows like the Queen of the fine valley of Nithsdale.

I cannot tell with how much pleasure I look to having your mother and Anna Jane and Williamina all under my roof not forgetting the dear babies. I will not play a male Goneril to you and abate your train for [word indecipherable] included. We have now a good deal of accommodation such as it is. I shall certainly Reganise Mrs Goutts a little however if she comes our way as she proposes, for she has in necessity to make an apology for travelling en princesse. I saw her the other day at Lees with seven servants besides a bed miss and a bed doctor who were little better. She is however a very good natured person and has been very liberal of her wealth and not injudiciously where she could relieve distress. I expect her visit if she makes it out will be over in a week. I am a distant relative of old Thomas 2 (or dear Tom as his Relict calls him) which procures me this distinction.

The Italian Lamp is hung up in a place in my Library which seems quite made for it. Everyone admires its form and elegance. I have not yet put a light in it. There is an excellent pianoforte in the same room which I purchased chiefly with the hopes of your Ladyships visit and one which I expect from Lady Alvanley and her daughters.
I am very sorry to find we are not to hope to see Lord Compton but his arrangements are natural and proper.
I trust in God that the years residence you propose on the continent may confirm his constitution. I think he is arrived at the time of life when affections of the breast lose much of their dangerous character, but still prevention is what he owes to all of us.

Kindest love to Mrs Clephane and the sisters and adieu, for I hear a great clamour of dogs and servants which is as much as to say that the shooters are going out and therefore that breakfast is ready. Pray mind to allow for cross posts and all contingencies when your plans are finally arranged. Always my dearest Lady Compton with kindest and best wishes your sincere and affectionate friend

DRUMLANRIG 28 August 1824 WALTER SCOTT

I will be at home on the 30th at e'en.

[Northampton]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON 1

MY DEAR RICHARDSON,- Yours of the 12 reached me only about the 20th & since that time I have been a cruizing about, down to Lees to meet Mrs Coutts then through the hills to this place to spend a day or two with my young chief and his excellent uncle at this fine old place. How you would luxuriate in the fine dashing stream of the Nith & the grand old building now recovering 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

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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) 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 Ashestiel 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.1 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
which Lady Scott & I will anticipate so much pleasure.
If you take us on your return it will be just so far on your
way but then it casts your visit into the "sear & yellow
leaf" & deprives us of good days & fishing weather.
But consult your own convenience only pray come &
oblige yours truly  

WALTER SCOTT

I have much kindness to thank Mr Chas. Bell for. I beg
kind respects to him & especially to Mrs Richardson. I
send this to Cockburns care as the best address I can think
of in Edinburgh.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO CAPTAIN BASIL HALL 1

MY DEAR CAPTAIN,- I am unable to answer your
queries very particularly although I have long known
Miss Ferriar. I do not attribute much of her success to
her father being a Clerk of Session although an office
peculiarly suited to inspire literary attempts & fan the
glow of awakening genius as in Sir James Colquhouns
case-my own and other signal instances. Miss Ferriar
is in society a very well bred good humourd and sensible
person and uncommonly well informd though without the
least assumption or affectation. I do not believe she had
any other opportunities of studying human character than
are open to most Scotchwomen. Her natural connections
are in the better classes but you know thanks to our Scotch

love of cousinship every one has plenty of old Uncle
Adams & Aunt Betties to draw portraits from. In former
(8-357)days Miss Ferriar was a good deal at Inverary being an intimate friend of Lady Charlotte Campbell & probably she may have seen high life in other quarters. In short her excellences as an authoress seem to arise not from any peculiar opportunities of observing nature but from the strong and intuitive power of observing what is around all of us - at least in this country where the learned and unlearned, the stupid and the ingenious, the well bred and the clownish, are not so much classified and separated from each other as in the society of a great metropolis.

(8-357)I will be pleased should these notices satisfy in any respect Lady Spenser's curiosity concerning this very accomplishd & amiable woman. I ought to add that her health is far from strong which occasions lately at least her being rather retired & seldom visiting. I beg my respectful compliments to Lord & Lady Spenser and am always Dear Basil Very truly yours

(8-357)WALTER SCOTT

(8-357)ABBOTSFORD 30 Augt. 1824

[Miss Mary Lockhart]

TO LADY COMPTON

(8-357)MY DEAR LADY COMPTON, I found your kind letter on my return from Drumlanrig from which place I addressed a few lines to your Ladyship. We will be delighted to see you all upon Monday as your kindness proposes only

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(8-358)the preceding day belonging to the circuit will prevent the 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 mistrysting 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 Beatock 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 I has nine to attend herself alone

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(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. 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 quo t 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. 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
untimely death at an age when the world might justly have hoped for so many more fruits of his genius.

I am very desirous to perfect my own set of his works & have employd the Bearer John Stevenson to get me every thing that he publishd. He has a list of what I already possess and I beg you will have the goodness to assist him in getting any articles that may be scarcer. I am always

Dear Sir Your most obedient Servant

ABBOTSFORD [6th] September [1824] WALTER SCOTT

favoured by Mr. John Stevenson, Bookseller Edinburgh

TO REV. R. POLWHELE, NEWLYN VICARAGE

MY DEAR SIR,-I am so dreadful a correspondent that with those I esteem most highly, and certainly Mr. Polwhele ranks high among them, I very often am obliged to declare a bankruptcy in the way of correspondence, rather than make those small payments, which would at least show a sense of the debt if they deal little towards satisfaction. I am sure you could not wish to publish any of my letters, containing in them matter not fit for the public eye. At the same time, bearing no recollection of the subjects at this distance of time, I should be glad to have an opportunity of looking them over before publication, as they may possibly regard topics on which my more mature age may have induced me to change my
mind, or perhaps opinions hastily and inaccurately expressed in the confidence of private correspondence. I will be therefore greatly obliged to you if you would have the goodness to transmit me the letters under the cover of Mr. Croker, of the Admiralty, who if the parcel is addressed to him will forward them safely to me. I have little reason to suppose that there will be any cause to refuse compliance with your wishes, and certainly shall be very little disposed to decline compliance with any thing you can wish.

I have to thank you, amongst other favours, for a copy of Sermons, which from the nature of the subjects are interesting and curious, though some of them may, I suppose, be considered as conciones ad clerum, rather than ad populum, from the abstruse disquisitions into which they conduct the reader.

I am writing in the midst of moor-fowl shooters and tourists, which occasions my hastening to subscribe myself, dear Sir, your obliged humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT

[T]o W. SHAW MASON

Sir, - I beg to express my best thanks to you for your very interesting catalogue of books on Irish History which I will carefully preserve [as] a guide upon that interesting department of bibliography. I received it about two days since. I beg at the same time to thank you by anticipation for your very kind present of Irish oak from the
roof of St. Patricks. It will be particularly acceptable at present as I have been making some old-fashioned Scottish quaighs (small drinking cups) out of such scraps of remarkable wood as I have chanced to collect—Wallaces oak—Sir John the Graemes yew tree and the like & I will certainly put it in my guests power if it be in their inclination to drink a tasse of highland whiskey out of Shilelah oak. I think you will judge from this circumstance what value I will put on your gift and how much cause I have to subscribe myself Sir your obliged and thankful humble Servant WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 6 September 1824.

[Owen D. Young]

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TO ALEXANDER PETERKIN, MAYFIELD LOAN, NEWINGTON

DEAR SIR,—I have been much engaged with company and have had little time to look over the enclosed 1 which besides is in a type too small for my eyes. As far as it goes it seems to contain in the latter part no gross error but the former and earlier part of Buccleuch pedigree is very inaccurate and could hardly be corrected without the family papers were accurately inspected and as that is impossible at present you must be content with trees no worse than your fellows. I observe for example that Sir Robert Scott son of Sir Walter is totally omitted though his existence is proved by a deed to which his father and he are parties ex[cambion] giving the lands of Glenkerry with the Merks of Melros for those of Bellenden which the family and their clan afterwards adopted for their gathering wood.2 I am sorry I am able to help you so little in this matter and shall be glad if any opportunity occurs in which I can be more successful.
MY DEAR MRS. COUTTS, I am particularly happy to commit to record that I had this day the pleasure of introducing you to the antiquities of Melrose Abbey which I hope have afforded you so much satisfaction as to tempt you to revisit them again. Believe me dear Mrs. Coutts With much respect Your most obedient humble servt

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 10 Sept 1824

Mrs. Coutts &c &c.

[Coutts and Co.]

[11th September 1824]

Inscription on a tombstone in Melrose Churchyard

The Earth goeth on the earth glistering like gold
The Earth goeth to the earth sooner than it wolde
The Earth builds on the earth castles & towers
The Earth says to the earth all shall be ours

[Robinson's Coutts: The History of a Banking House]

TO COLIN MACKENZIE
MY DEAR MACKENSIE,-I am so unluckily situated as not to be able to answer your kind invitation. Here are in possession of our house 1 Lady Compton. 2 Lady Alvanley 3 last not least Mrs. Coutts, all good and old friends but rather too many eggs in a basket—the last has just left—the others drop off in the course of next week like leaves in stormy weather. But then Canning is to be here—time uncertain—and the young Buccleuch also has promised a visit so that I doubt it will be October before I can assure myself of looking up the water. The same circumstance makes it very doubtful whether I can be in town on the 1st October. I will go however if I possibly can but I would have you en cas prepared to make a start in my stead for I have a sort of omen that one of the above visits will be apt to light about the time. I hope you will come down as you promised when Canning comes of which you shall have due notice. I am glad to learned from our friend Sir Roberts that he is much better. I believe the honest fellows distresses arise all from that organ of evil the Stomach which allows us to run a devilish long accot. with it in youth and then when we get old comes down upon us for principal and interest—none of your part payment in morning headaches and night mares have gone as we are apt vainly to suppose far to settle the debt but we are compelled to atone for our overdrafts on the constitution by substantial cramps, whizzing apoplexies from all which dearest Colin the Lord defend all honest fellows in particular yourself and yours always.

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 your kindness. I am not in the least disappointed about the chimney piece nor surprised that Lord Craven should (even without any apology) have declined a request which a stranger had no title to make. Though a professed pedlar in antiquarian matters I really feel none of the paltry spirit of appropriation which induces men of that class to disjoin curiosities from the place to which they are fitted by association for the poor gratification of calling them their own. The chimney piece at Stokesey is of ten times the value which it can be any where else and it was only the idea that it was neglected and going to decay (which I am happy to understand is erroneous) that could have induced me to accept of your tempting offer to mediate for it in my favour.

I had written thus far three weeks since when I was involved in one of those currents of petty interruptions and avocations in which it has been my frequent lot to make shipwreck of much valuable time and which particularly has occasioned frequent gaps in my correspondence. All your valued drawings 2 (that is your son's) came quite safe and will serve to do yeomans service in illustrating my favourite Clarendon. The view of Abbotsford is I think quite accurate except that perhaps the belfry tower has rather more than its due share of height & importance but this is a trifle.
By the way I have discovered that the affecting ballad about the Stuons is not quite original. The great author has not disdain'd to borrow the verse about my dog and I from a song in D'Urfey's collection elegantly entitled pills to purge melancholy. It shows that as a Justice of Peace may be obliged to his kinsman for a man as Slender vaunteth so a great bard may sometimes be indebted for a thought or a stanza.

This letter has been written by installments like a man in distressed circumstances endeavouring to pay his debts honestly while your goodness has so far overwhelmed me with further obligations that I am in no small danger of complete Bankruptcy. So if you see my name in the Gazette as a Defaulter in correspondence you must not be surprized. The chief cause of this ungracious insolvency has been Woman-Woman that seduces all mankind. The male animals I can leave to stray about Abbotsford by themselves but my tenderness of heart often leads me to wait on my lady visitors in their rambles and this is a sad consumption of time.

I am quite surprized at the dexterity with which Mr. Hughes has made out our complicated mansion of Abbotsford commonly called Conundrum Castle without any disproportions which can indicate his not having seen the place but I believe his Mama made a sketch much fuller than she allowed us to see. The western tower where the bell hangs is perhaps a little exalted in height above the rest of the house although I am by no means sure that this criticism is just. By the way I see I made it in the first page.
I should feel in despair at the idea of robbing you of your Pallas, but that Dr. Hughes can so well spare Wisdom or its prototype and that I on the other hand would be much obliged to any one to improve the slender stock which nature has given me and should therefore make Minerva the goddess of my private chapel.

I sincerely hope this will find the Dr. continuing in the enjoyment of tolerable good health and your son flourishing & prospering. Charles is approaching the awful time which sends him to the banks of Isis and must exchange moorfowl shooting and pony-trotting for reading and studies. I hope some indulgence in the one has not interfered with his propensities towards the other.

The drawing of Mozley Hall put me in mind of Prior's lines:

Oh Morley, Oh Morley, if that be a Hall
The fame with the building will presently fall.

I almost wish mine would fall too for it really keeps us a little too full of company though almost all of them are people whom I like to see too. But this is the go-about time for our English friends and to make amends our winters and springs are solitary enough. I expect Mr. Canning here in about a fortnight. My kindest remembrances & those of all this family attend Dr. Hughes & I am with regard Dear Madam yours truly

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)Roxburgh 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
are most welcome and quite in my way.2 The Mexican
curiosities came safe & I was at some loss to guess what
kind friend had remembered my hobbyhorse only I suspected
you to be the benevolent fairy. Last week our
house was quite full but our visitors have now left or are

1824            SIR WALTER SCOTT            371

leaving us so if Mrs. Constable & you with Miss White
can come any day you please we will be most happy to
see you.1 All my mighty works are I think now compleated
& such has been the curiosity of tourists that I
am obliged to shut my doors against all but friends
otherwise we should not have a moments quiet - In the hope
of seeing you one day soon I am very truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Saturday [PM 19 Sept 1824]
[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,-By my letter which you will have now
received you will find that I proposed something of the
kind undertaken so kindly by Mr Cadell so that great
witts always jump. I inclose the notes.

Constable writes me he is coming here today with his
wife and Miss White-I suppose he will make an apology
for them since it would be too much to hope that they
had got the matter settled so hastily. If they have &
make this visit serve as one way of helping the thing off
handsomely I am sure I shall be most happy-I confess
I feel extremely curious on the subject and shall be most
anxious to see the chaise arrive Yours truly
TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR CONSTABLE,—I received your letter and the inclosures. Thank you for Olaus Mag: 2 which I will take great care of and return safely. I will determine on the Insurance when I come to town—much obliged for your kind trouble. Inclosed is a list of books which I send in a box to be bound according to your advice. The Box will come to Princes Street by this weeks carrier. I have added a very rare Collection of Songs the Kaempe Viser which I would like rebound in antique preserving the clasps.

I hope Mrs Constable & Miss White are not the worse of their flyaway visit. I send this by Ballantyne who has been here for a brief visit. I am very truly yours.

W. S.

ABBOTSFORD Sunday [docketed September 1824]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

MY DEAR CHARLES,—The books came all safe 1 & your kindness in accepting the trifles I sent will impose upon you the trouble of inspecting a small box herewith sent which contains a number of Duplicates from which I intreat you to select all such as you are not provided with.
Some I think are rather curious and may not be undeserving a place on your shelves. Any which you are provided with you can send down to John Stevenson or give them room till I come to town.

The box moreover contains at the bottom a drawing and small painting of an old gamekeeper of mine by Leslie to whom I have been sitting like Theseus himself by condiddling the inclosd. Will you let your servant give the two sketches into Fraser's with the inclosed note and perhaps you will at the same time or when you pass direct what sort of frame the painting should have.

There are besides four or five modern volumes which I return for reasons stated in a note to Stevenson. It is positively using you like Mrs Duguid but would you let your servant deliver these also with the note.

I am delighted to think Mrs Provost is to be on a par With Lady Holland & emulate her Silver Po.

I have had a great disappointment expecting Canning and being flung by the King of France's death. I never thought to have cared a bean-cod about old Louis L'Inevitable but I heartily wish he had died hereafter.

I am sorry Mr Miller does not make himself happy with Miss C.-the union would be admirable yet I have heard said Bibliopolist is apt to be sluggish where ladies expect promptitude & requires the aid of a little flagellation.

So at least his brother booksellers report. I suspect this would suit the capital C very ill. Yours in jest & earnest
TO JAMES SKENE

MY DEAR SKENE,- I did not answer your letter immediately because I could not exactly ascertain my own motions. If Mr. Canning had come here, it would have been impossible for me to have attended the meeting, but as he is detained from his Scottish tour by the King of France's exit, my time is at my own disposal, and therefore I put it at yours on the 1st October. I am, I own, no particular friend to this species of blow-out, though humbug is so general nowadays that perhaps something of the kind may be necessary. I will, however, be in Castle Street on the night of the 30th and ready to receive your commands, either that night or next morning. I hope you expect no forenoon oratory.

"Ego nunquam potui loquere jejunus,
Me jejunum vincere potest puer unus,"
as sung my namesake, Walter de Mapes. -Yours truly

W. SCOTT

[Skene's Memories]
TO ROBERT SOUTHEY, KESWICK, CUMBERLAND

MY DEAR SOUTHEY,-I did not immediately thank you for your beautiful poem on the Kings visit,1 because I was afraid you might think that I was trespassing too much on time which is always well employed. But I must not let the ice settle again on the stream of our correspondence, and therefore, while I have a quiet morning, I employ part of it to thank you for the kindness you have done me as a friend, and still more for the honour you have bestowed on my country. I hope these verses are one day to see the light, and am too much personally interested not to expect that period with impatience.

I had a letter from Gifford some time since, by which I perceive with regret he renounces further management of the Quarterly. I scarce guess what can be done by Murray in that matter, unless he could prevail on you to take the charge. No work of the kind can make progress (though it may be kept afloat) under a mere bookselling management. And the difficulty of getting a person with sufficient independence of spirit, accuracy of judgement, and extent of knowledge, to exercise the profession of Aristarch, seems very great. Yet I have been so long out of the London circles that new stars may have arisen, and set too for aught I know, since I was occasionally within the hemisphere.

The King of France's death, with which one would think I had wondrous little to do, has produced to me the great disappointment of preventing Canning's visit. He had promised to spend two or three days at Abbotsford on his road to Edinburgh.2 And it is the more provoking, as I dare say, after all, there is no farther occasion for his 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 paralell
(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 considerd 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

1824  SIR WALTER SCOTT  377

(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,
MY DEAR HEBER,-I hasten to answer your kind token of remembrance. Charles with his friend Surtees sets off on 1st. October towards Oxford being to take a weeks residence by the way at Dr Philpots in the Bishoprick.1 A thousand trifling engagements very like the ties which kept down Gulliver each trifling in amount but irresistibly compulsive in the aggregate prevent my purpose of going south which I have therefor[e] postponed till Spring. But if you will as you have long promised come to this place I will convey you back again as far as Mauretania 2 which the moderns call Rokeby and that I think is a pretty fair division of Labour.

