(February 1825 continued)

TO MRS. SCOTT OF LOCHORE

(9-1)MY DEAR JANE,-I send you two copies of a Poem call'd Tranquility 1 for which I subscribed in your name and Walters to help out the list of a good old Jacobite lady the Authoress. Tranquility cannot in the general case be bought too dear but in this case you have nothing to do with the purchase which is my affair. You may if you will take Tranquility with you on your journey and leave tranquility behind with Mrs. Jobson & Miss Ross. Thus far the name is well bestow'd that you will scarce read three pages without being tranquilized into slumber so that perhaps after all you had better leave your double dose of tranquility in Shandwick Street Thus much from Yours affectionately

(9-1)WALTER SCOTT

[February 1825]

[Law]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[Extract]

(9-1)ABBOTSFORD [February 14th, 1825]

(9-1)My DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,-Your kind letter assured me of what required small assurance, that my dear little Jane will find warm hearts and open arms to receive her
at Edgeworthstown. She is a little body that has wrought
herself about my affections very intimately, from a leal
truth of character which she showed in the whole of our
proceedings during this affair. By the bye there is now no
raw. The mother was quite subdued and reconciled, and
her daughter has behaved to her with great generosity,
adding to her income the means of keeping a carriage if
she likes it, that she may not feel herself the less for
parting with her daughter. The Gods have not made
Jane poetical, and I believe Walter likes [her] the better
for he would rather read Euclid than Homer, and rather
poke a military friend off his horse with a real lance
than read of Britomarte or Bradamante with their
enchanted spears. On my part I am rejoiced that since
the Gods have withheld that boon the Devil has not
supplied the void with the affectation of that which exists
not, for a pinchbeck taste was ever my dread and detestation
-if I cannot have a gold watch a silver one will
serve my turn.

You will soon know more of her than I can, for ladies
are capital at tracing out each other's characters, which
are rather too evanescent for us. They were married
on 3rd February, and came here to reside quietly for a
little. Since I joined them on the 10th we have seen
the Scotts of Harden and the Fergusons, and my little
landlady did the honours of her chateau with very
pretty embarrassment. My wife was detained by a bad
cold. We join them in Edinburgh to-morrow, and in four
or five days afterwards [they] set out for London, and
then for green Erin. I conceive they will be at
Edgeworthstown about the 20; but Walter will write as soon
as he has his foot on the sod. I could have wished to
have kept them longer here, for Jane seemed to take
very kindly some trifling hints I gave her, and I am sure I could have cured some of her little deficiencies in the usage de monde, as she showed great readiness and good-humoured shrewdness in catching a hint. This however in good society is easily acquired. I am greatly indebted to Mrs. Edgeworth's extreme kindness in offering such a desirable place of refuge for my little wanderers. They leave us on Monday next and their stay in London will only be to make a few emplettes of what household matters they want for the campaign, among other things the necessary burden of a travelling carriage. I conceive they will be at Edgeworthstown about the 20 March as he will be under the necessity of joining his regiment at Cork on the 24 at the very latest and I hope he will be wise enough not to run himself to a day. I observe I said this before but that is because I began my letter at Abbotsford and am concluding it at Edinburgh. Walks and rides in the country took up a good deal of our leisure, and here there are visits of congratulation to return and the lord knows what [here some ten or twelve lines are lost owing to the bottom half of the sheet having been torn off. MS. continues overleaf] Remember me kindly to your brother the gallant engineer. If he is at home he will find Walter something in his line as I before hinted. He suffers a good deal under the attentions often paid him by strangers as the son of a literary person and considers receiving them as a taking of money under false pretences. I trust his wife and he will draw each other a little out for both are bashful, she in spite of lands and tenements, and he notwithstanding moustaches and schnur-bart.1

I parted from Abbotsford with great regret; for Auld
Reekie, as we fondly call her, is covered in mist and smoke—very picturesque indeed, but far from being agreeable in other respects. You have leave to continue in the country all the year—happy person! But happy you would be anywhere, who have such powers of amusing and entertaining at your own command and at the service of others. - Always, dear Miss E., yours with the most sincere regard,

WALTER SCOTT

[Butler and Familiar Letters]

Remember me most kindly to my friend Harriet and make my most respectful compts and thanks acceptable to Mrs. Edgeworth and your good brother. Abbotsford was as sunny as its sunny inhabitants. . . .

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO HIS SON CHARLES

MY DEAR CHARLES,—Walter as Anne would inform you is now Benedict the married man and behaves with becoming dignity under his change of condition. They went to Abbotsford on the third current immediately after the marriage. I joind them there on the tenth and found them living very comfortably and quietly as if they had been house keepers for ten years. The people had a dinner one day and a dance the next so that you may suppose the wedding made some noise in the parish.