Lady S. begs a thousand kind compliments and will rejoice to see you once more under her roof. Yours ever

ABOTSFORD 26 September [1824] WALTER SCOTT

12 November will carry me to Edinr necessarily.

TO HIS SON WALTER

MY DEAR WALTER,-I would have written long since but time has worn away without bringing any thing much worth writing about. I went for a day or two to
Drumlanrigg as I proposed and now the little Duke is coming down here. He dines with us today and abides all night. Charles after a good deal of hard thumping at black game and partridges is now about to leave us in order to thump his greek and latin I trust to some purpose. He has been rather successful in shooting bringing home I think fully more than you used to do. I have cause[d]

sow turnips on all the back of the drains besides leaving out some patches of corn to encourage the game which really seems to promise to be very plenty around us. From what you write there is some doubt whether the troop and the Ionian scheme be compatible: when I have an opportunity or rather when you have gone through your examination I will make enquiry on this point at Head quarters. Meantime you will do wisely to keep your own counsel. I will endeavour to be prepared but the payment of ☐ 2000 odd pounds would be as convenient for me some months hence as just now. I would not therefore push an opportunity. Should one offer the case is different. A young officer named Carpenter (connected with Lord Tyrconnel) called here an old 15th man. He expressd some surprize at your having been permitted to remain at Sandhurst. He was very civil and offered letters to some of the officers which I said I would trouble him for when you should join. I will expect you at all events at Xmas when we can arrange further proceedings. I suspect some time service with your regiment will be necessary before you can get off to Greece. I am vilely afflicted with almost total deafness in my left ear the infirmity came on very suddenly and I hope will leave me with the same want of ceremony. In the mean time it is very awkward for I am obliged to bring round my right ear to every one that talks to me on
the leftside. We have been harassd with company. Lady
Alvanley with two daught[er]s Mrs Maclean Clephane
with three and atop of all Mrs Coutts and suite which was
rather too much of a good thing. Believe me dear Walter
always very much your affectionate father

ABBOTSFORD 28 Sepr. [1824] (1)       WALTER SCOTT

MY DEAR SIR,-I received your letter and after much
consideration I am unfeignedly sorry to reply that I fear
there is little chance of my being useful at present in
procuring any India appointment. I was last year
instrumental in getting one for Peter Meek 1 and this
season I have been busy soliciting hitherto without success
a cadetship for my son-in-law's brother Richd. Lockhart
and besides that I cannot well make any other application
untill he is provided for I doubt I will be considered
even when that is the case as having overdrawn my
Indian credit for some time at least. I bethought myself
whether any thing could be done with the Board of
Controul but as that is now managed entirely by the
Wynnes with whom I have little acquaintance and who are
of course beset by Welch friends I have no hope of being
attended to. I spoke to Lord Montagu on the subject
but he is naturally unwilling by asking favours at this
moment to lay his Nephew under any peculiar or personal
obligations which might fetter him when he comes to act
for himself. I do not therefore see any chance at present
of my being able to assist you and I can only add that I
will be heartily glad if any thing (which I have no reason
However to expect should in the course of the winter put it in my power.

The Duke of Bedford has expressed a great wish to get a copy of the Epitaph of Sir Thos Ker of Fairnihirst, who is buried in the family vault at Jedburgh—he died about 1585 or a year or two after. The inscription was legible when I was in the vault about twenty years ago but is perhaps now decayed. If Tom be in the way and restored to health I will beg the kindness of him to copy the inscription which will be a job after his own heart—I hope Pitcaithly has done him good.

You or he may be able to tell me where there occurs on the English middle border a place called Oswyne middle and near it on the Scottish side another place termed Hexgate Pathhead. I can find neither in any map.

Very Sincerely Yours

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 29th Sept [1824]

DEAR SIR, - Accept my best thanks for the very curious collection of charters and seals which you have done me the honor to transfer to my bookshelves. I shall set a very high value on it both on account of the curiosity of the collection & the kindness of the donor. I am very truly Dear Sir Your obliged & humble Servt.
TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[ABBOTSFORD, October 1824]

MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,- Your philosophical friends arrived safe at Abbotsford and of course were received as we would receive every friend of yours. As the Gods have not made me philosophical I was happy to invoke the assistance of my neighbour Dr. Brewster an excellent fellow who talked geology and mineralogy and all other ologies with them to their heart's content. I have no doubt you have heard all this from their own mouth as they left this with the purpose of going to the Giants causeway and from thence to Edgeworthstown. They seem to be amiable and intelligent young men.

We had as the innkeepers say a good deal of company this season the worst of which was that too many came at once and made less comfortable cheer than I could have wished. The tide of English tourists seems now to have abated and I see few but country neighbours. We have been deprived of a visit from your distinguished countryman and my old friend Mr. Canning. He had proposed to be with us for two or three days on his proposed tour through Scotland when behold poor old Louis l'inevitable meets with Death a personage still more inevitable than
himself and so ended my hopes of a good days laughing
with a Secretary of State after the manner of Auld
lang Syne.

To mend this disappointment I have got so deaf in one
ear that I do not believe even Mr. Canning's sharpest
jests would pierce the organ. The affection came so
suddenly that I am told it will depart with as little
ceremony. Meantime I have to turn my head like a Mandarin
when any one speaks to me so as to get the organ
which still performs its duty within the line of conversation.
All the rest of our little household are as well as our
kind Irish friends could wish. Sophia is getting stout and
healthy which inferreth that little Johnie is getting stout
and healthy also for their good or indifferent health seems
to depend most regularly on each other. We have been
inundated by friends 1 all or most of whom were such as

are most welcome because they came to renew old
friendships. Such were Lady Alvanley and her two daughters
whom I had passed many a merry day with in Paris and
my friend and ward Lady Compton with her mother
sisters and children. On the back of this came the
Mistress of millions Mrs. Thomas Coutts whom I would
gladly have seen at some other time when I could have
made her Lady of the ascendant for her husband a relation
of my father had been at all times kind and liberal to me
in some dealings which I had with him. However I
could not help the matter so I een let rank and wealth
fight it out their own way. Then we had Leslie an artist
of great eminence to whom I had promised to sit for my
picture-a promise which he made me fulfil to the letter
so that I was as much tired of my chair as ever was
Speaker of the House of Commons.
Your Irish Oratrix seems to have been a most extraordinary personage. I wonder how green Erin comes by that profusion of elegant expression which never leaves them dry whether in mirth or in sorrow and differs so much from the dry sarcastic shrewdness of the Scot and the downright Bullishness of John Bull. 1 The Irish one would think should at least have something akin to the highlander who is decidedly of the same nation and speaks the same language. Yet the highlander unless when his spirits are roused by bodily exercise is a grave proud stiff animal his language sometimes poetical but never by any chance humorous and his demeanour often polite and obliging but never intimating any sense or expression of humour. Who can solve this difficulty if you cannot.

Mrs. Fox will now have got accustomed to the novelty of being called Mrs. Fox and must be in quiet possession and exercise of all the privileges and authorities of matrimony. I remember my wives great plague for a long time was the necessity of ordering dinner and divers embarrassments about the gooses and turkies of which she used to complain heavily. Pray remember us both kindly to her and to Miss Harriet. Would you think of Scotland next year if we could ensure such a season as the last it would be truly enchanting. Anne sends kind love and respects. Little Spice has got quite well again notwithstanding Miss Harriets ominous dream. 1 She has the grace to send a letter to Miss Harriet which I have the pleasure to inclose. Always most respectfully and truly yours [Butler] WALTER SCOTT

TO DAVID LAING
MY DEAR SIR,—I send you according to your desire a few lines of Introduction to Elder. I have said that his Plot or Description of Scotland is not known to exist. Am I accurate in this?

To the Conference I have added a few notes explaining or trying to explain two or three words which are not in Jameson or are used in a different sense. In this respect the tract is worthy our reverend freinds attention. I wonder if he can make ought of Strotchard. There [are] some good brief notes on the persons of the Conference. I hope they are not to be withdrawn.

The Lays of the Lindsays have been recalld & cancelld. Lady Hardwicke 1 having taken fright at the idea of appearing in a printed though unpublishd shape. We however to have Auld Robin by himself and I wish you would speak to Mr. Lizars about engraving on my account the inclosed frontispiece drawn by Mr. Kirkpaticke Sharpe & let me know the damage when you write again.

I am glad you think of Sir Graysteel 2 which from whatever reason has been at one time very popular in Scotland. It puts me in mind of poor David Herd to whom we used to give that chivalrous title.3 How he would have delighted to have seen the present days.

My eyes are so indifferent & my hand become so cramped that I fear I must trouble you for a revise— for to be inaccurate would be the very devil. I hope you will excuse my numerous additions but things do not occur to one all at once in such cases.
I am at all times ready to do any thing in my power in rebus Bannantynianis. I have Ellis's transcript of Graysteil if you chuse to collate it. I have a notion that it was copied from Douces book. I am always Dear Mr. David Yours assuredly

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 3 October [1824]

TO BERNARD BARTON

MY DEAR SIR, - I have been lazy in sending you the two transcripts. In calling back the sins of my youth I was surprized into confessing what I might have as well kept to myself that I had been guilty of sending persons a bat-hunting to see the ruins of Melrose by moonlight which I never saw myself. The fact is rather curious for as I have often slept nights at Melrose (when I did not reside so near the place) it is singular that I have not seen it by moonlight on some chance occasion. However it so happens that I never did, and must (unless I get cold by going on purpose) be contented with supposing that these ruins look very like other Gothick buildings which I have seen by the wan light of the moon.

I was never more rejoiced in my life than by the safe arrival of the [curious] papers. The naming of the regent Mo[r]ton instead of Murray in the transcript was a gross blunder of the transcriber who had been dreaming of these two celebrated persons till he confused them in his noddle.
I shall despatch this by a capable frank having only to apologize [for] its length of arrival by informing you I have [been] absent in Dumfriesshire for some time waiting on my young Chief like a faithful clansman. I am always most faithfully yours

WALTER SCOTT

4 October [1824] ABBOTSFORD

[Partington]

To MRS. HUGHES

DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-I answer your kind letter immediately not only to express my best-very best thanks for all its contents but also that you may not remain under the least doubt as to Broster. He is so far an empiric that he has not been regularly educated to medical practice being bred a bookseller at Chester. But his powers of removing hesitation or rather his skill in instructing persons how to avoid or subdue that painful nervous affection are certainly wonderful. I have not seen Lady Morton since he attended her but learn on all hands that she is not like the same person in society. Her hesitation was of a peculiar kind for she stop'd dead short without any of those unpleasing attempts at pronouncing the Shibboleth which generally accompanies hesitation of speech. And there you stood or sate listening not well knowing whether the speech had come to a natural or violent conclusion. I am informed she now speaks forward right like any other person. A Major Stisted
of the Royal Dragoons who was inspecting our yeomanry here the other day told me he had been under Mr. Broster's care for a very embarrassing hesitation which interfered a good deal with his giving the word of command making reports etc. in the course of his profession. I could scarce believe him so absolutely had all appearances of the kind disappeared. Only watching him very closely I saw when he was about to address the Yeomanry a momentary embarrassment which instantly passed off & would have been totally unnoticeable by any one who was not watching very close. So much for the feats of Mr. Broster whom I would certainly consult if I had occasion. There can be no danger of harm to the person for his instructions are not accompanied by drugs or operations or to the purse for like those who cure smoky chimneys he proceeds on the principle of no cure no pay.

I am ashamed to rob you of Lord Falkland 1 who besides the very great value which every lover of Clarendon's history must set upon his character and talents [seems to] have been happy in an artist probably Oliver to convey his features to posterity. It is absolutely a sin to accept so valuable a present but then it would be an act of the most severe self denial to decline and I fear we are seldom long in hesitating when the choise is betwixt sinning & suffering. I once published a very few copies of poems written during the civil war by Patrick Carey a Catholic priest whom I afterwards discovered to have been a brother of Lord Falkland.2 I think I have two copies left and will beg your acceptance of one by the first safe opportunity.

Sophia poor soul has kept her bed for near a week.
dangerously ill at first with an inflammable complaint which has of late been fearfully frequent. Luckily we had near timely and skilfull medical help so that with bleeding & care she is now better but still couchante as a herald would say but I trust will soon be able to do honour to the Stones which I think much improved by the additions which Mr. Hughes has made to the ancient fabric. There is a John Bullishness about the whole a dogged honesty & stubbornness of good sense which make honest George Ridler out to be a pattern of old English Yeomanry. We laughed till we were like to die at the primitive display of Mr. and Mrs. Bull in the one horse chay. I give the bathers infinite credit for their address in contriving so effectual a punishment for interlopers. Many a man has been strip'd for being himself flog'd but the situation of the honest Citizen must have been superb while reserving the nakedness for his own part of the show he transferred the flagellation to the back of old Nobbs.

Leaving off the vagaries of this second Adam & Eve in a tim-whisky I must tell you that I have had another disappointment in an expected visitor of eminence. This was no less than Canning who proposed rubbing up an old acquaintance by a visit at Abbotsford when pop dies yon old Louis le desire and Mr. Secretary of State must go to his office to forward addresses of condolence and congratulation and renew the bands of amity between John Bull and Louis Baboon.

I recollected the passage in Dr. Plott as I read it. But upon what authority comes the explanation-a very 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
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
dog in the House but myself is at work upon me under all
the disadvantages which my employment puts him to.
(8-392) He has drawn old Maida in particular with much spirit
indeed and it is odd enough that though I sincerely wish
(8-392) old Mai had been younger I never thought of wishing the
same advantage for myself. I am much obliged by Mr.
Hughes' kind intentions in favour of Charles who will be
at Brazen Nose at the term. My kindest Compliments
attend the excellent Doctor & I am always Dear Madam,
your truly obliged & faithful WALTER SCOTT
(8-392) October 6 1824

(8-392) We will hear of Pallas & her travelling companions in
due time & I will advise you of their arrival.2

[Heffer and Wells]

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 393

TO THE REV. R. POLWHELE, NEWLYN VICARAGE

(8-393) ABBOTSFORD, 6 Oct. [1824]1
DEAR SIR, - I return the enclosed, and can have no possible objection to your disposing of them as you please. I would, however, submit to you that the greater part of them are too frivolous to interest the public; and I hope you will be so good as to mention that I have consented to your wish merely because it was your wish, and without any idea on my part, that what was written for your own eye deserved a more extensive circulation. I am, with best wishes, always, dear Sir, very truly yours,

WALTER SCOTT
[Letters of Sir Walter Scott, 1832]

TO ALARIC WATTS, 2 PARK SQUARE, LEEDS, YORKSHIRE

SIR, - I have to make you many apologies for not mor[e] early acknowledging your very obliging & acceptable present of your poetical volume. I was very long of receiving the first copy which your kindness designd me and only got the second a few days since as it was lying at my house in Edinburgh with which I have little connection while residing at this place. The acknowlegement of your first kindness to speak truth I had procrastinated till my thanks could no longer have had a graceful appearance and I really became ashamed of intruding them on you so long after they were due. Your continued attention has given me an opportunity of thanking you for both copies with a better grace than I deserve and at the same time expressing the pleasure I have received from your poems. I am very happy to see that the taste of the public has calld for a second & ornamented edition. This is no small tribute to the
merits of an author at a period when good poetry has really become so general that whatever is not peculiarly marked by excellence is sure to fall into neglect. I have therefore to wish you joy of having obtained the attention which is not always conferred upon desert. And begging you once more to excuse my irregularities as a correspondent I am very much Your most obedt. & obliging Servant WALTER SCOTT

ABOTSFORD MELROSE 12 October [1824]

I am not accustomed to lay any weight on my own judgement in poetical matters but I cannot help saying that in my opinion the elegance both of expression & conception in your poetry entitles it to rank very highly.1

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

15 October 1824

YOUR most acceptable packet my dear friend arrived yesterday and as it contains much that is highly interesting to me I answer it instantly and begin with that which is most so. Pray go on with the Travellers-it cannot but be delicious. Washington Irving has touched the subject but I think not quite in his happiest manner-at any rate a great part of what you will render most entertaining is quite out of his way for his very quaint and clever sketches border upon extravaganza-at any rate (for I love both the man and his works) they do not go deeply into human character. So the field is free and...
John Bally is so uncommonly diverting in his travelling frolics that he will furnish you with a rich variety of matter. Will Clarke, whom you saw in Castle Street, gave me an instance which I dare say you may make your own use of. He fell in among other oddities of that class with a certain London Cockney whom he nicknamed Brother Martin, and who in the true spirit of stock-jobbing, directed the course of his travels not by what was best or most convenient far less by the course that was most interesting but by the state of exchange with England. Wherever the rate rose in favour of England thither travelled Brother Martin, going off at a tangent in the most extraordinary angles and making it his boast that he supported his expenses entirely by following the course of the Agio. Now this worthy had hooked himself upon a party with an Italian antiquary-not a common Cicerone but a gentleman of rank and education [who] had undertaken to carry [them] to see the Pantheon, and to which party Clarke belonged. The Italians, with little else left to be proud of, are still proud of their works of ancient art, and so their Conductor paused and showed a proper sense of the dignity of the occasion, as he introduced them into the immense Rotunda and said Eccolo there is the Pantheon. All paid the proper tribute of silent admiration - all but Brother Martin who thrust his hands into his breeches pockets and after looking round with an air of the most critical impertinence and repeating the interjections of " Ha! Aye! the pantheon-Umph! the pantheon, O aye-the pantheon," concluded with, Pray Senior did you ever see our pantheon in Oxford road. Imagine the shame and horror of his countrymen. Sudden death would have been too slight a punishment for the vulgar dog-protracted and with tortures it might
have been some petty expiation. Such are the frolics we play in the face of Europe.

I do not know what to say about my parental advice to Lady Compton. I think there could be no objection provided no one knew the parties with whom it originated. But my fear would be that if it were once to get abroad there are many folks so extremely liberal that they would identify all the diverting variations and additions with which your fancy adorned the groundwork, and that might be disagreeable to the Northampton family who are matter of fact sort of aristocratical folks and as the

consequences of their taking any little affront however causelessly might light on Lady Compton I think it will be as well not to hazard it. If she were in Britain I would consult her but she is on the continent at present and we ought not to stir at least without her consent.

I was really vexed about Lord Forbes's politeness being so ungraciously requited, but the truth is that owing to some omission in the communication betwixt Abbotsford and Castle St., I did not receive the card with which he honoured me till a general gaol-delivery of all parcels and letters at the latter place, when it arrived with a whole lot of tradesmen's advertisements, intimations of public meetings, petitions to the charitable, and other affairs belonging to the twopenny post-bag, with which the stupidity of our old housekeeper had most unworthily associated it. The time assigned for Lord Forbes leaving Edinburgh was long past and so Anne lost her opportunity of returning Miss Harriet's shawl, and I, that of
begging to have the honour to see Lord Forbes here. In
fact during the time he was in Edinburgh I was constantly
on the point of renewing some acquaintance which I had
with his Lordship long since when Lord Hastings was
Commander in Chief in Scotland, and I had made two
appointments with a mutual friend for the purpose of
calling upon [him] both of which were prevented. I referd
myself then to the chance of our meeting in society, for
I have a great reluctance to imitate the intrusive
hospitality of my fellow citizens of the Northern Awtens who
perpetually intrude their persons and their parties (like
my darling Mrs O'Rafferty) upon any man of distinction
who comes among them. I am always ashamed of this
and feel as I did the other morning when Reynard passed
with Mr Baillie's hounds after him, much less inclined
to "join in the loud talliho " than to commiserate the
object of the chase. As I have every respect to Lord
Forbes for many different reasons, may I request you will
express to him my sincere regret for not having seen him,
and my sorrow for the unlucky circumstances which made
me appear thankless to his courtesy. I intended to have
mentioned this affair at the end of my last letter but it
escaped me, for which I am very sorry as I wish my
excuse had anticipated Lord Forbes's complaints. I have
been always particularly intimate with the Forbeses from
my infancy, since the excellent old Lord (Scottish Lord
I mean) with his wife and most of his family used weekly
to dine at my father's always of a Sunday, and on the
same bill of fare, which would now be thought a curious
one to invite a nobleman to. In the first place there was
sheep's head broth, and said sheep's head itself, the reason
being that the sheep's head, which requires much boiling,
was put on the night before and the dressing of the
beef-steaks occupied the least possible time, and thus the
necessity of employing servants on the Sabbath-day was
diminished as much as possible. Then there was a bottle or two of special wine, which no wine-merchant had fitted for the market, and there was a sermon read, during which one part of the children were sleeping and the other pinching and kicking them to make them keep awake. And there is an old Presbyterian Sabbath for you in Edinburgh.

The beautiful inkstand arrived safe and I know not by what exertion of successful conjecture the name of the kind fairy who bestowed it was already a certainty. There was a great contest where it should be placed as I gave the vote for my own study and Lady Scott stood out for the drawing room. At present it is on the chimney piece of the parlour as a sort of neutral ground. It is singular that the inkstand dish of Petrarch should have such a resemblance to that of Ariosto-only as Ariosto never told his lady-love's name, his Cupid is prettily represented with his finger on his lip. Petrarch might have as well been silent on the subject too, for all he has said about the matter has left commentators to battle who Laura was, and strange to tell whether there was any Laura at all in the case. The cast of his ink stand is extremely beautiful.

I am much flattered by your ingenuous young friend, who falling into the general error of charging me with offences not my own has not only forgiven but rewarded them. I do not envy youth their strength of limbs or their powers of mental and bodily labour, but I do look
with some feeling of regret on that elasticity of mind which can be delighted and rendered enthusiastic upon matters of taste and literature, and I hope Miss Harriet's correspondent who seems as warm hearted as he is ingenuous will long enjoy such feelings and the power of expressing them in appropriate and picturesque language.

Now for a grand mischance - I will be very angry if you laugh at it. A certain most respectable gentleman and man of letters who wrought thirty years since a poem which gained him considerable reputation, partly owing to its real merits, partly to the dearth of poetical talent at the time, has ever since been trying by a number of hops skips and jumps to equal his great leap at Rhodes, or as Horace [says] to raise himself from the ground and into notoriety by any means whatsoever, but hitherto without the least success. Several of these things he sent to me, and one he inscribed to me. I sent the necessary civilities in return and thought it was all over. But he has recourse to what may be called the Author's last stake and is coming out with a history of his life and times and begs (the Lord preserve us) permission to publish my letters. I remembered nothing of what I had written to him ten or twelve years ago and as he had intimated he would take silence for consent I was obliged to speak out and request to see what I had written. And to be sure my own epistles are sent to me wherein there are only apologies for not writing and thanks for his various favours and (what must have been) the origin of his wish to lay this trash before the public my disproportioned commendations of his effusions and particularly of my god-child the poetical romance or romantic poem. Now to say the truth I never even looked at the poem and my
commendations were as much upon trust as those of the purblind old lady at the Christening, who when a salver of cake was handed round took it for the child and paid her compliments with "dear sweet little thing mighty like its papa." And now is this old goose instead of eating his sweetmeat quietly at home come out in a slobbering bib and tucker and mounted a stage to eat it in the public eye—while little Jack Horner "sate in the corner," 1 observed, that is, a decent reserve when he gobbled up his Christmas cheer and cried in self-applause "how good a boy am I." No excuse will serve so instead of trying what reason would do with him I must een let the honest man go the vole 2 and play his cards in his own way, which I have been fool enough to put into his hand—this is worse than sitting for ones picture. There is no print from Leslie's picture—it goes to America.

Again to the publication—I have no idea you can publish anonymously—your stile is so very well known and so inimitable—and then your respectable and willing publisher does not I think make many experiments upon the public taste. I think you will be detected at once and then you will have sacrificed the great advantage of your name to no good purpose. The advantage is very great whether considered commercially or [from] a literary point of view, for the magic impress M. E. dispenses a whole edition to the public at once and criticism however malignant comes halting after and tells its tale of misrepresenation and depreciation to those who have judged already for themselves, whereas they sometimes get the start of an anonymous publication and take the wind out of its sails ere it gets fairly afloat.
Our domestic concerns are but so and so. Sophia has had a terribly wasting attack of her old bilious complaint. Luckily the child has kept remarkably well. We all go to Chiefwood to-day to dinner, and to-morrow they come to the Hall House for (I hope) the remainder of our autumn vacation. When weather turns chilly and nights long, it is best to follow the example of the black-cocks, who always pack together in October.

All our loves attend you and Miss Harriet, and I trust they will bear water carriage even if you send them across the sea to Mrs Fox. If you are bent on your anonymous plan you may rely on any action or assistance I can offer and above all on my keeping your counsel. But it will be impossible for you long to maintain your Incognita.

Adieu my dogs are impatient to see me take my pilgrim's staff, and the sun is smiling fairly though the snow lies sprinkled on the glens. Who cares for snow? So yelp not, Ginger and Spice, and keep out of the way of that which is hotter than yourselves, the hot sealing-wax which I will presently make use of. Little Spice is quite recovered but as yet only a quadruped - I cannot forget Miss Harriet's dream.

By the way I dare [say] you know where my coz Peggie Dallas, by marriage Lady Foulis, may be found and I would be greatly obliged by your forwarding the inclosed as I will get a frank from Freeling or Croker to cover the whole kitt. Always yours

WALTER SCOTT
ABBOTSFORD 15 October [1824]
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.

There are two or three Galloway places which I cannot
(8-404)ascertain though I have glanced over [ ] Simsons book &
(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.

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.

I will be very glad to have Mr Lizars set about the
(8-404)engraving with all dispatch.

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
TO CHARLES ERSKINE

MY DEAR CHARLES,-I enclose Mr Ushers 200, and beg Mr Curl to favour me with a [sight] of the balance due.

I trust this will find you so far recoverd that you may venture to the Hunt or at least to the dinner on Monday 25th curt. You shall eat & drink as you please. I enclose a note for Mr Usher & Mr Curl. Pray get the former forwarded & beg him to bring dogs as they may be scarce. Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 18 October [1824]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

MY DEAR JAMES,-It was very attentive & kind to send me the melancholy particulars of Constables unhappy affair. I should have been both surprized and shocked had I heard of them accidentally. It is a sad thing that our irritability should increase as age and infirmity render...
our judgement & power of selfrestraint less strong. I think it probable they may come together again as she has very young children from which women are not easily torn. Pray let me know what you hear.

I send proofs & copy-the last written by dribblets as I can catch a moment-but all our friends are now off today & tomorrow & I shall work hard.

About finance matters I should at another time have proposed to Mr Cadell to contract for a new affair. I would propose however at present that he should make the same arrangement as on the former occasion we taking up the bills when due 3000 or thereabout is thus levied with ease and credit You can adjust this with Mr Caddell & let me know when you have done so.

For december I think as I am rather behind with my pen I had better ease these affairs by borrowing perhaps for two or three years the sum of 5000 or 6000 as proposed by Hogarth. Money is here so plenty that it is to be had even for 3 per cent. there would be in my case a saving on bank renewals in giving 4 1/2 or 5 though I think it might be had for the former sum.

About November I shall want to pay off John Usher now reduced to about 1000 from 16000. I trusted to the 4th. volume of Crusades for this & still think I will get it forward by the end of that month or beginning of December. I have however been dreadfully interrupted these seven weeks past.

I hope to see Hogarth & you here one day-Would the 25th next Saturday suit you for a drive out hitherward. You will see my improvements all finished & I will not stick my fingers into mortar again while I live.
I inclose two small accompts & a cheque for the amount on Sir W. F. in case cash be scarce with you for next month. I must break off to write a damnd song before any one is stirring

I shall want some Bramahs pens-some sealing wax and gilt writing paper also some uncut of the usual size.

I expect Canning about the first of next month but am rather uncertain. Yours truly

W. S.

20 October (1) [1824]

TO DAVID LAING

MY DEAR SIR,-I have received your full collection of treasures & I suppose you have my parcel returning the former sheets. I see Mr Thomsons local knowlege has cleared up all the galloway names in the Expedition excepting Barbush which I dare say he can also interpret.

I do not find I can add any notes to the other article sent but certainly a few words concerning Mr Patrick Galloway & his history would be desireable.2 I am obliged to you for pointing out the sonnet which had escaped me-it is very striking I think & should be introduced.

I am afraid I can assist you but little in the Mon[t]gomery matter. I am a terribly impatient reader of poetry more
(8-407)I inclose an autograph containing I believe the only
unprinted lines I have in the world. I Constable wanted
them for some purpose or other so I send him the copy &
you the autograph. I am sorry I have not the lines you
want. I recollect them being written after I had been so
long ill on the pressing request of some one or other.

(8-407)Adieu most potent grave & reverend Secretary. Yours
very much W. SCOTT

(8-407)ABBOTSFORD 22 October [1824]

The inclosed is a prima cura. I never wrote any
thing over clean as it is called. It is an Epilogue for a
play on the Subject of Queen Mary which was not acted.
Mrs H. Siddons coaxed it out of me.

By the bye I think Mr Patrick Galloway fell away from
the right path and became an Episcopalian.

[Edin. Univ. Lib.]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-I recoverd the above with great
difficulty. I believe it was never spoken but written for
some play afterwards withdrawn in which Mrs H:
Siddons was to have spoken it in the character of Queen
Mary. It is at your service if you think it worth while
to insert it.

I am curious to see Medwins account of Lord Byron.
which seems to be as authentic as such recollections can be though full of inaccuracies from imperfect remembrance or communication. One always looks to what concerns themselves. He says very truly that I received much instruction from poor Mat Lewis but it related almost entirely to the rhymes in which he was justly superior and to the structure of versification for which the poor Monk had a most excellent ear. He wrote no part of the Fire King which I finishd in one evening after dinner with Heber & Leyden sitting beside me nor do I think he ever helpd me to a line save one in which I had made a false quantity sounding July-July-But poor Mat wrote many better things. I will send the autograph of the Epilogue to David the Secretary to redeem an old promise.

Farewell my good friend. I hope this will find you well & hearty. I am always truly yours WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 22 October [PM. 1824]

private
[Stevenson]

TO LIEUT. WALTER SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS, R.M. ACADEMY, SANDHURST, BAGSHOT, LONDON

MY DEAR WALTER,-I am afraid I can hardly write you a letter without much use of the obnoxious vowel I or at least the personal We which is scarce less egotistical. All has joggd on in the old way since you left us without any event of consequence unless it be the death of poor old Mai,1 who departed quietly and without a struggle
(8-410) just when I became apprehensive it would be necessary from the failure of his limbs to have helped him from the stage. The other dogs are all well and Spice quite recoverd.

(8-410) Yesterday we had our grand hunt. I left them early Sybil 1 being rather troublesome for want of exercize and the day showery. But they had excellent sport killing 14 hares and having some fine courses. A dog of Sir Adams broke her leg and was necessarily executed on the field. We dined twenty four and had a very pleasant jollification with all the old songs &c.

(8-410) Mama and Anne are very well and Sophia much better since I prevaild on Lockhart to come here with John[ie]. She doctors herself too much when alone and takes too many of Mr Ross's goodies as he used to call them. He is an excellent creature Ross but he would not willingly consent that any one should live unless par ordonnance du medecin. Next fortnight will take us all to town to my sorrow but what can be done. When you can make a start upon Charles I dare say it will give him great pleasure but I suppose that can only be after your examination.

(8-410) Orman 2 has got his appointment on one of the great roads-Norwich I think-and tells Capt. Lockhart that he makes from 10/6 to 20/ a day but works hard for it which is not amiss.

(8-410) Here is Maidas epitaph inscribed under his figure at the door beneath which he now lies buried. I hope you are still classical enough to construe it
Maidae marmorea dormis sub imagine Maida
Ad januam Domini Sit tibi terra levis.3

George Thomson said grace yesterday and gave us it like a tether 4 not forgetting something about the dominion

George Thomson said grace yesterday and gave us it like a tether 4 not forgetting something about the dominion

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT

which was given us over the fowls of the air and beasts of the field which was a kind of Apology for the business of the day.1

About your preferment and so forth I think it will be prudent to say little till your examination is over and till I shall learn exactly how we stand at the War-office. You have got on well hitherto and I have no doubt will continue to receive as I hope you will merit the Dukes patronage on fitting occasions.

I will owe you [□] 50, next month the receipt of which I presume will not be altogether disagreeable or superfluous. I am always yours affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

ABOTSFORD 22 October [PM. 1824]

TO CHARLES SCOTT, BR: N. COLLEGE, OXFORD

MY DEAR CHARLES, I am glad to learn that you are safely settled at College I trust with the intention of making your residence there subservient to the purposes of study without which it will be only a waste of expense 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 unmarked 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.

412                LETTERS OF               1824

(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 dorimis 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.

1824                SIR WALTER SCOTT                413
Yesterday we had our solemn hunt and killed fourteen hares. But a dog of Sir Adams broke her leg and was obliged to be put to death in the field.

Walter talks of paying you a visit at Oxford but I suppose it will be after his examinations in December when you will be something less of a fresh-man though I hope you [will] not be quite pickled neither.

The Lockharts are now staying with us. Little Johnie talks the strangest gibberish I ever heard by way of repeating his little poems. I wish the child may ever speak plain. Mama, Sophia, Anne and Lockhart send best love. I am always your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 22d Octr. [1824]

I shall be very anxious to hear how you took your new situation.

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT I

I have left your letter too long unanswervd which should not have been the case if I could have materially assisted your deliberations. I am not indeed able to suggest any thing better than you yourself have proposed. If the accompts were once closed at the war office and some other events had taken place I could have the pleasure of mending your situation as I am very
desirous for my nieces own sakes as well as that I may see
you often to bring Edinr. within your facilities. However
at present I fancy the Ayr scheme is the best. I do not
wonder at Anne finding the country a little dull but I
think she would like Edinburgh better.

I beg Eliza may have music for which old uncle will be
quite happy to be responsible and she shall sing him a
song in return. Where there is a natural turn this way
as she distinctly possesses it is a great pity not to cultivate
it. There [is] such a thing as singing the evil spirit out
of others or oneself in fact I think music (not cultivated
to excess or made the introduction to too much idleness
or in men conviviality) has a moral effect on the spirits
and temper. So pray let Eliza have a harpsichord and
beat away upon it with all speed. When you are settled
I will give her one.

If you want cash to help out the Books make me your
banker. I hope you will arrange your matters so as to
be with us at Christmas when all that yet belongs to poor
old Georges Square will I hope meet together for your
Walter and mine will both have got over their examinations.
Charles however will I believe remain at his
College though I am not quite certain.

The trees are fading fast about us and warn me to think
of town-no very pleasant subject of reflection but what
must be must be.

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 415

Remember me kindly to Anne and Eliza. My wife
and daughters send kind love. Believe me always Your
affectionate Brother WALTER SCOTT
ABBOTSFORD 22 Octr. [1824]

Walter writes seldom but he has not much time. I have not heard of him lately. I hope Mr David Macculloch is better. He has so much the power of pleasing others it is pity that he should suffer himself.

[Owen D. Young]

TO [UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT] 1

DEAR SIR,- At Mr Woods request I beg to hand you the enclosed. Could it be managed I should like there were a separate master for English reading orthography geography and history. He could have such a course for each class as would carry them on according to their gradual advance in years and understanding that the gytes would attend a preliminary class the 2nd class one more advanced and so on I doubt whether this could be managed by taking half the time of the Master of the first class and I am convinced that by this mixing the knowledge of the English language and modern history with classical instruction the most useful impression would be made on the youthful mind. We still carry the pedantry of former times a little too much into education and boys are apt to think that learning latin is the exclusive business of life and that all other acquisitions are of little consequence in comparison. Now though I am quite aware of the value of a classical education yet

I would not have it like Aarons serpent swallow up all other attainments and in my opinion in order to form the Virtuous domestic history and an acquaintance with our own language should be kept abreast of the acquisitions
to be made in classical knowledge. Always very much yours W SCOTT

You can send this to Mr Ayton-

[Autumn 1823]
[Thomson]

TO SIR THOMAS DICK LAUDER, ST. CATHERINES

MY DEAR SIR THOMAS,-We will have the greatest pleasure in receiving Lady Dick, Miss Grant and you upon Saturday 6th instant as you kindly propose and if the Advocate can meet you it will add to the gratification of the visit. I hope Lady Rae will be of the party. I am always Dear Sir Thomas Your truly obliged

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 1st November [1824]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

MY DEAR JAMES,-I received yours with the inclosure. I fear I will need a little more of my namesake Sir Walter Blunt 2 at this term but I can provide for it without interrupting the course of matters at the N. Year when I have to receive 1000. I will therefore want another 500 to go to Coutts but this can be done when I come to town on Monday & I will thank you to call after dinner that day.

I am not very apprehensive of finding some remedy for the failure which you very justly announce but I greatly doubt your recipe. Whatever has happened may happen
again under the same circumstances. Constable I fear had more shrewdness than either of us when he recommended a fallow. But we will talk over this. In the mean time be assured that sincerity is the quality I most value in a friend or critic & though I think you are sometimes fastidious about trifles I never fail to consider your opinion as completely authoritative upon general results especially when as in the present case it completely coincides with my own for you must not think thus as Dorax says to Sebastian

Thou hast dared
To tell me what I durst not tell myself.1

I have been often slow to see merits which others have discoverd-never so to acknowlege defects-I meant to be in town yesterday but having beat the little Duke in a match at coursing I stay till Saturday at his request to "do it over again." He promises to be a credit & blessing to all around him. About Six or Seven on Monday Evening I hope to see you. Yours truly

ABBOTSFORD 11 Novr. [1824] (2) W SCOTT

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING POST

ABBOTSFORD, Nov. 12, 1824

SIR,-As I am a friend to truth, even in trifles, I cannot consent to shelter myself under the classical mantle which Mr Lionel Berguer and some unknown friend have chosen to extend, in their charity, over my faults in prosody.
The two lines were written in mere whim, and without the least intention of their being made public. In the first line, the word jaces is a mistake of the transcriber (whoever took that trouble ;) the phrase is dormis, which I believe is good prosody. The error in the second line, ad januam, certainly exists, and I bow to the castigation. I must plead the same apology which was used by the great Dr Johnson, when he misinterpreted a veterinary phrase of ordinary occurrence-"ignorance-pure ignorance " was the cause of my blunder. Forty years ago, longs and shorts were little attended to in Scottish education; and I have, it appears, forgot the little I may then have learned. I have only to add, that I am far from undervaluing any branch of scholarship because I have not the good fortune to possess it, and heartily wish that those who succeed us may have the benefit of a more accurate classical education than was common in my earlier days.

The inscription cannot now be altered; but if it remains a memorial of my want of learning, it shall not, in addition, convey any imputation on my candour. I should have been ashamed, at a more stirring time, to ask admission for this plea of guilty; but at present you may think it worth a place in your paper. Pugna est de paupere regno.-I remain your obedient servant,

WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, EDINBURGH
DEAR JOHN,

I some time ago wrote to inform his
Fat worship of jaces, misprinted for dormis;
But that several Southrons assured me the januam
Was a twitch to both ears of Ass Priscian's cranium.

You, perhaps, may observe that one Lionel Berguer,
In defence of our blunder appears a stout arguer.
But at length I have settled, I hope, all these clatters,
By a rowt in the papers-fine place for such matters.
I have, therefore, to make it for once my command, sir,
That my gudeson shall leave the whole thing in my hand,
sir,
And by no means accomplish what James says you
threaten,
Some banter in Blackwood to claim your dog-Latin.
I have various reasons of weight, on my word, sir,
For pronouncing a step of this sort were absurd, sir.-
Firstly, erudite sir, 'twas against your advising
I adopted the lines this monstrosity lies in;
For you modestly hinted my English translation
Would become better far such a dignified station.
Second-how, in God's name, would my bacon be saved,
By not having writ what I clearly engraved
On the contrary, I, on the whole, think it better
To be whipped as the thief, than his lousy resetter.
Thirdly-don't you perceive that I don't care a boddle
Although fifty false metres were flung at my noddle,
For my back is as broad and as hard as Benlomon's,
And I treat as I please both the Greeks and the Romans;
Whereas the said heathens might rather look serious
At a kick on their drum from the scribe of Valerius.
And, fourthly and lastly-it is my good pleasure
To remain the sole source of that murderous measure.
So stet pro ratione voluntas-be tractile,
Invade not, I say, my own dear little dactyl; 
If you do, you'll occasion a breach in our intercourse: 
To-morrow will see me in town for the winter-course, 
But not at your door, at the usual hour, sir, 
My own pye-house daughter's good prog to devour, sir. 
Ergo—peace!—on your duty, your squeamishness throttle, 
And we'll soothe Priscian's spleen with a canny third 
bottle.

A fig for all dactyls, a fig for all spondees, 
A fig for all dunces and dominie Grundys; 
A fig for dry thrapples, south, north, east, and west, sir, 
Speates and raxes 1 ere five for a famishing guest, sir; 
And as Fatsman 2 and I have some topics for haver, he'll 
Be invited, I hope, to meet me and Dame Peveril, 
Upon whom, to say nothing of Oury and Anne, you a 
Dog shall be deemed if you fasten your Jama.

P.S.—Hoc jocose—but I am nevertheless in literal 
earnest. You incur my serious displeasure if you move 
one inch in this contemptible rumpus. So adieu till 
to-morrow.—Yours affectionately,

W. S.

TO MRS. HUGHES

MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,—I owe you a thousand 
acknowlegements for Pallas 3 who arrived as if steerd by 
her own superior intelligence in the most perfect safety. 
It seems a very great curiosity and has been admired as a 
piece of art by Wilkie and other good judges who have 
seen it here. I have hung it over the chimney in the 
little armoury where surrounded by all man[ner] of
military implements Minerva has the appearance of being quite in character & where also her metallic frame corresponds in great effect to the different weapons with which she is associated. The cheese is most excellent & considering the shape 4 of it came in peculiar good time

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT

1824

I am very much indebted to Mr. Hughes for his kindness to Charles of which I hope the youngster will endeavour to deserve the continuance.3 Charles is clever enough but has alternations of indolence [of] which I am somewhat afraid knowing from experience how fatal it is to the acquisition of knowledge even when associated with the power of working hard at particular times.

Pray when you [see] Dr. Stoddart recommend me to him very kindly. You would see in Byrons conversations that I was led to imitate the stile of Coleridge's Christabelle in the Lay of the last Minstrel—it is very true and Dr. Stoddart was the person who introduced to me that singular composition by reciting some stanzas of it many years since in my cottage at Laswade. Byron seems to have thought I had a hand in some ill-natured review of Coleridges wild & wondrous tale which was entirely a
mistake. He might have remembered by the way that it was I who first introduced his Lordship to the fragment with a view to interest him in Coleridge's fate and in the play he was then bringing forward. I agree with you that Lord & Lady Byron were not well suited yet I am not much disposed to throw blame exclusively on either. Unhappily Byron's distinguished talents and high imagination were mixed with inequality of spirits increased by early habits of uncontrouled indulgence of every whim which occur'd to him at such moments. This is a bad ingredient for family happiness where after all Bear and Forbear must be the Mottoe. From what I saw personally of Lord Byron I was always of opinion that if a great and worthy object capable and deserving to engross his attention should ever occupy his mind should present itself to his pursuit—in other words if an ill-directed love of pleasure had been exchanged for a well directed love of action he would have made a figure as distinguished in the page of history as he must make in that of literature. He pursued the freedom of Greece as I am well assured upon the truest and most rational principles desiring to unite the whole efforts of the country in the task of liberating them from the rod of their oppressor instead of dividing them into factions by insisting upon all persons subscribing some fantastic political creed. It pleased God to cut off this wonderful man before he could accomplish anything very considerable in the task he had undertaken: The night has come upon him in which no man can work and so much to teach us to improve our time. After all I have not yet seen these celebrated conversations but from what I saw in the papers and from what I knew of Lord Byron I conceive Capt. Medwin to have been an accurate reporter. But all men talk loosely in their ordinary conversation and of course much will
remain to be corrected and deducted both in matters of opinion & matters of fact.

Here is a long stupid letter. I have been sitting to Wilkie these two days past. Sedet et in eternum sedebit. Ask the Doctor for the English. But this was a very particular occasion being by royal command [to be] introduced as a personage at the reception of Holyrood. Carey shall attend you the instant I get to town. Lockhart, spouse & baby left us yesterday for Edinburgh where we all go on Monday first. Believe me with kind compliments to Dr. Hughes in which Lady Scott and Anne cordially join to be very truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, Thursday [Novbr. 11, 1824]

TO MESSRS. JOHN AND THOS. SMITH, BUILDERS, DARNICK, MELROSE

GENTLEMEN,-I enclose the bills accepted which concludes our long accompt for Abbotsford House. I am obliged to you for your handsome discount and for the great attention you gave to all the various troublesome matters in which you were engaged on my accompt. We should have been very unjust to have complained of unavoidable inconveniences during the progress of so large & long a work since so much care was taken to avoid all that could be avoided. I am gentlemen your obedient Servant WALTER SCOTT
EDINR. 16 November [1824]
[Macpherson Smith]

TO HIS SON WALTER, AT SANDHURST

MY DEAR WALTER,-I am writing after witnessing a most melancholy spectacle. A fire broke out last night in the High Street of Edinr. just to the eastward of where the former fire took place and adjacent to the ruins. It raged all night and did much damage burning many houses downward to the Cowgate and also eastward down the street. This morning it was so far from being abated that the blazing combustibles which were born[e] by the wind in the Eastward direction attached themselves to the Tron Kirk and set both church and steeple on fire. The upper part of the former was of wood which blazed tremendously and fell in about two o'clock. I stood for an hour witnessing its progress and conclusion. I wish I could say the mischief is at an end but the wind is high and the people not very handy so I fear we are scarce done with it. No lives are yet known to have been lost in this dreadful combustion.

I have written to Messrs. Coutts & Co to honour your draught for 50, concluding term day will render that sum acceptable. As your examination takes place on the 15th I shall expect you down some days sooner than you talk of, for I should be very much disappointed did we not see you when our holidays commence. I wish to have all my family then about me and you must arrange matters with your other friends so as not to disappoint me.

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT

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 Bacon whom you used to talk about, however the match was to depend on the Ancient Bacon coming down with a 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 you will make him very happy and there are some old friends of mine at Oxford who would be civil to you if they 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 hard the only way to look them in the face.

(8-425)On Wednesday we had some fine coursing at Bowhill. I backed a dog of Mr Brydone at Crosslee against the best in the Dukes kennel and beat his Grace after five courses two of which were drawn. On Saturday we tried the same dogs and I lost so the match is a drawn one but my protege Will had a tread from a horse and did not run quite so fine as I have seen him.

(8-425)We left these funny doings on Monday and here we are to amuse ourselves with scandal and lawpapars varied by the occasional relief of a conflagration.

(8-425)Mama and Anne are very well. So are the Lockharts and 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
MY DEAR CHARLES,-I have your letter setting forth your wants and wishes. Messrs. Coutts & Coy,2 Strand, London have my directions to answer your drat. for 80, which will put you out of debt and leave you a handsome reversion to carry on with till quarter day. I beg you will use all wise and comely oeconomy and keep a note of your expences which is a sure road to independence.

I observe what you say of your present state of Society and shall be pleased to know what sort of youths you are most like to settle with. Hard readers and young men determined to follow the studies for which they are at college are those you will find most useful.

I hope to see you at Oxford in Spring which will I take it be our first meeting as it would be a foolish expence to bring you down at Xmas and would only interrupt you just when you were buckling with your labour. I am sorry for your absence however from our Christmas festivities which if God sends us good heal th we hope to hold with much glee.

There has been a most dreadful fire here which I am sorry to say is not yet extinguished. It embraced the houses to the eastward of those lately burnd and on the same side of the high Street. Many houses are destroyd and I fear many families left destitute. About twelve the Tron Kirk was observed to be on fire whether by some combustibles and sparks carried into it with the furniture of the poor expelld wretches which the doors had been open to receive or whether from the sparks and blazing materials blown against the steeple the upper part of which was of wood I cannot learn distinctly.1 On fire
however it was and no power of man could save it. The whole body of the Church was filld with flames which burst from every aperture and the wooden part of the steeple was soon in one blaze of fire.-Beam and rafter fell blazing down one after another and about half past one the whole gave way except the stone part of the tower. I am just come from seeing the spectacle.

I have little heart to write more at this moment. We came from Abbotsford yesterday and are all well. Dine with Sophia and Lockhart who are also quite well. All join my dear Charles in kind love to you and we wish we could have Alnaschars chest or Hosseins tapestry to visit you in your chambers and see what sort of house you keep. I am always your truly affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD [should be EDINBURGH]
16 Novr. [PM. 1824]
[Law]

TO LORD MONTAGU

MY DEAR LORD,-Since I came here on Monday night I have witnessd a horrible calamity-a fire broke out on that night in the high Street raged all night and great part of the next day catching to the steeple of the Tron Church which being wood was soon in a blaze and burnd like regular fire works till all was consumed. All this while the flames were spreading down to the Cowgate amongst those closes where the narrowness of the access and the height of the houses rendered the approach of engines
almost impossible. On Tuesday night a second fire broke out in the Parliament square greatly endangering the courts of Justice and the Advocates more than princely library.

By great exertions it was prevented approaching this public building and Sir William Forbes's bank also escaped. But all the other houses in the Parliament square are totally destroyd and I can conceive no sight more grand or terrible than to see these lofty buildings on fire from top to bottom vomiting out flames like a volcanoe from every aperture and finally crashing down one after another into an abyss of fire which resembled nothing but hell for there were vaults of wine and spirits which sent up huge jets of flame whenever they were calld into activity by the fall of these massive fragments.

Between the corner of the Parliament Square and the South Bridge all is destroyd excepting some new buildings at the lower extremity & the devastation has extended down the closes which I hope will never be rebuilt on their present I should say their late form. The general distress is of course dreadful.

Young Hay calld on me when going to canvass Selkirk & I mentiond to him that I thought he should not divide the Dukes interest there as it was a kind of poaching on his Grace's manor which could not be of any real service to him 1 Accordingly I find he did not canvass or ask any votes but gave his dinner & speeched the worthies telling them his only purpose was to cultivate a general good understanding & that he did not desire any one to come under obligations or promises &c. This was all right & handsome. I understand since I came here that he has secured Lithgow.2 Of course he has the election holding
(8-429) Peebles the Returning Burgh. But there is much between the cup and the lip especially as there must be one if not two Michaelmas elections before a dissolution. I suspect Menteath is not very serious to sit again if he can get what he wants which I believe to be a baronetcy.

(8-429) I was three times up at Bowhill coursing as my young Chief was very keen about a little match of greyhounds which we had together. He is really a fine youth active, bold and courteous. I was struck with the observation of George Brydone whose greyhound I backed against the Dukes favourite and who as owner of the dog was of course zealous in his cause. He told me the young Duke would be a just master as he had rejected some partial representations of Fletcher in favour of his own dog though keen enough too. I am rather surprised however on this more intimate acquaintance with my young friend to find that with so much apparent steadiness of character there should be a little deficiency in that species of general information which is required in Society. Mr Blakeney seems admirably qualified to supply this defect which I suppose arises partly out of the system of the great English schools which while they teach classical learning in the highest degree of perfection leave little time for other acquisitions. Good conversation has the best effect in making young people interest themselves in the points of knowledge upon which they turn and increase the desire of information just as the sensibility of the nerves is restored by friction.

I trust Bath has done its duty and trusting to the News papers conclude this will find your Lordship at Ditton.

I am sorry I have not seen Lady Montagu this season and beg my most respectful Compliments. Always my
The Duke & Mr Blakeney expressd a wish I would go with them as far as Alnwick on their journey south and as I have long owed a visit to the Duke & Duchess of Northumberland I will certainly if the weightier matters of the Law will permit me have the pleasure of attending the meeting of these two great Border Chiefs.

TO MR. DOBIE, SCHOOLMASTER, LOCKERBIE

Sir, - I have deferred returning my thanks for the obliging trouble which you have taken on my account until I should return to this place, where I can get a frank, as it would be really unjust to add expense to your trouble. I have reason to think the traditions concerning the Battle of Dryfe-sands are upon the whole very accurate. The precise date, as I learned from Johnstone's History, is the winter of 1593. As to my clan, I find Scotstarvet, in his Staggering State of Scots Statesmen, mentions the fact that Sir Gideon Murray of Elibank carried the Laird of Buccleuch's banner, on that occasion, and was followed by 500 [men] of the name of Scott. He was chamberlain upon the Buccleuch estate during the absence of the proprietor, who was at that time (not disabled by age as you apprehended, but) absent upon his travels in France or Italy. Sir William Scott of Harden, the leading man among the Scotts, was married to the daughter of this Sir Gideon.
Murray under very peculiar circumstances if family
tradition speak truth. When Lord Maxwell, son of him who
was slain at Dryfe-sands, was afterwards forfeited for
treason, this Sir Gideon Murray, then Treasurer of
Scotland, got a share of his forfeiture—
I have heard or
read somewhere that the popular phrase of a Lockerby

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 431

Lick 1 had its origin from the blows given by the
Annandale men on this memorable occasion.

I am much obliged to you for the trouble you have so
kindly taken on my account. Should you at any time
pick up any old Border tales or songs I will be much
gratified by your sending them to me. If you address
to Edinr. your letter will always come safe. My wife and
daughter desire their compliments, and I am, Sir, Your
obliged servant, WALTER SCOTT

EDINR., 20th Nov. [1824]

TO HIS SON WALTER, AT SANDHURST

MY DEAR WALTER,—I received your letter on Saturday
and consulted on the subject which it refers to with
Colonel Stanhope (Duke of York’s Aid de camp) now in
Scotland and with Lord Chief Commissioner. In the event
of your going to the Ionian islands it seems to them &
also to me that you would lose the whole benefit of a troop
of cavalry and that I should pay a very large sum at a
time when it is rather inconvenient without your deriving
any proportionate advantage. The better plan in this
case would be to purchase a company of infantry either
in a regt. at Gibraltar or at Malta which you could join for a short space as the regulations require on your way to the Ionian islands and then proceed to Corfu where you could remain till you get the important step of Major. But to take the best authority on the subject the Lord Chief writes by this post to Sir Herbert Taylor as to the most adviseable plan. I suspect from what Stanhope says that the Duke of Cumberland will not spare a Captain from the 15th to the staff but we will learn soon how that matter will fadge. In the mean time I will endeavour to prevent anyone striking in over your head. If there were any chance of our friend Justice Shallows plan taking effect of course the troop would be the most desireable thing but that is very contingent. If you think of it at all it will be necessary to keep tryste at Christmas. In the mean time you may be assured I would rather suffer inconvenience myself than you should not have your promotion in the way which you may find most effectual though the infantry plan would at this moment be most convenient to me and as it appears equally effectual to your advancement in your profession. Let me hear from you what you think of all these matters and believe me your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 21 Novr. [PM. 1824]

The cause of the black seal is the sudden at least unexpected death of Mrs. Rutherford, widow of my uncle Dr. Rutherford. She had been long poorly and died with little ceremony.
DEAR SIR,-I did not answer your letter of the 20th August 1 being prevented by something at the moment and intending to do so whenever I should come to Edinburgh for in the country I had little opportunity of procuring the information you wanted. I came here only on the 15 of this month and since that time we have been visited by a succession of the most tremendous fires with which this city has ever been afflicted. A very large portion of the Old Town of Edinburgh the dwelling of our ancestors is at present a heap of ruins. Everybody was obliged to turn out the young to work the old to give countenance and advice & to secure temporary refuge & support to upwards of 200 families turned naked in many instances into the streets & I had my share of labour & anxiety. We are now thank God in quiet again. Our princely library (that of the Advocates) worth commercially at least half a million but in reality invaluable as containing such a mass of matter to be found nowhere else escaped with the utmost difficulty & in consequence only of the most strenuous exertions. This will I am sure be an apology for my not writing sooner what I now have to say.

Your letters are a little vague in respect to the precise nature of the information you require. In Thurlows state papers 2 (Vol 4th. as I think) you will find an accurate
list of the Council of State by which Cromwell governd
Scotland. But his well disciplined army under Monk
was the real force of his government & they were exercised
as they would have termd it by more than one insurrection
particularly that headed first by Glencarn & afterwards
by Genl Middleton and by the constant though useless
harassing manoeuvres of the cavaliers and discontented
Scottish forming a kind of guerillas termd Mosstroopers
who seem to have existed in all the wilder districts & to
have carried on a war rather of a harassing than an
effectual character. A person of the name of Nichol kept
a large & copious diary of the events of the period which
caused to be transcribed some years since. The
transcriber I am sorry to say was rather careless - in fact
a person to whom I had given the task more out of
consideration to his wants than his competence. If this
transcript could be useful to you I will with pleasure give
you the use of it begging only you will take care of it.
It is voluminous & contains much trash (as diaries usually
do) but there are some curious articles of information
which occur no where else. Some of the Diurnals of the
day also contain curious minutiae but these you have in
the Musaeum more complete than we. I picked up some
weeks ago a contemporary account of the battles of
Kilsyth & Philiphaugh. I am particularly interested in
the last as the scene lies near my door & as my own
ancestor was engaged in it-at that time a keen covenanter.
I think of publishing or rather printing a few copies of
these tracts and if you wish it I will send you one. Brodie
of Brodies diary 2 has also some interest though stuffd with
fanatical trumpery. The Lord as he expresses himself
at length intimated to his staunch presbyterian that he
should in conformity to the views of Providence for our
Scottish Israel embrace the cause of the Independent
Cromwell & he became one of our Judges. His diary is
very rare but I have a copy & could cause any extracts to be
made which you want. I am not aware that our records
could add much to the mass of information containd
in Thurloes collection where there are many letters
from Lord Broghill I & Monk on the state of the country.
The haughty and stubborn character of the Scottish
people lookd back on the period of Cromwells domination
with anger & humiliation & they seem to have observed
a sullen silence about its particular events. There is no
period respecting which we have less precise information.
If however you will shape your inquiries more specifically
respecting any points which interest you I will be happy to
make such researches as may enable me to answer them
or to say that I cannot do so.-I made a scandalous
blunder in my prosody sure enough in doing honour to a
deceased friend.2 I should have rememberd I had been

Long enamoured of a barbarous age
A faithless truant to the classic page.3

Any thing however is pardonable but want of candour
and my comfort is that of Miss Priscilla Tomboy.4 "I am
too old to be whip'd " transeat cum ceteris erroribus.-I
remain dear Sir Your most obedt Servant
WALTER SCOTT

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

436 LETTERS OF 1824

TO JOHN CARNE,1 QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
DEAR SIR, - I am favoured with your obliging letter and although I have no title to the compliment your kindness proposes me in inscribing your Grecian travels with my name yet I cannot decline out of a sense of my own demerits what you so handsomely offer. If the travels be as interesting as the specimens which you had the goodness to give us at Abbotsford they cannot but command the general attention of the publick. I am, Sir, Your obliged humble Servant,

WALTER SCOTT

EDINH. 23 Novr. [PM. 1824]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW, KAESIDE, NEAR MELROSE

MY DEAR WILLIE,-Will you look into the Library & in the folio shelves of Presses A. or B. I am not sure which you will find a folio volume of Scottish miscellaneous tracts bound together containing a good many pamphlets about the business of Green the pirate & other matter but in particular a broadside sheet giving an account of the burning in the Parliament square in the beginning of last

SIR WALTER SCOTT

1824

Century.1 Pray forward it per first Blucher & let me know how you all come on. The book is bound in brown leather broken a little at one corner & in the inside of the board has a small copperplate representing a hand holding a rose the crest of the late George Paton of the Custom House, [the remainder of the MS. has been cut away]
TO MRS. HUGHES

(8-437) MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,-If I have been late in expressing my sense of your kindness I have a formidable excuse. Our Good Town as Edinburgh has been fondly denominated was on fire for three days in the course of last week and much of what your zeal and activity investigated will never more be seen by human eye. The whole of the Parliamt square excepting that building occupied by our supreme courts has been either burned to the ground or ruind by the means necessarily resorted to prevent the fire spreading to the Courts and the princely Library of the Faculty of Advocates. The tenements destroyed were (excluding castles & towers) probably the highest houses in the world built for human accomodation and the sight of them in a full blaze while spirit vaults and the like sent a strange wild unearthly flame from the caverns of the earth to aid the grosser fires which were fed by the timber of the buildings made a sight unequald on earth whatever it may be in the place that is never mentioned " to ears polite." The South side of the High Street is burnd through two thirds of its extent and to add to the horror of the scene the steeple of the Tron Church caught fire though 300 yards from the conflagration and the upper part which was of wood burnt to ashes before our eyes without the possibility of saving it. Many hundred families lost all but the charity of their fellow citizens has flow'd in such a stream that we justly fear it may prove rather too large a premium for future carelessness unless managed with more discretion.
than our awakened feelings are like to be in unison with. Poor Will Allan the painter is burned out but has fortunately saved most of his paintings particularly a noble picture of the death of Regent Murray which he was just finishing for the Duke of Bedford. James Hall, brother of Capt. Basil Hall, made some sketches of this extraordinary scene which are to be lithographized and I will send you a copy though it can suggest but a faint idea of the horrible original. The means used to bring down the ruins which continued to stand menacing a fall every moment was also a very striking scene. Part were mined & blown up part pull'd down by a combination of mechanical powers operations on which I attended with deep interest. Upon the whole I believe the conflagration will be followed by its own advantages as such evils usually are. A large space is cleared which though in old times it form'd the abode of the learned the noble and the gay has latterly become the cells of misery and often of vice. I trust a good use will be made of the opportunity and might say something about the phoenix, but the emblem has been rather worn out by the prologues to the opening of Drury Lane.

I owe you an hundred thanks for the transcript respecting poor Byron's conversation he was much of a Crammer i.e. sometimes told his bottle holders a sort of romances for which he seriously claimed no credit. I always suspected the duels to be escapades of this kind if Capt. Medwin rightly understood what he said & if Lord Byron was not speaking of boxing matches at school. We must have heard if he had fought twice or been second in many affairs of honour. They do not occur amongst men of note so frequently as to escape notice and the world
had been long anxious to learn all they could of Byron.

I know he was like to have fought at Malta but it went off as these things often do. Mr. John Hughes has shown up Mr. Bull in fine stile.2 The Lay of the one horse shay was certainly an event to be celebrated by the fine arts in poetry and in painting.3 Careys poems are with Blackwood to be forwarded by the first opportunity.4

I wish Mr. John Hughes could have seen Lockhart on duty on the morning of the fire-wet to the skin and elegant with a naked broadsword in his hand the very picture of a distressed hero in a strolling party’s tragedy. For my part I felt rather sorry for myself when I heard the Rouse of the Yeomanry blown at dead of night which I had so often obeyed on similar occasions and saw my old corps drawn up

By torch and trumpet fast array’d.

It is when we find ourselves unable to do our more youthful feats that we feel our better days are gone bye.

Lady Scott and Anne join in kind Compliments to the excellent Doctor. I have not heard from my young Oxonian lately. My Hussar is in great strength and I hope to see him at Christmas. Believe me always dear Mrs. Hughes Your much obliged & faithful servant

WALTER SCOTT

26 November [1824] EDINBURGH.

TO JAMES SKENE
CASTLE STREET, Sunday

DEAR SKENE,—Will you come without preface and take your dinner here today at half past five. I wish to consult you about a letter I have from Lord Aberdeen about the Castle Hill antiquities.1 Yours truly,

W. SCOTT

[ circa end of November 1824 ]

Skene's Memories

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TO HIS SON CHARLES

MY DEAR CHARLES,—I write chiefly at present to say that with every wish to yield to whatever suits your comfort I do not think it adviseable that you should leave Oxford in the short Christmas vacation as you propose in a letter to Sophia. Nothing suffers so much by interruption as a course of study—it is in fact just stopping the stone while it is running down hill and giving yourself all the trouble of putting it again in motion after it has lost the impulse which it had acquired. I am aware you propose to read in Wales but as the only object of your leaving college would be to find amusement I rather fear that to that amusement study is in much danger of being postponed—You will meet with many men and these by no means such as can be termed either indolent or dissipated who will conceive their business at College well enough done if they can go creditably through the ordinary studies. This may do very well for men of independent fortune or who have a direct entree into some profitable branch of
business or are assured from family connection of 
preferment in some profession. But you my dear Charles 
must be distinguishd it will not do to be moderate. I 
could have got you a good appointment in India where 
you might have had plenty of field sports and made 
money in due time. But on your affording me proofs 
when under Mr. Williams that you were both willing 
and able to acquire knowlege I was readily induced to 
change your destination. God knows if I have chosen 
for the best but this I am certain that you like every 

youth of sufficiently quick talent have the matter much 
in your own power. Solitude and ennui you must endure 
as others have done before you and there is this advantage 
in both that they make study a resource instead of a 
duty. The greatest scholars always have been formed 
in situations where there was least temptation to 
dissipation. I do not mean that which is mischievous and 
criminal but the mere amusements in themselves 
indifferent or even laudable which withdraw the mind 
from serious study.

I beg you therefore to remain inter silvas academi 
although they are at the present season both lonely and 
leafless. We shall think of you with regret at Christmas 
but we will be comforted with thinking that you are 
collecting in your solitary chambers the means of making 
yourself an honour to us all and are paying an apprentice 
fee to knowlege and distinction.

We begin to look up again after our fiery trials but the 
Good Town has sufferd much. My aunt-your grand 
Aunt Mrs. Rutherford 1 died rather suddenly last week
though [it] was the close of a long and wasting disorder which left at last so little existence between existence and death that she sleepd away her life without any perceptible pang. If you have black clothes you will of course wear them. At the distance you are it would be unnecessary for you . . . [Part of MS. cut out affecting last five lines.]

EDINR. 1st December [PM. 1824]

TO ELIZA SKENE

CASTLE STREET, 2nd December 1824

I HAVE been much pressed for time lately, my dear young friend, or I would not so long have neglected a letter so interesting as yours, and when I began to answer your simple and sensible question, I assure you, my dear, I do not know, for excepting what is called Littleton's Letters on English History (in reality written by Goldsmith), and which you have read, I know no work on British history of an elementary nature. In ancient history you have Ferguson and Gibbon for the Roman history, and Mitford for that of Greece. But I believe you are rather looking to the history of Britain, and then I am pretty much at a loss, for a complete acquaintance with the subject is only to be derived from a perusal of different works, some of them very ill-written. You have often, I dare say, tried to wind a puzzled skein of silk : the work goes on very slowly till you get the right end of the thread, and then it seems to disentangle itself voluntarily and as a matter of course. It is just so with reading history,
you poke about at first and run your nose against all manner of contradictions till a little light breaks in and then you begin to see things distinctly. I venture to recommend to you to commence with Lord Hailes' Annals, which, in some places a dull and heavy work, is lively and entertaining in others, and has the advantage of the most genuine statement of facts. After this I am afraid you have no resource but John Pinkerton to lead you through the James's reigns. It is a book intolerably ill-written; still, however, it cannot be dispensed with. The reigns of James iv. and v. are told with great spirit and naivete by the ancient Scottish historian Pitscottie, but the earlier reigns are not authentic in his book. If you tire extremely of Pinkerton you may read a more agreeable but less correct account of the same period in Drummond of Hawthornden's history of the four James's. He writes a good, firm, old-fashioned style, and is not very tedious. Having got through the James's you come to the reign of Mary, the most important in Scotland, and happily written by an author equally distinguished for taste and philosophy, the late Dr. Robertson.

When you have once got the general facts of history, whether English, Scottish, or any other country fixed in your head, you can read memoirs or detached histories of particular areas or incidents with use and pleasure, but a traveller must first be sure of his general landmarks before he has any disposition to stop for the purpose of admiring any particular point of view.

Adieu, my dear young friend. Do not neglect to cultivate your taste for reading just now, for go the world how it will, and I hope it will go most happily with you, you will always find that with a taste for useful knowledge
you will have happiness in this, of which scarce any course of events can deprive you. Perhaps I should have used a less strong word, and said comfort and amusement, but alas! my dear, you will know one day that our utmost allotment of happiness in this world means little.

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more. I would have written more about history, but I am interrupted. You must come and tell me how you get on. Give my love to your papa and mamma.-

Always your affectionate friend, WALTER SCOTT

[Skene's Memories]

TO HIS SON WALTER, AT SANDHURST

DEAR WALTER,-I received your letter yesterday and at the same time one from Sir Herbert Taylor who seems to think that the troop would be a very great point and as your inclinations and his advice tend to the same purpose we must make an effort to carry them into execution. My lack of cash is only temporary-partly owing to my house partly because a large sum (1000) is kept hanging over my head as security for my unfortunate brother]-and partly I have thought it advantageous to lay out a few hundreds here in shares of stock companies which promise a large return. But a few months will I trust bring me quite round. In the meanwhile I am looking out to borrow the 315 0,, which I have no doubt I can do in a week or two. I shall wish it for the present to stand as a debt against you when you come to your share of Mrs Carpenters succession being a larger sum than I at present think it just to lay out on my eldest son who will have my landed estate besides the value of his present commissions. But I will pay the interest while
I live and if you survive me as please God you will I trust
you will find enough to make it no very important
burthen till time enables you to clear it. Perhaps the
lender may expect your security as well as mine. It is a
very regular transaction because it is only bringing
forward and rendering available for your immediate
preferment a part of funds to which you must afterwards
be entitled.

I fear the purchase of the Troop will effectually interfere
for the present with the Ionian plan. But Lord Chief
Commissr. always kind writes to his son his particular
request that he will endeavour to get you out on the
regular staff and not as a supernumerary—the former it
seems may be managed though the latter cannot—But
of course this cannot be till an opening occurs—
therefore your joining in Ireland when you have made
your visit here will be indispensable and may now
be considered as settled. I should think you had better
send your horse servant and heavy baggage straight to
Corke without the expense and risque of bringing them
here.

Two o’clock

Constable assures me he can get the cash upon such an
arrangement as above so you may commence your
negotiation with the Captain if you like the terms. You
must not however close it till you write me. It is needless
to say that 1000 will do better than 1150. I hope this
will reach you before you break off the negotiation and
beg you to write by return of post. Your truly affectionate
father

WALTER SCOTT
We will be at Abbotsford on the 18th. Shall be glad to see you as soon thereafter as may be. I hope to hear you have gone through a clever examn.

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,—On the opposite side you will find a cheque for $25 which will pay a year’s interest on one of the girls notes of five hundred pounds.

I was much obliged by your letter with Jessies hopeful statement of the Accompts but I see Mr. Robert Macculloch is still desponding on the subject. 1 We must take our chance and the skaith as my poor mother used to say cannot be deadly.

I have met occasionally with Ld & Ldy. Dalhousie who were full of enquiries after you. If they are at Dalhousie Castle when you come to us I think you should wait on them—there is some chance of their being in E. Lothian.

I never saw a man less changed than Lord D. not a white hair in his head not a dark one left in mine his contemporary. And yet he has been in every quarter of the world and I scarce out of Britain. I begin to think the fagg of the mind is more exhausting than the labours of war and travel.

I think of your long journey with some pain though of the pleasure of seeing you and my dear nieces with much
pleasure. Both the Walters will be down immediately
after their examinations & Charles will be the only absent
member of our now contracted family circle. We will
be at Abbotsford on the 18th or 19th current and nothing
will so much reconcile me to the folly of having built a
large house as to see you all in it. I think Anne and Eliza
will give me credit for finishing it handsomely.

Give my kindest love to both in which Lady Scott and
Anne sincerely join and believe me ever Dear Mrs. Scott
Your affectionate Brother

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 6th Decr. [1824]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH

MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I was vex’d enough before at
not getting to Northumberland and here is the most
beautiful day for seeing the park at Alnwick to make me
more mortified still-A handsome dash of rain or a liberal
peppering of snow would have reconciled me better to
my destiny. But the frogs are still busy in my freind
Mr. Ferriars stomach

So what’s impossible can’t be
And very rarely comes to pass.

It is very kind of your Grace to think of the singed
ruflles of poor auld Reekie. The wealthy classes in Edinr.
subscribed from ten to thirty guineas a piece. Lord Melville
& one or two noblemen 50, and two or three in their munificence gave 100, for example the Diva Pecunia whom mortals call Mrs Coutts. There is fully as much money subscribed as is necessary for most of the sufferers are of the lowest class and we must take care not to give them such excess of charity as may be a bounty for carelessness if not a proemium for future fires. In these circumstances I would say that 50 or 50 guineas from the Duke of Buccleuch not yet sui juris) would be considerd as very handsome & quite sufficient to express his good will to the metropolis of Scotland the old neighbour of Dalkeith. Less perhaps your Grace could not well give and more would I think be quite unnecessary. I askd the presidents opinion who thinks it would be quite enough.

As for your exploits upon the person of the fox do not tell them in Quorn or publish them in Melton Mowbray. My kind compliments to Mr Blakeney and I beg my particular respects to Lord Ravensworth and family with whom this letter will find you. Your Grace will have a high treat in the music at Ravensworth castle. I wish you would be so good as tell me how you like Alnwick. I wish you would be so good as tell me how you like Alnwick. Always your Graces truly faithful & obedt

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 7th Decemr. [1824]

Were there pipers at Alnwick.2

Buccleuch

TO MRS. CLEPHANE
MY DEAR MRS CLEPHANE,-I am fast at moorings here till Saturday 18th December when our vacation begins, and in most cases can be at your command any day from one to two o'clock onwards. The best and kindest way will be to come to a family dinner with Anna Jane.3

Perhaps we will be able to prevail on you to give us some part of the daft days at Abbotsford, where I can expect like a patriarch to assemble all my family, Charles excepted. We shall junket about untill after Christmas-day, which by ancient custom we spend at Mertoun when the Scotts are in the country. We shall then be stationary, and perhaps Anna Jane and you will add to our family party.

I heard from Lady Compton lately and am glad to find Lord Compton stood the passage of Mount Cenis so well. I am, with much regard, and best wishes, in which Lady Scott and Anne sincerely join, always my dear Mrs Clephane, Very truly yours,

WALTER SCOTT

The Lockharts dined with us yesterday—all well. They will be with us at Xmas. Lady Scott says I have not made my invitation half pressing [enough]. I can only say in addition, I trust you are sensible that there is no society we set more value on than Miss Clephane's and yours, and that if I am not urgent, it is because urgency is sometimes not kind. But if urgency can make your motions suit with our wishes, you must suppose I have
used all the superlatives the language affords to induce you to spend at Abbotsford the space between Christmas and Twelfth-night, when hey-ho! we must return to dirty weather, and dirty streets-

[Northampton]

TO HIS SON WALTER, AT SANDHURST

EDINBURGH 11 December 1824

My DEAR WALTER,-I will proceed to provide the ready if possible in the manner proposed and doubt not to make it up though Mrs Carpenters divisible fund proves rather less than I supposed about 1500 4 per cents 1 a good thing however at the present price of Stocks but if they fall it will be less.

I approve greatly of your going to London do not fail to see old Greenwood and Sir Herbert Taylor and H.R.H. if possible. You must not however think of going to Ireland at present it would be almost an affront to Sir Adam my old friend and your very affectionate well wisher.2 There is no occasion for the thing going farther than your own inclinations may lead you but I assure you I shall be rather unhappy till it be off or on. You will meet without observation or opportunity of remark as the families naturally meet in the country and you can regulate yourself accordingly. Anne Page 3 is to be at Gattonside where you may be as little or as often as you please and the affair may go off or on as you and she may stand affected on further acquaintance. So we shall expect you to come straight down from London when
your business there is finishd which cannot take above a
day or two.

Walter is to be examined on the 15th and hopes confidently
to get an appointment to the Engineers. He comes
down straight to Edinburgh. I suppose it would be difficult
for you to arrange your own matters so as to travel
together which would otherwise be comfortable.

I have had the good luck to get Richard Lockhart a
Cadetship which gives Lockhart much pleasure.

Charles intended to go down to Wales when his
examination is over for he also is to be examined on the
15 which seems set apart for a day of general searching
into the qualifications of my family. But upon mature
consideration he like Tom Purdie takes my advice 5
and continues quiet in College during the Christmas
vacation.

Amid the general promotion of my friends and family
Bruce the piper has returnd Pipe Major of the 72d. He
came to see us in his fine new dress and informs me he
has renounced Whisky entirely and refused a dram in
proof of his resolution. If he keeps it he will do well.
He brought me a cane which he had cut for me in China
from the Tea tree a very smart affair. I was pleased to
see that the poor fellow had made a rally.

As you will call on Miss Dumergue when you are in
London you are within a few doors of the Duke of
Wellington who wishes to send me down a parcel. I
inclose a few lines to his Grace which you can give him or
leave them with your card if he is not at home.
My draught for 25, in your favour on Messrs Coutts is inclosed as you seemd in a former letter to think you would be hard run. You can write a few lines to let me know your motions and also that the m[oney reached]safe.

The less time you lose in coming down for [MS. torn] may be absolutely necessary to bestow in London the more acceptable will your presence be to your affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

I have just seen Constable who says the cash will be got. It is an additional reason for your coming down instantly that deeds &c must be signd which will be most conveniently done at Abbotsford. I think you had best address at Abbotsford Melrose as I will be there on the 18th and it is not likely you will write till the 15th be over.

NOTHING could be kinder my dear Sir than your interposition with Mr Wynne in favour of the young Lockhart and it gives the greatest pleasure to my son-in-law and his family as well as to me. I trust the appointment may do some credit to those who have so kindly interested themselves in the lads fortunes for excepting perhaps my late friend John Leyden I have never met with any person who showd so extraordinary a facility in acquiring
languages for although he is only fifteen he chose two
years since to study Hebrew for his own amusement and
became extremely troublesome in consequence to his
own father and some other divines and professors of
Glasgow who had not the same appetite for the Chaldaic
roots. I conceive such a turn for languages may make
him useful in the East.2

I have often [been] thinking of late on our walk up the
High Street 3 of Edinburgh when we saw what in more

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 455

respects than one can never be seen again. The greater
part of the Parliament Square and half of the southern
side of the High Street have been totally ruined by the
late dreadful fires and whatever manner these buildings
may [be] replaced it is very unlikely that the substituted
architecture will have the effect of the lofty old buildings
which are now totally destroyd.

I think it likely that I will be in town in the ensuing
spring and will be most happy to subject my beaten visage to any artist whom you may be pleased to
select 1 and I heartily wish there was anything else by
which I could shew my sense of your great kindness being
very sincerely My dear Sir Your obliged and thankful
humble Servant WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 11th December [1824]
[Owen D. Young]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

CASTLE STREET Nov. 15 (2) [15th December] 1824
MY DEAR MRS CLEPHANE,-I have so little certainty
of being at home before four tomorrow that I am under
the necessity to name that late hour for business. It will
give Lady Scott and me particular pleasure if you will
come with Miss Clephane and take pot-luck in bonnets, or
what you will—I, in Anne's phraseology, terribly
disappointed that you cannot postpone your return to
your lonely isle till after 1825 has commenced. Take care,
there be storms on the wing, though I hope they will not
come your way. Yours most faithfully and respectfully

WALTER SCOTT
[Northampton]

TO MRS. LOGAN, WILLLDOWN, COLDINGHAM 1

MADAM,—I hope you will excuse some delay in answering
your letter. My eyes do not of late serve me well at
Candlelight which I am afraid my writing at present will
testify and my forenoons are occupied by my official
duties.

You may rest assured that the trust you have reposed
in me shall be sacred though I had already heard of Miss
Logan as the author of a well-esteemd novel calld Saint
Johnstoun. I have not yet had the good fortune to read
it for the reasons I have already mentiond. Those who
have read & written much when young must be contented
to listen to the report of others as they begin to grow old.

I know almost nothing of your celebrated namesake 3
of Restalrig except what the history of the Gowrie

SIR WALTER SCOTT

1824
Conspiracy tells. The late historian Malcolm Laing undertook a scrutiny into the business with the belief that the letters produced by Sprott were forgeries but ended with believing them strictly genuine. I may notice a strange error which has got into most histories. It is said that Logans trial took place after death in order that his property might fall into the Kings hands by forfeiture and be conferred on a needy favourite and this favourite is said to have been the Kings cousin the Earl of Moray. But many years ago when for a very different purpose my friend Mr Colin Mackenzie of Portmore and I went through a careful examination respecting the transmission of Logans property it appeared that he had sold the lands of which E. Moray got possession afterwards before his death—consequently that motive could not exist—You are probably aware that in Cobbitts state Trials there is the fullest account of the Gowrie affair. A Mr Scott of Perth 2 and the Editor of the Book call'd Threnodia (popularly Gall's Gabions) have laboured very hard to prove the King was the conspirator & the Ruthvens the victims—as far as I can judge they are mistaken and only oppose popular rumour to facts which though not very intelligible are undeniable. My reasons are that James was far from bloodthirsty and was constitutionally very timid. I think he was not likely to have undertaken such a business at all—certainly the last man in the world to have exposed his own person in the execution and that it was seriously exposed there can be no doubt—Concerning Logan himself I must beg pardon in speaking to a lady of his name perhaps descended from him but his letters indicate a wild schemer not likely to suffer...
his conscience to stand in the way of his projects. I have seen a contract of his with the celebrated discoverer of the Logarithms ancestor of Lord Napier setting forth that from apparitions & otherwise it was evident there was a treasure concealed in Logans house of Fastcastle-and Napier engages to discover the same by lawful rules of art-the treasure to be divided betwixt the parties in certain proportions. But Napier anxiously stipulates a certain escort of barons with their followers to convoy him & his proportion of the treasure safe out of Logans power when the research should have succeeded. I think you will see something of this in the article Napier in Woods edition of the Scottish peerage.

These are the only particulars which occur to my recollection as belonging to the story you propose to treat of-A friend of mine long since made some progress in a fiction on the same subject but I dare say would never interfere with you or at least allow you full time to try your lot with that capricious animal called the public.

You are aware that Logan resided at Gunsgreen near Eymouth & not far I should suppose from your present place of residence. Fast Castle where he boasts to have harboured Earl Bothwell was probably only used as a tower of strength and retreat. I have a beautiful picture of the ruins by the reverend Mr Thomson of Duddingston.

I should think popular tradition might preserve something of his stirring and mutinous spirit in the vicinity of his former mansion but this is all I know. If you should wish any further explanation my address for the
MY DEAR FRIEND,-I have been looking round with all
the wish I must ever have to gratify any desire of yours to
see if I could espy anything in this land of projects which
might suit your friend and protege Signer Bertolini.1 There
are you know plenty of young men in Scotland gaping for
employment who are quite sure to anticipate a foreigner
in all the ordinary lines of occupation. And although the
present rage for Stock Companies have made various
openings for Clerks secretaries and such persons yet there
are also sharp men of the quill ready to grasp at such
pickings for them or theirs and the foreigner who should
enter into competition besides the risque of his being
really indifferently qualified for an office which might
require some previous knowledge of the subject to which
it related would scarce be rated as capable even if he
were so.

There are but two professions in which foreigners are
readily employed in Scotland the one is as Teachers of
music or the continental languages which I suppose Mr.
Bertolini might think beneath his station—the other that of consul or vice consul at some of our seaports. This it appears to me would be the best object for Mons Bertolini to aim at but his attaining it must depend on his interest with ministry. I knew M. Sebastian of Lathrisk long ago; indeed he was a brother trooper of mine when I had horse to ride and weapon to wield but I have not heard of him for many years nor do I know what interest the family are possessed of. My own credit is quite crackd and only mended like a china saucer with a little glue so trust nothing to that. Lord Northampton I should suppose might easily carry such a point.

I am delighted to hear that you passed Mount Cenis easily considering the charge that you had with you and Lord Comptons delicate state of health. You I suppose are enjoying balmy breezes through while we have such a killing frost that Nova Zembia is a joke to it. This has succeeded to pestilent tempests and hurricanes.

With all the ills so much improved Of this rough quarter of the year That even you so much beloved We would not now wish with us here.

To reenforce the radical heat I suppose we set Auld Reekie on fire. The old witch continued burning for three days and the was equally sublime and horrible. You cannot but remember the corner house in the Parlt. Square—the highest in the world I suppose counting those which are built exclusively for domestic accomodation—imagine it on fire from top to bottom the flames rushing out at the roof and every window—imagine the front walls giving way suddenly and with a most tremendous crash in the vaults beneath occupied
as spirit stores and these catching fire and sending forth
as from a volcano a flame of a blue unnatural complexion
which rose like a column sixty or seventy feet into
the air contrasting strangely with the red yellow glare of

LETTERS OF 1824

the grosser element-imagine all this my dear Lady and
dont talk to me of your volcanuses as I heard a traveld lady
call them. There was the blowing up of the tottering
ruins very great in its way and the pulling down of others
with chain cables by a windlass to the tune of a boatswains
whistle and by the arms of a hundred seamen-then the
omni-presence of James Hall with all the activity of all
the families accomodated with a little campstool and
making sketches among smouldering ruins and kindling
ruins. He has really made some excellent sketches which
have been lithographised. I would send you a set did I
know how - All this as the man says in the Old Bachelor
is very fine but I would rather go plain all my life than
wear such finery again.

The Mr. Colquhoun your Ladyship asks for is the only
son of the late Lord Register-very wealthy-in delicate
health-and a very good and even able young man with
the modern exception of being a little too sanctified. I take
some interest in him as he is nephew by the mothers side
of poor Will. Erskine my best and dearest friend. He and
his mother asked me much for introductions for him when
he went abroad and I believe I did not succeed in
convincing them that I could not oblige them because
literally I knew no one whose acquaintance could be
useful to him. So that if you can conveniently shew him
a little countenance and place it to my account who am

SIR WALTER SCOTT
already so much indebted to you it will be of consequence to the young gentleman who is really intelligent and accomplished though when I saw him there was risque of his riding on the rigging of the Kirk. You can draw on me for the amount of the like civility to any Signor or Monsr. who may have a fancy for knowing how the air feels when the thermometer is down at the hard zero and whether whiskey can keep out the frost.

I would have been delighted could we have persuaded Mrs. Clephane and Anna Jane to have Christmassed with us at Abbotsford. They could have been nowhere where there would have been a greater wish to receive and make them happy but there seemed some objections which as I did not understand I could not combat. I wish Mrs. Clephane for her own good and Anna Janes sake would just remember the old proverb " Better a finger off as aye wagging." On my word I believe the best way to deal with unfriendly friends is to give them a handsome affront at once and deprive them of the title to make us uncomfortable since they have no desire to render us happy. Did I show you among my other rattle-traps a dirk with the mottoe " Better kind fremit as fremit kind "1-it has a good deal of sense in it.

I have scarce left to say all the kind wishes which we would waft to Lord Compton and babies. Pray when you honour me with a letter say particularly how he is now that you have been some time in the land of promised health.

Morritt is in his domain of Rokeby which Rose calls Mauretania-Miss Morritt pretty much as usual-Governess dead-I am sorry for she was a good woman but I cannot cry for it was a dreadful tax on Morritt. But
he is a saint in temper - My philanthropy like Corporal

Nyms patience would have sagg'd long since. All our allies are well - Lockharts especially. Mother and baby had both bad colds in the end of the year - God bless you my dear Lady Compton with all the blessings of the New Year now approaching. Once more my best respects wait on Lord C. Always most respectfully yours

WALTER SCOTT

I only use a black seal in consequence of the actual death of a relation long since dead to the world. I mention this for mourning seals and paper always make me nervous.

[Northampton]

TO DAVID LAING

DEAR MR DAVID, - I return all your proofs to which I have made little or no addition excepting the introductory sentences you wanted. There is quite enough of illustration for of making notes there is no end.

I will bring the Manuscript of Mr Ellis to town if it contains the Romance you want.

I send by this same opportunity the copy for Ballantyne to begin setting up Auld Robin Gray. The etching is very cleverly done & I hope it will make a neat little Bannatinean volume.

I charge you on your allegiance to Black Letter not to
TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,-I return the proof and more proof. Be it for good or for evil I am glad to be once more in full motion.

I inclose also the new Insurance for £3,000 more which please to complete by paying the premium as advised. Mr. Cadell will I dare say manage this as the other for me.

I have witnessed a terrible inundation here in part but as I went down to eat my Christmas dinner at Mertoun it was much worse. My haugh was quite overflowd the water four feet deep in the offices to unite two inconsistent calamities the water getting at some unslaked lime their union set fire to a straw heap & nearly to my offices.

Besides about a hundred yards of my flood dike is destroyd or damaged. The Tweed was fifteen inches higher than in the 1806 which was one of the highest floods in human memory. Yours truly

ABBOTSFORD Sunday evening [26th December 1824]

W. S.
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

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(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
TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES, - I send you more copy having got the missing sheets. It now runs from p. 20 to p. 30. Please to see if it unites. You do not say you have receivd

1824               SIR WALTER SCOTT              467

Copy for a Roxburghe Tract which was sent on Saturday I think. I saw a glimpse of you at Bannatyne yesterday but you fled from me like Quicksilver. Yours truly

W. S. 

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,-I return your sheaf of bills-I wish we could have got the accompts balanced before you went away. I should also like to have [a] specific idea of the advantages Constable & Co propose to the P.O. besides giving us the printing of the works which are ours already in a new form & at great expence to us-In short I would like to see my way very clear in the matter-If they were to talk of stereotyping the Encyclopedia I would 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.

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(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
former must be three months the latter may be four. I
must make a rally to get the Crusrs out by the new year
& the 4th volume will meet these-I am always truly
yours

W. S.

But send the Bills by post. Gordon brings this who will
tell you of my well fare.

ABBOTSFORD, Monday [circa end of 1824]

1824 SIR WALTER SCOTT 469

TO SIR WALTER SCOTT 1

SIR,-The encouragement you held out, and the assistance
you afforded me, some years ago, in publishing in the
Edinburgh Annual Register, a small poem entitled the " Vision
of Belshazzar," induces me at the present moment to present
you herewith with a Copy of a Poem, printed but not published.
Your influence in the Republic of Letters will at once
decide the fate of this attempt & my object in now addressing
you is to petition you to exert that influence in my behalf.

I remain, Sir, Yrs most respectfully

W. K. WESTLY

LEEDS May 12th 1824

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TO CHARLES MARJORIBANKS, 1 BRIGHTON

MY DEAR SIR,-I was just favourd with your letter as
I was about to sit down for the purpose of wishing our
kind friend Mrs Coutts a good new year and troubling her with my best thanks for having completely carpeted with Gothic & corresponding covering the apartments here. It is very hard there is no better way of enjoying such a valued gift than by treading it under foot but I shall [never] step upon it since tread on it I must- without recollecting Mrs. Coutts' kindness.

We have had perils here by flood & fire the Tweed came down in emulation of the Neva I suppose coverd all my haugh & took away 100 yards of a good flood dyke but what is still more extra [ordinary] after standing two feet deep in my stable yard and offices the malicious river contrived to set them on fire. Strange as it may seem this was actually the case for the water got at some unslaked lime which was deposited in a shed and generating fire of course caught to some straw and but for ready help would have burn'd the premises like a ship at sea. Talk to me of setting the Thames on fire after this! Pray tell this to Mrs Coutts as I think it will entertain her and make at the same time Lady Scotts best wishes and mine for all good things during this new year. Accept them yourself my dear Sir and believe me Most truly yours

ABBOTSFORD, 1 January 1825. WALTER SCOTT

TO SIR ADAM FERGUSSON

MY DEAR ADAM,- You will forgive my anxiety but Master Slender's impatience has spread itself to me. We are quite at a loss how to steer and you must be pilot. He is particularly anxious to plead his own cause to Anne Page before she comes to any positive explanation with her
mother but he is a little afraid of embrogling matters by coming forward till Lady Fergusson and you approve. He is anxious to take his cue from you and will meet you anywhere tomorrow morning if you cannot conveniently receive him at Gattonside. He is by no means desirous to precipitate anything above all he feels too grateful for Anne's generosity to desire to hurry her resolutions—only he naturally wishes to be heard for his interest on a point where his feelings are so deeply concerned.

Mrs. Scott of Harden gave him the enclosed letter of introduction for a lady of distinction near Corke. All who know Mrs. Scott must consider her to be a very severe judge of character and the last person to patronize a roue or even a coxcomb. She read me the letter in which she gave some character of Walter whom she has known his whole life and as she has thought proper to dwell on some points upon which Anne or her mother may be anxious I think it no breach of confidence to put her testimony to a different purpose from that Mrs. Scott intended and so enclose it to you to be shewn to Anne or Mrs. J. if you think proper. Being written by a comparative stranger a lady of shrewd sense and knowledge of the world it may have perhaps more weight than the praise of a partial friend like you or a father like myself.

I cannot help thinking it very hard that a lad who has been all his life joked for being rather too timid and quiet should suffer from a bad opinion adopted of his habits of thinking and behaviour being in the other extreme.

I am always Dear Adam, Most truly yours.
TO SIR ADAM FERGUSSON, KNIGHT KEEPER ETC ETC ETC, GATTONSIDE, MELROSE

MY DEAR ADAM,—I mentiond to you when we parted I would trouble you with a letter and I fear it must be a long one but you will excuse my anxiety as a friend and remember that I am a parent.

I have been much mortified and grieved to understand that Mrs Jobson disapproves of the encouragement which Miss Jobson has been so good as to give to my son and which I had presumed to think would not have been so displeasing to her. I am fully aware of the severity which must attend the temporary separation of an only child from her mother and well aware of the right which Mrs. Jobson possesses to scrutinize minutely the character and condition of any who approach her daughter as a suitor. But I thought that that separation might be regarded as an event which was to be look’d for at some period or other and the evils of which were like others in life to be weighed against its appropriate advantages and as I hope to satisfy Mrs Jobson’s natural apprehensions on the subject of my son’s disposition and character I cannot but hope that Mrs. Jobson will be disposed to reconcile herself to his proposals.

I will take the liberty of supposing though there may be vanity in doing so that there is nothing objectionable.
in Walters family or circumstances. Miss Jobson might
no doubt look much higher and to greater wealth and
rank. But my son is not so deficient in either as to make
him unworthy of her favour if on other accounts she can
honour him by conferring it.

It may be supposed that Miss Jobson’s wealth is the
principal object of his pursuit & my encouragement but
slightly as we are acquainted I do not think Mrs. Jobson
would willingly attribute mercenary motives to us & I
am conscious we do not deserve them. Miss Jobson’s
independent fortune is thus far [useful] that it enables
my son to marry without imprudence the object of
his choice and affords me the chance before I am very
old to see my eldest boy settled in the world & to
look forward with God’s blessing to the continuance of
my name and family. This great advantage I would
endeavour to meet by every reciprocal compensation in
my power and as my fortune is easy I trust I might
without injustice to the rest of my family make very
suitable settlements. You have the rent-roll of Abbotsford
& may consult agriculturists about it if you will-it
rates altogether at £1,680., which in the present day
might sell for upwards of £50,000. I know it has cost
me more than that same. My very successful literary
undertakings engage me in cash transactions of considerable
extent but from these I have made large sums of
money and I have no doubt that I will add greatly to the
value of the landed property which must support my name
& the rank with which my Sovereign honour’d me before
I am call’d to part with it. I should also say that my
younger children have a provision of about £5,000 under
diferent of their maternal aunt & that I have insured my
life for £10,000 & upwards in case of sudden death. I
hope it may be consider’d that this state of my affairs
enables me to do by my daughter in law what is just &
proper. Besides this Walter has 5000 alongst with the
others & his commission which including 2037 laying in
Coutts for purchase of the first troop vacant may amount
to as much more 10,000 in all independant of me.
entirely.

I hope Mrs. Jobson will not consider that any slight was
intended by my son in mentioning this matter to the
young lady in the first instance-it is I believe the usual
proceeding that the suitor should endeavour to know the
state of a young ladys affections before consulting the
parents excepting in cases of extreme youth. The
extremely short time in which his leave of absence expired
renderd it necessary that he should be explicit and I
suppose opportunity rather quickend his purpose. To pay
every possible respect and deference which Mrs Jobson
will accept from us will be his duty & inclination as well
as mine.

Of Walters character I can truly speak in high terms
and refer to the most unexceptional vouchers. Notwithstanding
the gaiety of his dress and the seducing advantage
of a handsome person-notwithstanding also the great
notice which has been taken of him he is still the same
simple affectionate and steady character which he has
been from childhood. His character at one time approachd
so much to shyness & reserve that I was not sorry
to throw him into a showy regiment where he would be
compelld to exert himself. His three years service in the
18th. which he enterd when a mere boy was a severe trial
for a young man. There were quarrels & parties in the
regiment. Walter never mixd with them and was
respected by both sides-there were instances of moral
misconduct among the officers-Walter stood exculpated at all hands from any access to them. His religious principles in which he is deep and sincere were assailed by no less a person than the witty Lady Morgan who made him the subject of her raillery because he went regularly to church and would not attend musical parties on Sunday. He was asked to many gay parties at Dublin but was very moderate in his attendance on them and though I do not pretend to say he kept himself entirely free from follies yet Colonel Murray his commanding officer gave him the highest character for his behaviour as an officer and a gentleman and will repeat it more particularly to any who chuses to take the trouble to enquire.

Mrs. Jobson may probably have heard of Sir George Rose formerly our minister at Berlin or have seen his pamphlet on converting the negroes to Christianity which work he effected on his own estates in the West Indies with singular success & the highest advantage to the poor slaves both spiritual and temporal. He is a man as much respected for his worth & piety as for his talents. I consulted him about sending Walter for a year or two to Berlin when he was thrown idle by his regiment being reduced. He advised me by no means to do so unless I was confident that the young man's steadiness could withstand the temptations which beset every youth of rank at the Prussian capital where the dissolute manners of the people of higher condition [words dropped here] and although he offered to take some charge of my son yet he seemed rather to consider the task as an unpleasant one from the great chance of his charge's going wrong. I was very sorry for all this but having great confidence in Walter and in Sir George Rose I at length sent him to
Berlin as you know. He resided there and at Dresden for near two years and lived like a son in Sir George family. He was much taken notice of at Court both in Prussia and Saxony enough indeed to spoil any young man yet he return'd to us with improved manners but with [the] same simple candid character which is proper to him & with a warm letter from Sir George Rose congratulating me on the steadiness of his conduct in a path so slippery. When he return'd instead of going to idle his time at Dublin and figure at the balls in a fine uniform I obtain'd leave from the Duke of York that he should attend the advanced class of students in the Military Academy at Sandhurst. Mrs. Jobson must not confound the studies which he has been engaged in with those imposed on the young cadets. They consist of the higher branches of mathematics fortification astronomy & the like and are pursued by officers who have served at least three years in the army-Captains & Majors are students there and indeed two of them who attended with Walter were married men. He studied here with great severity of attention for he has a serious love of his profession not as a coxcomb who is captivated with the license which it affords but because he studies it scientifically. He brought an excellent certificate of his character and I must needs say stands as fair a chance of rising to eminence in the army as any of his rank. His Royal Highness the Duke of York has shewn him repeated marks of patronage. It is almost time to relieve you but I have still some thing more to say. If Walter had been a dissipated or even a thoughtless character he must have been extravagant.
Now when warning him against extravagance I have often told him that his allowance being fixed at a sum which Col. Murray thought barely adequate to keep him abreast with other officers in the regiment he should acquaint me with any difficulties that might occur and never on any account run into debt. He never used this permission except when he had a horse destroyed in a battle with some insurgents in Ireland in which by the way the young soldier behaved with great courage & humanity.

I cannot help thinking that if Mrs. Jobson would permit Walter to become acquainted with her she would find him a very natural and guileless character affectionate & domestic & one with whom she might trust even such a treasure as her daughters happiness without apprehension of the consequence so far as he is concerned. He must be considered as one who at an early age has seen a great deal of the world and I must add has been very little spoilt by what would have spoilt most young men and I think Mrs. Jobson's knowledge of the world will induce her to allow that virtue which has stood a trial is more to be confided in than that which has never been tempted. There are profligates and hardhearted selfish debauchees in black coats as well as red ones and though the profession of a soldier presents alarms to wives & relatives I trust the time is far distant when we will have to fear on his account.

I should not perhaps be disposed to press this matter so much but rather to leave it to its own fate without intruding explanations which may be disagreeable but I take a very deep interest in Miss Jobson whom I am very
desirous to take to my family & heart from the prudence
and at the same time the affectionate simplicity of her
character. Perhaps Mrs. Jobson may think I have
formed so strong an opinion on slight grounds but she
ought to excuse my thinking highly of her daughter even
on short acquaintance since I can freely forgive her
maternal anxiety though it has led her to misconstrue
the character of my son. I am as much afraid of a
dashing daughter in law as Mrs. Jobson can be of a
dashing son. I have seen enough of the world to know
that a correspondence of temper and mutual affection
are the principal ingredients requisite to matrimonial
happiness. I am sure with an accomplishd young woman
of domestic habits & good principles & cheerful temper
who will make his home happy Walter will be a kind
affectionate & faithful husband. I would [not] answer for
him if he was joind to a selfish woman of fashion who

engaged in constant dissipation & was always demanding
flattery & admiration. My eye has been on Miss Jobson
during her life in Edinburgh and amid the various
temptations to which heiresses are exposed, and I can
say with truth that had she been the least of a flirt or
coquette though possesd of Abbotsford & Lochore and
all that lies between, her mother would have been free
from any importunity on my part at least.

The young lady's frank simple confidence & sincerity
lay me under the greatest possible obligation to love and
protect her should ever I possess the right of doing so and
if I thought my son capable of rewarding her generosity
with ingratitude I would rather wish him dead at my
feet than married to her. I am sure the sight of his dead
body would not give me so much pain as his degeneracy.
This letter must have an end—I would fain hope its contents may not be unacceptable and may induce Mrs Jobson to reconsider this matter in a manner more favourable to my wishes. My most respectful compliments attend her and Miss Jobson to whom as well as to your kind lady I beg to be affectionately rememberd.

I think if Mrs Jobson would condescend to know Walter a little she would entertain a more favourable opinion & all time & opportunity that could be afforded for that important purpose I would endeavour to procure by a direct application to His Royal Highness. I am always my dear Adam most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 11 January 1825

TO LORD MELVILLE

MY DEAR LORD,—The late and approaching changes in Scotland amongst official people induce me to remind your Lordship of the situation of my son-in-law and to request your patronage and countenance for him in the course of a general promotion which must necessarily reach young men of his standing. When I have said that Lockhart is my son-in-law it would be affectation to add that I do not reckon upon that circumstance as some recommendation to your Lordships kindness besides being a very strong motive with myself for troubling you.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT

[Gl. Univ. Lib.]
But really it is long since I pointed out Lockhart to your Lordship as a man of most uncommon talents & my subsequent intimacy with him has given me ground to appreciate them still more highly. I am convinced he will be of the highest use to Government in any situation in which he may be placed and the more active the better. His habits are temperate reserved and domestic but he possesses high spirit and firm principles wherever action is proper or requisite. I think it was much owing to him and Wilson that a great revolution has taken place among the young men here and that the prestige of Jeffrey and the Edinr Review has been much broken. When the Whigs thought proper to unite with the radicals I think it was as much owing to Lockharts exertions as those of any one else that it became a matter rather of public ridicule than public danger. To be sure he has made himself the object both of fear and hatred by our Whigs here who I daresay would rather see the devil get preferment. But I would only remind your Lordship of the issue of Wilsons business whom you supported with so much spirit I through good report and bad report notwithstanding all the giddy frolics of a wild youth which malignant faction could rake together against him & what has been the consequence You have given the University the best and most eloquent lecturer they have had for many years and so popular with the public that he has this season 30 pupils more than his predecessor had in the most favourable years & this great advantage has been gained by your Lordship an advantage which is now as clear and undeniable as the daylight merely because you did not suffer idle and selfish clamour to block up the way of a man of real genius. Lockhart is in a different situation his life being studious & unimpeachable. This I
can say for him that whatever countenance is now shown he will repay it tenfold before many years are over his head. His head is singularly clear and well fitted for business and with a mind fertile in itself and richly stocked by reading & learning with a ready fancy and great facility of language he wants but a little practice to become a most powerful speaker.

I do not presume to say anything about particular views. He is nearly related to the best families of Lanarkshire as Sir James Stuart Denham Maxwell [of] Calderwood Lockharts of Carnwath & Cambusnethan etc 1 and perhaps I might make some interest with the Bothwell Castle family.2 But however tempting that situation might be I would rather see him a Depute Advocate because it would force him more into the exercise of his talents. Beggars however must not be chusers and I only venture to request that your Lordship will turn a favourable eye upon my young friend at this time when it is probable that more than one of his own standing must needs get promotion. I will venture to say you will find no one of them whom Nature and Education have done more to qualify for deserving it. Make him your own my dear Lord by your countenance & patronage as your father made me his many years ago with much less pretension on my part for such distinction. It was what he had never reason to repent of and I can engage you will have much less so.

It is a common prejudice much inculcated by formal blockheads whose purpose it serves that literature incapacitates a man for common business but the contrary of this has been very frequently proved-in fact it is only saying that the workman who can make a razor cannot for that very reason make a tenpenny gully.
I find Walter has been sharing the hospitality of the
Admiralty-I have some anxiety in listening to this
tempestuous wind and thinking that he is probably at sea.
My best respects wait upon Lady Mellville with thanks for
her kind letter. Believe me always My dear Lord Very
truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 15 January [1825]

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

MY DEAREST CHARLES,-I have had the singular
anxiety for four or five days past of superintending poor
Lady Alvanley's funeral-Colonel Arden being incapable
from distress to do anything-and making preparations
for an event which will take place next week of a nature
very different. I have had double share of the Court
business, so that, though I have every day proposed a
call to you, I have never made it out.

You will not, I hope, doubt that I will be delighted with
the dedication, and happy, these matters being off my
hands, to co-operate about this ballant-book. I really
think you should use both pen and pencil to remove the
res angusta. Why should you not profit by your literary
talents, which are so peculiar and so distinguished
Why are these things hid in you or shown as a high
prize margarite only to your private friends  
Everybody now makes the best of their literary profits.

"Oh, if it were a dirty thing,
The gentry would deny it,
Or if it were ungodly
The clergy would defy it.
Then sure it is a fine thing,", &c.

If you can look in to-day, a l'ordinaire, there will be only
the Lockharts and the poor wounded Hussar.

Yours ever,

W. SCOTT

[Hornel and Sharpe's Letters]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW

My DEAR WILLIE,—Since I left you I have been much
harrassd in spirit by an incident unhappy at any time
but doubtly so as chancing when I had agitating affairs
of my own family to attend to. Poor Lady Alvanley
whom you saw at Abbotsford well and happy was taken
very ill at Edinr. in the beginning of Winter—underwent
two excruciating operations which her strength was
unable to support & finally died at the British Hotel here
about six days since quite exhausted. I was the only
intimate friend in Edinburgh having had much kindness
from her when Lady Scott & I were in London 25 years
ago young people to whom her countenance & delicate
attentions were most kindly afforded. We were then
unknown to the world as it is calld & she in the first
rank—things not to be forgotten by honest minds. Many
painful details devolved on me and particularly the duty
of supporting the two affectionate girls who were in a state of absolute distress & desolation. You may suppose

I discharged so sacred a duty to the best of my power but the wild and incoherent transitions from their deep domestic affliction to perplexities and embarrassments of a different nature but still feverish and anxious concerns of my own family really took from me the usual rest at night and strength of nerves which I in general enjoy and deprived me of the power of writing except what was absolutely necessary otherwise you would heard from me long since. Yesterday we deposited the remains of my old & much respected friend in the Chapel of Holy Rood. The two sons Lord Alvanley & Colonel Arden of the guards were both present fortunately but so deeply affected with an event to them totally unexpected their sisters having nourishd hopes to the last. The scene is now ended but it will be many a day ere I can forget it.

Respecting our own more pleasant prospects I must tell you in confidence our path has not been a smooth one owing entirely to the mother who chose to see nothing but damnation in her daughter in marrying a black hussar the son of a man of the world who meddled in profane literature. At least such were the sole objections which she had to her daughters uniting herself to a person of her own choice under circumstances which made all her relations joyful and which were most acceptable to a very sensible though highflying divine connected with her own family to whose opinion she had originally refered herself and who after some enquiries the result of which were very honourable to Walters character declared his opinion in the most decided manner for the match and has after some painful discussions succeeded in
silencing though by no means convincing the good lady.

Some details entertaining though vexatious enough from their effect on the girls nerves though not on her resolution I reserve for meeting. In the mean while settlements are preparing and the marriage is to take place next week probably on thursday. But I will write to Mr Erskine to postpone his blythe design till they are fairly at Abbotsford where they mean at all events to pass a few quiet days. I would wish them to come there very quietly & Bell has orders from Lady Scott to provide every thing for their reception. The time of their coming remains to be fixd but I think (in confidence) it will be on the evening of thursday the 3d. feby. I hope to join them for a day or two very soon afterwards when we will give the flag to the winds and a handsome merry-making to all our labourers etc. The young ladys fortune amounts in land & funded property to about 50,000 and the delicacy temper and firmness which [she] has displayd especially a candour which I have scarce witnessd mixd with deep distress at her mothers unreasonable conduct have endeard her to me so much that I am almost glad the interruption painful as it has been has occurd to give me such a satisfactory insight into her character which is one of those which is upright & strong and lies deep.

One thing I must beg you to think of-Walter will send himself or through your kind interference each to the poor of Melrose, Galashiels & Selkirk. But besides there mus[t] be ten guineas among our own folks I mean the labourers distributed firs[t] according to their merits & services & then to their necessities. This Walter will
(8-485) talk over with you but I wish you to turn the matter in your mind. Swanston, Davidson, Will Straiten & the old Turk should I think have a guinea each the others half guineas or crowns. This is of course exclusive of domestic servants who will be properly considerd and of Tom and Peter my trusty old friends to whom special tokens of regard are destined & also to Bogie for whose wife a handsome gown is provided. Then there are poor Will Straiten & Cowan & one or two old souls not forgetting Willie Brown & Amess [?] I though he is an ungracious beast. These must be viewd with respect rather to their necessities than their merits. A few guineas must not stand in the way of doing all this kindly & properly.

(8-485) About the railroad Mr Bruce seems rather unwilling it should cross here and I have of course no partiality for the alternative of its crossing by a bridge above Gala foot. But I told him my principle on such occasions was to submit to the judgement of the engineer-that unless some great inconvenience was determind on I should not object for mere reasons of preference to my own interest rather than my neighbours I would never object to the best line. On the other hand I would not take any disadvantage on myself which the engineer did not throw on me expecting my neighbours to be as reasonable in this respect as myself. In this he acquiesced and in what dropd from Mr Jardine today I believe he will be obliged to take the railroad in consequence for aught that now appears.

(8-485) Miss Jobson seems desirous to concentrate their joint & now to be very considerable fortune in Roxburghshire but this will require time & much consideration. It will
certainly save two establishments & two systems of management but must be acted upon slowly & cautiously. Her own estate is profitable but not beautiful & she seems in no respect attachd to it. But it will sell admirably.

As lovers must live you will see there is something for them in the larder for you remember the home question.

Will the flame you are so rich in light a fire in the kitchen or the little God of love turn the spit spit spit.

I suppose they will see Mrs Laidlaw & you so soon as they can venture abroad.

I inclose a cheque for 50 to pay the things you speak of. Also a note for Mr Jardine.

[Unsigned]

[25th January 1825]

[Ballantyne]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH, CHELTENHAM

[Extract]

MY DEAR LORD DUKE,-I do not make any apology for troubling you with some interesting affairs concerning my own family for your Grace succeeded to your dear fathers friendships and to the interest which no one took more deeply in their concerns as I especially among many others have particular reason to say. . . . .1
I beg kindest compliments to Mr Blakeney and will very soon have favours to send to your Grace and him. Believe me my dear Lord Duke Always most truly & faithfully yours.

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET EDINR. 21 January 1825

[ Buccleuch]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON, SOLICITOR AT LAW, FLUDYER STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON

MY DEAR RICHARDSON,- I know the cause of my ungrateful silence will be not only an apology but give you much pleasure. While I was examining the treatise on falconry with which your kindness enrichd me my own gay goss hawk Walter was cacheluring to use a phrase of the Mews to catch a very sweet little turtle dove and has been fortunate enough to catch her. There is gold in her garters for her fortune in land and property is £ 50,000 and possibilities and I have been able to make settlements in some proportion so as perfectly to satisfy her friends all but her poor mother whose despair at parting with her only child to follow a regiment of Hussars would have made her object to a much better match so we must have new words to the old tune

My bonnie Jeanie Jobson
Your minnie canna want ye
Sae let the trooper gang his lane
And carry his ain portmanteau.

The good lady in Shandwick place has however like She
of Castle Carey I been under the necessity of acquiescing and we are all on velvet again. The wedding will soon take place and their departure for Ireland must follow very speedily. They may perhaps pass through London but I fear will see little even of their best friends their purpose being chiefly to get such things as their proposed barrack life necessarily require[s]. Certainly if they can they will see your goodlady & Mrs Baillie. Tell the last that I intend to write to her at length in a day or two and describe my little daughter whom I am disposed to love very dearly for the soft and sensible and firm manner in which [she] has piloted herself through the shoals & rocks which the wealthy Heiress must steer through. Walter is young but he is uncommonly honest minded and steady and I think he will make her happy. The flirtation had commenced two years since but Walter was sent first abroad & then to the Academy at Sandhurst and the affair broke out with great effect to conclude our Christmas gambols like the crack at the termination of a squib. Kind compliments to Mrs Richardson. Always truly yours  WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 21 January 1825 (1)

[TO CHARLES SCOTT, B.N. COLLEGE, OXFORD]

MY DEAR CHARLES,- You have been silent a long while which is rather disagreeable. Your allowance is not quite due being payable at the four quarters 2d. February 15 May 2d August 15 November. But you may anticipate a few days and draw on Messrs Coutts London for 75, being your quarters allowance which I have
advised them to honour. Regulate your expences well for loose & careless habits are easily acquired and ill to get rid of.

You will have heard of Walters approaching nuptials from Sister Anne. I have settled Abbotsford on Walter and his heirs male by this or any subsequent wife failing these it goes to you and your heirs male because I think it right that the distinction of rank however moderate should have something to support it. Should your heirs male not exist or become extinct there will [be] an end of the Baronets of Abbotsford as there has been of the four monarchies of the world and the estate may go for me where the law will carry [it]. Lochee about 1200, a year will be settled on the heirs of the younger marriage with 20,000 for the younger children. Abbotsford is computed at 50,000 so the match is not an unequal one only the brides fortune is in possession the bride-grooms excepting his commission & an annuity of 300 in expectance. But they will have enough for all the comforts and even for most of the elegancies of life.

Walter being thus provided for will enable me to attend to mamas provisions and to yours & your sisters more than I could otherwise have done.

The old Lady after standing long out seems to have acquiesced at length but will not give us much countenance so the sooner the thing is over the better. They will be married I think at Gattonside I take up a weeks solitary blessedness at Abbotsford then to London for a few days to make up their Kitt and fit her with the necessaries for a campaign and then to join the Kings Hussars at Corke.
When they are in London you [may] make up a run to see them or perhaps they may make a detour in their journey to see you and you will shew your new sister the lions of the university.

There being no game worth sending at this season mama is to send you some tea and I will add two dozen port & one dozen old Sherry which I fancy is all that you keep in your cellar at once. It will serve to drink your brothers good health on this happy occasion. All join in greetings. Yours affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

You make your letters scarce which would have cost you a little preachment but that yours to mamma arrived in time to save it.

[PM. 22nd January 1825](2)
[Law]

TO MRS. HUGHES

MY DEAR AND GOOD FRIEND,-I have a hundred apologies to make for my ungrateful silence but my news may allow for it. My son is just about to be married. The young lady is a very considerable heiress a Miss Jobson of Lochore worth at least 50,000 in land and funded property which as Sir Hugh Evans says " is good gifts."

She has better gifts in sound sense and cheerful temper and excellent principles being brought up by her Mother who though rather straitly laced in her presbyterian stays is a very worthy woman in excellent sound old fashioned Scottish principles which like massive old
Plate has as much bullion in them as would suffice ten thousand modern plated trinkets. She is very pretty both in form and face but so little as to make almost a ludicrous contrast with her hussar who rises six foot two inches at least. She is timid almost to awkwardness & though she has walked the course as a wealthy heiress for two years no one ever heard of her having a flirtation. Truth is there had been some little kindness between the young folks about two years ago and though they did not meet again till lately yet hearing much of each other through Lady Fergusson the wife of my old and facetious friend Sir Adam they had neither of them it seems forgotten their intercourse but had in our Scottish phrase which I think a good one thought on until during our Christmas gambols out came little Cupid with his linstock and fired the mine and the Hussar with his moustach[es] and Schnurf[bart] was found to have snap'd up the prize which lord and laird had been trying for. The poor lassie has agreed to follow the camp. Her mother has on this sole account rather acquiesced in than consented to the marriage and truly I cannot blame the good lady considering that her only child is to exchange two good houses one in Edinr. and one at Lochor[e] for the accommodations of a barrack; since in Ireland they will be safe at least within their guarded walls however inconvenient while in lodgings they would have little more comfort and in certain events which God avert might be exposed to danger. I cannot but picture to myself poor little Jane with her little innocent pensive face looking with surprise at her quarters where matts and horse-cloths must supply the place of carpets & arm-racks garnished with pistols sabres and carabines and adorned with the caricature drawings of good Mr. Lieutenant serve the purpose.
of all [decorations]. But then if she manages well, she may always command good society even within the regiment.

Three or four of the officers are very respectfully married & the little heiress's fortune giving her the means to be kind in sharing her extra accomodations of carriages &c with those who are less in the way of commanding them may make her a person of as much importance as even the Colonels wife if he has one. Walter is to get a troop shortly which will entitle him to better quarters. But a very knowing lady of my acquaintance assures me on her own experience that your " bonny bride " is diverted with all these inconveniences so long as she is secure of her Cavalier's affections and that ladies who have been most delicately bred up are like blood horses most capable of meeting and enduring fatigue spirit doing for them what habit and insensibility do for the more ignoble. Still the old song 1 rings in my ears the first verse of which has been already exemplified in our love affair,

My bonnie Lizie Baillie
I'll row ye in my plaidie
If you will gang alang wi me
And be a soldier's ladie.

Your mother canna want ye
Sae let the trooper gang his lane
And carry his ain portmanty.

But mark the sequel

She wad'na hae an English lord
Nor be a highland lady
But she's away with a border Scott
And he's row'd [her] in his plaidie.
She had'na gane a mile but ane
When O gin she was weary
She aften lookit back & said
Farewel to Castle Carie.

However we must hope that these little recollections will
neither be distressing nor too frequent. For myself I can
safely say few things would have made me more happy
than my son establishing himself in life so early. Though
acquainted both with camps & courts & those the
licentious courts of Dresden & Berlin I know his
principles to be steady and even severe & therefore am
assured he will love and cherish this poor thing who has
behaved through the whole transaction with a modesty
candour & generosity that deserve everything on his
part. Here is a long selfish letter all about myself and
family. But you are a mother dear Madam 1 and know
that joy as well as sorrow makes us selfish. Believe me
in either Dear Mrs. Hughes very much your obedient
servant

My kindest compliments to the excellent Dr. and Mr.
Hughes. About the 3d or 4th of February there will be a
young Lady of Abbotsford. Luckily the original Dame
has the petit titre & so escapes being Mrs. Scott senior.
What shall we do if Walter one morning gets the
companionship of the Bath[] I never will be old Sir Walter.
These are rare castles in the air.

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 father's 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)father's 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]

494 LETTERS OF 1825
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

1. The Athole Stewarts were a clan of the Scottish nobility, known for their connection to King Robert II of Scotland.

50,000 - This amount is likely in pounds sterling, given the context of the time and the currency used in the Scottish context.
at. Still many a knight and squire tried to quell the
dragon and release the lady but to no one would the
little lady give such encouragement as to encourage him
to break a lance with the mother. Now the little maiden

and my moss-trooper had it seems had their own recollections
of dances and flirtations of two years old during
which they had not seen each other and I believe they
were much kept alive by the lady of my excellent and
facetious neighbor Sir Adam Ferguson who is very fond
of Walter and her niece which relation she holds being
a sister of Mrs. Jobson though with much more of the
lamb than either the dragon of Wantley or the Wolf of
Badenoch. In short Cupid mingled with our Christmas
gambols and we learned with some surprise one fine
morning that the lady had agreed to carry the young
hussars knapsack. But although the town which is a
very pretty little town had surrendered the citadel in
the person of the old mother continued to make a
desperate though hopeless defence. It was in vain that
I liking the girl very much for the modest and unpretending
way which she had walked the way [ring ] as an
heiress and flattered you may believe by a preference to
my son long given and frankly and generously avowed
with a firmness which made a strong contrast to the
extreme timidity of her general deportment which is shy
almost to awkwardness. Every friend and relation she
has in the world joined to overcome the good mothers
prejudices which resolve into this that my son is a soldier
and a hussar and must be a rake of course-everything
else she allows to be unexceptionable. A worthy clergyman
one of the great guns as they call them has with
twelve pound texts almost persuaded her into a
conviction that she is acting wrong and she has yielded
after the manner of Brabantio so deeds etc. are all on the anvil settling who are to be the future lords of Abbotsford and Lochoire. Walters military leave must be very short so the wedding will come on speedily and soon after he must steer for Ireland and with your consent the first resting-place [will be Edgeworthstown]. They will put you in mind of the old ballad 1

I have learnd my gay goss-hawk
Right well to back a steed
And I have learnd my turtle dove
As weel to write and read

And I have learnd my gay goss-hawk
To wield both bow and brand
And sae have I my turtle dove
To plait gold with her hand.

Now this turtle dove of mine must be your guest for four or five days or more for Walter must go on to join his regiment at Cork and make some preparations for her accommodation in his barracks a sore change I fear for a creature on whom air has scarce been suffered to breathe. She has undertaken it however for what will not woman undertake for the man she loves and who loves her. I am sure that with you she will have quiet kindness instead of that feverish attention which like an overheated hot-house withers the little flowers which it is meant to call into bloom and I know that after a day or two of silence and brief answers and causeless fear of strangers she will be open[ing] 1 her budget of female accomplishments and bartering Scotch tunes for Irish ones with the young ladies. The story of her mother is of course for your own private ear but I am always desirous to point out tender
points where such exist least they be pressd on by some unlucky accident. I once hurt an officer who was showing me the ground at Waterloo by riding rather rashly against him which hurt as well as the pain I felt might have been spared had the young soldiers modesty allowed him to tell me that he was still suffering from a wound in the action. This long story might have been saved by using the hackney coachmans phrase of a raw but the comparison would have been slovenly. Let me hear from you if it be quite convenient for you to receive this leaguer lady and at the same time what you are doing about your new work. Your reasons for being anonymous are very strong as they affect your own feelings for my own part I think you ought to snap your fingers at the critics and be sure the world would be at your back. But female authors as I have observed in my friend Mrs. Baillie have the same sensitiveness and deference for censure which our masculine nerves are apt to hold perhaps too cheap.

I saw Mr. Butler twice or thrice and was much pleased with him. Love to my dear Harriet. I am sure she will be kind to my poor little Jane and remember that all have not had her own advantages in point of accommodation. She is a beast with a sketch book but only to gather flowers I believe and is a good musician. It is time to conclude and it shall be in character from an old ballad with a trivial alteration

My bonny little Jeanie
Your minnie canna want ye
Sae let the trooper gang his lane
And carry his ain portmanty.
TO LADY DAVY, AT SIR HUMPHRY DAVYS, LONDON

[Extract]

EDINBURGH 24 January [PM. 1825]

MY DEAR LADY DAVY,—As I know the kind interest which you take in your very sincere friend and Scotch cousin I think you will like to hear that my eldest hope who not many years ago was too bashful to accept your offered salute and procured me the happiness of a kiss on his account beside that which I always claim on my own has as he has grown older learnt a little better how such favours are to be estimated. . . .1

Her father was an eminent London merchant but has been two years dead her mother a highland lady of great worth and integrity & who has bred her up with something of old fashioned severity which renders her very timid and almost awkward though she has been lady & mistress of her own considerable fortune and living in our little circle of the Athenian beau monde for about two years. It would seem some old flirtation betwixt Walter & her had hung on both their minds for at the conclusion of a Christmas party we learnt the pretty heiress had determined to sing the old tune of Mount & go—mount & make you ready Mount & go and be a soldiers lady.
Though her fortune be considerable the favours of the publick and my own patrimony have enable[d] me to make such settlements as her friends think very adequate. The only impediment has been the poor mother who cannot brook parting with the sole object of her care & attention to resign her to the vicissitudes of a military life while I necessarily refused to let my son sink into a mere foxhunting muirfowlshooting squire. She has been obliged to acquiesce rather than consent and that is the only unpleasing part of the business.

The little woman has shewn much gentleness good-sense and force of character during the unpleasing discussions which took place with a person whose exorbitant affection made her unreasonable and violent. Her spiritual director a divine [of] the highflying party in the Scotch church & a good sensible fellow besides married also on some cousin of the party was clear sighted enough to see that her daughters happiness could scarce be promoted by breaking off or compelling the girl to break off a mutual attachment & a match with [a] young Lieutenant of Hussars sure of having a troop very soon with 10,000 in the meanwhile of his own and a good estate in reversion & as handsome a fellow as ever put his foot in a stirrup. So he succeeded in bringing matters to a bearing although old papa has practised the "profane and unprofitable art of poem making " and the youngster wears a pair of formidable mustaches and a bartchen so that all is arranged though as far as the good lady is concernd scarce as yet a l'aimable.

They are to be quiet at Abbotsford for a few days when
they go to town to make their necessary purchases of carriage & so forth. They are to be at my old friend Miss Dumergues and will scarcely see any one but as I think you will like to call on my dear little Jane I am sure she will see you as I know you will be kind & indulgent to her. Here is a long letter when I only meant a line. I think they will be in London about the end of February or beginning of March & go from thence to Ireland Walters leave of absence being short.

My kind compliment[s] to Sir Humphrey & pray acquaint him of this change in our family which opens to me another vista on the dark distance of futurity which unless the lady had what Sir Hugh Evans calls good gifts could scarce otherwise have happend during my lifetime at least without either imprudence on Walters part or restrictions of habits of hospitality & comfort on my own. Always dear Lady Davy your affectionate & respectful friend & cousin

WALTER SCOTT
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTTON PARK, WINDSOR

[Extract]

My DEAR LORD,-I have been much occupied by particular business to be presently explaind or your Lordship would have heard some of my tediousness long since. Truth is I have been endeavouring to gain a peep at an arch or two of the Bridge of Mirza further than my eyesight at present carries me by arranging the marriage
of your freind Walter with a young lady a niece of Lady Fergusson named Miss Jobson of Lochore in Fifeshire. She is bred in the old Scottish fashion modestly and religiously and nature has given her both good sense and quiet cheerfullness of disposition. Her manners are rather too reserved and she is extremely timid almost to awkwardness though she is a very good musician and possessd of the usual quantity of female accomplishments besides. Her fortune is very considerable-about 50,000 in land and cash in funds-nevertheless I have been able without injury to others to meet them with such terms as are quite satisfactory to the young lady's freinds. The mother however has alone been pleased to give us some trouble. I do not wonder at it as she is a bold high spirited highland woman wrapt up in this child or rather wrapping her up like a blistering plaister which makes us pay for the sanative qualities which it dispenses by giving us a cussed deal of uneasiness itself. In short your Lordship may have seen instances of that intense selfish affection which cannot part with a beloved object even for the advantage of the object itself. She makes no objection to any part of the connection unless to the bridegrooms youth and his profession. She was indeed for some time inclined to consider all soldiers as enlisted in the service of the evil Principle and (thanks to the vagaries of the Xth regiment) the hussars were distinguishd as the Devils Own. Luckily we were able to substantiate to a certainty through Sir George Rose and others that Walter at least was by principle a steady Church-going young fellow who without parading his devotions in peoples faces might set an example to his seniors & betters of graver professions and exposed to less temptation. So an honest divine a particular adviser of
the good lady join'd the camp of Cupid and blazed away
on the old fortress with all his great guns.
Notwithstanding this reinforcement the obstinate defender
mad[e] several sallies in one of which she drove
Adam & Eve 1 her sister and brother in law out of the
Paradise in Shandwick place. A frolic of this kind was
not likely to lower the young ladys inclination to form a
separate settlement for herself so that at last the good
lady has been compelld to acquiesce in what she cannot

help.1 Through these squalls the poor girl conducted
herself with a quiet and delicate tact which gives me a
great opinion both of her sense & feelings. They are to
be married next week and

Thus ends the Courting of the Lass of Lochore
As many a courting has ended before.

Walter and she time and circumstances fitting seem both
inclined to add their separate funds to the interest we
already possess in Roxburghshire which will make
Abbotsford property fully equal to maintaining the
Chateau in beef and claret.

My kind Compliments to Lady Montagu who I am
sure will take a kind part in whatever befalls us as I am
sure will my dear young Ladies of Buccleuch & your
Lordships family. I have only to add that the nymph
takes the knapsack to the tune of

"Mount & go mount & make ye ready O
Mount & go & be a soldiers lady O."

Walter expects a troop soon and has been recommended
to the Commander in Chief as well qualified for a Staff appointment which will make them more comfortable than as a lieutenants wife although with means to procure all extra accomodations. But she seems to fear nothing since her mothers opposition has been got over and though bred up with the utmost care & delicacy I believe that like a blood horse she will stand a little roughing better perhaps than those who must submit to privation from necessity or are inured to it by habit. Besides she is young & married to the man she has long preferd though askd by better suitors. The life is cheerful & has a wild novelty for a year or two and when circumstances require it my son or Lockhart or I myself will escort her back to Scotland.

They are to be a few days at Abbotsford-then go to London to make some necessary purchases & thence [in] a very short space embark for the dear island and the Head quarters of the XV.1...

I [am] my dear Lord Always most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 25 January 1825

[ Buccleuch]
at least two very distinct appoplectic hints and was living under a very strict regimen. The third took place at Jedburgh when he was in the act of attending a road meeting and it proved fatal after a severe struggle of many hours. He was the most upright man I ever knew in the slippery line of a country writer but though rough in the manners he had the soul of a gentleman.

I have not hesitated to offer his situation of Sheriff substitute to Andw Lang who you rememberd behaved uncommonly well at the time of the Selkirk disputed election. I stipulate however on my part that he shall not have anything to do with Burgh elections in future as I think it would diminish his utility as a magistrate by suggesting doubts of his partiality. The Law on his part insists that he shall give up what factories1 he may have in the Country & that being the case I am not sure whether he will find it his interest to accept my offer. He is sensible steady and a good man of business and I am sure will give satisfaction to the County. On your Lordships part it will be a discharge of a debt which the uccleuch[s] certainly owe this person when he preferd following their interest at the great risque of losing Mr ringle of Hainings business. So that in every point of view I trust your Lordship will not disapprove of what I have done. Poor Maxpopple faild not to be a candidate um plurimis aliis. I should have been ruined by postage had I not come to an immediate decision. I suppose the first directions I had to give to Maxie he would be for calling me out for not treating him with due ceremony.

Ray my dear Lord will you at a moments leisure let me have the pleasure of hearing that I have done right
in this matter. I am always my dear Lord Most truly & respectfully yours

ALTER SCOTT

DINBURGH 28 January [1825]

Buccleuch

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 505

TO THOMAS ELLIOT OGILVY, 1 CHESTERS, ANCRUM

MY DEAR SIR, - I regret very much to observe that our regretted friend Charles Erskine had a painful passage to that reward which his friendly disposition his upright and unshaken integrity and the general good example which he set for the discharge of his duty to God and man entitle us to hope he now enjoys.

I would have been most happy to attend to your recommendations in favour of Mr Ogivy but consideration of an event which I feared could not be very distant has long determined me to nominate Andrew Lang to the situation providing he agrees to renounce entirely and for ever any management of burgh politics. I think this appointment will satisfy the country as he is one of the best men of business I know sober diligent and steady and the Depute Sheriff is so dependent on the judgement & experience of his substitute that I think you will not think me wrong to exert my own selection on this occasion.

It will be long ere we make up our friends loss in our social circle. Believe me Dear Sir Always your obliged & most obedient servant WALTER SCOTT
MY DEAR LORD, - Andrew Lang came to town yesterday and after mature consideration declined the Sheriff Substitutes situation because it would have laid him under the necessity of resigning factories and other incompatible situations to a larger amount. In these circumstances and Andrew Lang having undertaken to drynurse him for a year or two I shall not hesitate to give Maxpopple the office as spite of his confounded pride he is intelligent and honest and well acquainted with country business. Thus a plaguy load will be taken off my mind & some trouble my dear Lord spared to you. Lang will remain with some rights to be considerd time and place fitting and which are not the less available that he seems still to have command of the Burgh.

All poor Charles's spoils are now the sport of chance & half a score of writers in full pursuit of what they can catch. The inclosed by his partner James Curl[e] seems destined for your Lordships eye rather than mine and you alone know what should be done with it. There is another applicant for the Baillieage a very good young man indeed calld James Usher educated by Chas Erskine & well connected but he handsomely declines proposing himself [if] it disconcerts any arrangement by which Mrs. Erskine is to be benefited. A clever fellow named Spence I believe also proposes. Take care of him-he is neither sound in politics or morals.
Curle is a fat soft fellow—good enough fellow however in essentials but terribly unlike Charles.

There are clerkships of the roads also in fierce contest and so many have started that one will see no daylight till some of them draw.

I am in a great hurry being this day to sign the marriage articles which yoke Abbotsford & Lochore together with power however to sell the latter and buy in Roxburgh or 1825 Selkirk shire so as to lay what property we have as much together as possible.

I am therefore in great haste my dear Lord Always your truly obliged & faithful WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 31 January [PM. 1825]

Walter is to be married on the 3d.

I had almost forgotten among the candidates for the Bailery Lt Colonel Sibbald of Pinnacle 1 a very gentleman-like good sort of man and I believe well enough acquainted with public business. I hope out of such choice your Lordship will send the Melrose vassalage a good Baillie & me a good neighbour.

[Buccleuch]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[End of January 1825]
DEAR JAMES,-Our great day is on Thursday 3d. As it is unconstitutional this season to have large parties on an assembly night, we propose to have a little evening party on Thursday. I hope Sandie and you will attend. I expect we will have some good singing.

Poor Charles Erskine's death hath thrown a damp on my festivity. I shall never have a more true friend. His last letter to me requested to know the day, that he might be at his post, and drink at least one bumper, and ere it comes he will be lying in Dryburgh Abbey.

Come nevertheless, for regrets avail not; and I hope Sandie will be so kind as to bring the violin as well as the little mirthmaker.

I get into my wheel again to-morrow for certain, having answered my century of applications for the Sheriff-substituteship.-Yours truly,

W. SCOTT

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR CONSTABLE,-Be pleased to give the Bridgroom whom I send to shake you by the hand of the cash you were to have in readiness today. I will call as I come from the house and settle with you for the balance as I must on this approaching occasion follow Iago's rule-" put money in my pouch "-Yours always

Very truly

WALTER SCOTT
DEAR SIR,-I have just received from you £ 874 which
with one thousand pounds paid to my son completes the
payment due to me by our bargain of twenty fourth
January Current discot. being deduced Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

By our three P/notes due in London
viz 20 January  12 mos  £ 666.13.4
20 "       15 mos  666.13.4
20 "       18 mos  666.13.4

Less discount 126.
1 Feb. 1825 to Cash bal. 1874.

TO MISS ERSKINE, MESSRS. ERSKINE & CURLES, MELROSE
MY DEAR Miss ERSKINE,-It will give me much satisfaction to do anything that may be in my power to be useful to the family of my late excellent and regretted freind and I will most willingly accept any trust which Mrs Erskine 1 may chuse to impose on me. I wrote to Lord Montagu immediatly after I was acquainted with the proposed arrangements and I hope the answer will be favourable. I am sure I will have reason to hope so for my own sake for I shall never look at that house 2 without a sore heart and it will be my best consolation when a very hospitable and kind freind is gone that it continues the residence of the person deservedly dearest to him.

Make my kindest & most sincere sympathy in her present sorrow acceptable to Mrs Erskine in which Lady Scott and my daughters sincerely [join]. It clouds some prospects otherwise very happy ones in my own family that the heart which always joyd in our joys & sorrowd in our sorrows cannot now share in earthly pleasure or affliction. The last letter I had from your poor brother was on the subject I allude to and was written with all his usual warmth of kindness. It is now a voice speaking from the tomb to which we are all hastening.

Farewell dear Miss Erskine and may God comfort you-Man can do little on such occasions excepting sharing your sorrows. I am dear Miss Erskine your obliged humble Servant WALTER SCOTT

I intend to be at Abbotsford on the evening of Saturday 12th or earlier if possible for two or three days when I hope to see Mrs Erskine. In the mean while if I can do any thing here Mr Curle will acquaint me.
TO JAMES CURLE

DEAR SIR,- The hurry at home has prevented my writing much. I sent your letter to Lord Montagu adding such considerations as I thought most like to produce a favourable issue. I should like very ill to see any other family in that house. I understand from Mr Ruthurford that there is no wish to disturb you in the Statute labour business & I wrote to Mr Henderson on the subject of Clerk to the Peace. Young Usher applied to me about the Bailliary but under the modest reservation that he would not interfere with his old masters widow so he may be considerd as off the field.

I will be much obliged to you to take up my bill to Usher 500, I will send either cash or a bill for it in the course of a fortnight. I had to give my young folks 1200 to set them agoing in the world that they may begin even with the world having a very good income sufficient with prudence for all the comforts & many of the elegances of life.

I will have some business matters to talk over which I refer till we meet which will be at Abbotsford about the 11th or 12th current when I hope to be there. In the mean time let me know how you come on. I apprehend you will lose the turnpikes. Your obed Servt

SIR WALTER SCOTT

1825

WALTER SCOTT
MY DEAREST LOVE,-I thought it quite unnecessary to embarrass your departure yesterday by any attempt to express my own feelings—in fact I do not much like that people should witness that sort of agitation in myself. You would not doubt however that my good wishes & blessings as well as Lady Scotts followd you both faster than your carriage could drive. God make you happy in each other my dearest loves and it will be the greatest pleasure which Heaven can reserve for me to witness it.

I had an extremely affecting interview with Mrs. Jobson after you left and I am perfectly sure that she now looks upon an event which appeard so unpleasing at its first aspect with different eyes and with hopes of happiness for you and comfort to herself. You may rely on our paying her every attention which seems acceptable as I think it is perhaps the way in which I can best convince you of my affectionate regard.

No mastiff was ever so tired of his chain—I should say more correctly no turnspit was ever so weary of his wheel as I am of the Court of Session which prevents me coming out early next week and being with you for a few quiet days. After Saturday 12 they cannot detain me & if I cannot come off sooner I will be with you that night at latest.

Our bridal party went off as merrily as possible. Even the good humourd Colonel forgot his disappointment poor fellow! I hope he will be more lucky in his own affairs.
than he has been in yours for at the fatal ball you jostled him out of the cotillion and on the more fatal 3 feby.

he was left out of the ceremonial. He sang Begone dull Care notwithstanding and even volunteered Jolly Jolly Jolly in the drawing room with some very moderate assistance from my good old claret.

This is our town news. Send me some from the country when you can collect any whether the dogs are well? whether they have bit your maid's heels yet? whether you see Sir Adam as he proposed on Sunday ?-and awful question! what you mean to give him for dinner? I hope you were duly carried over the threshold of the hall. Compliments to the hussar and believe me my darling Jane your affectionate father 

ALBYN CLUB ROOM 4th february [PM. 1825] 
[Law]