We remained at Abbotsford till tuesday when we
returnd together bodily and since that have been feasting among our friends. Yesterday Mrs Jobson gave us a very handsome dinner and a party in the evening today they dine with us quietly I hope. I like Jane very much she speaks little but what she says is sensible and to the purpose and she possesses a degree of truth and candour which I have rarely met with either in man or woman. But you will soon judge for yourself for they propose to take Oxford on their way to London & set out on Tuesday next. I suppose they will reach you about the 26th and conclude you will have the pleasure of showing them the wonders of Alma Mater and that Mr Surtees will render them the same assistance. After some consultation it has been settled that Walter shall have your wine sent down from London when he can get some that is right and neat. To send it from Leith as I proposed would be a most roundabout concern. Joy and Grief mingle strangely together in this world. I have lost my good and tried friend Charles Erskine. He died of an apoplectic fit being the third by which he had been previously twice attackd. The day before he died I he had written me a most kind letter on Walters marriage begging to know the very day as he meant notwithstanding his regimen to drink at least one bumper that day. Alas! the day before the wedding was that of poor Charles's burial. I hope the studies are advancing actively. Your future success in life will in part at least depend upon the figure you make at college wherefore Incumbite remis. God has given you lively enough parts but the improvement depends upon yourself. Mama desires me to say that a
large hamper stockd with good things for luncheon went to London by sea to be forwarded down by some of the waggons. I trust it will reach safe and in time to give our travellers some picking at your chambers or rooms or whatever you call them. I beg to have some of your Oxonian news after you have seen Walter & to let me know how you have entertaind them Always dear Charles [Your affectionate father]

WALTER SCOTT] 2

EDINR. 17 february [1825]

[Law]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON, WINDSOR

MY DEAR LORD,-I have both your letters and am very happy Mrs. Erskine is to remain at Melrose.1 It is very handsomely done in Mr. Riddells & your Lordships part and I believe will give her great comfort. Poor Charles will be much missd in the country both by poor and rich and the marks of respect paid to his funeral by all ranks were very striking. I saw Mrs. Erskine two days since having gone to Abbotsford to bring home my young folks. I have seldom seen grief make such ravages upon a countenance. It was a very painful interview.

I am rather anxious about Lord John he is one of those sharp blades which cut the scabbard unless cautiously sheathed-probably he will land in the army supposing him to have his free choice and as the best way of managing such a stirring spirit is to find him employment I should think his education might be gradually turnd in
that direction. The spirit of active exertion which possesses him (for good I trust) is also applicable to evil and cannot be long idle without a sphere either for useful or less laudable exertion. Three or four years hence a good commanding officer will be the best pupil he can have.

The moans of Maxpopple are indeed silenced for the present. He came to Abbotsford when I had some of the Mertoun folks & Sir Adam with his lady and thus so far laid aside his dignity as a Hidalgo that he danced drank & sang Blue bonnets over the border together with that emphatic ditty of which the burthen runs:

Let the cymbals clang with a merry merry bang.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT

So obstreperous was he in his mirth that my little daughter seemed to think that she had become allied to the "dancing Faun."

I am impatient to see Harriot Wilson's biography and have sent an order for it accordingly. I remember (what I trust in providence she has forgotten) that I had some 25 years ago the honour of supping with the fair authoress not tete a tete however but vis-a-vis at one of the evening parties of Matt. Lewis where the company was sometimes chosen in that genre. I wont give a hundred guineas however to be struck out of the catalogue. I remember she was ugly—remarkably witty—& her society men courted for her mental [rather than [her] personal accomplishments. At that time she had a sister Lady Berwick who had whitewashd herself and cut Harriot. This was not to be forgiven and as both had boxes at the opera & Harriot's was uppermost she had now and then...
an opportunity of revenging herself by spitting on her
sisters head. It is impossible but that the work must be
delicious scandal and I will bet on Cannings side without
having seen a letter of it.

I sent the peerage man's letter to be answerd by Mr.
Gibson knowing nothing of him but from that document
which shews him totally incompetent for the task
he has undertaken. Upon the subject of Lady Louisa's
operations 2 I will write an epistle endeavouring to show

cause that in most cases it would be better even to keep
indifferent books than to be hasty in condemnation.
I twice weeded my own collection and have bought some
of the cast volumes back again at more than I got for
the whole.

I spoke about getting two volumes of the Ancient
Scottish poetry publishd as I told your Lordship last year
and have succeeded with some difficulty in getting one
for Dalkeith one for Ditton. They are in the binders
hands. The work will soon be introuvable so I bid them
bind them rather smartly. I have orderd the two new
volumes of the Dictionary as the others may be picked
up at the sales here though the price is considerably
enhanced. I have for your acceptance a curious glossary
of Northern words having subscribed for three copies
pour encourager. I intended to send the other to the Duke
but have given it to Charles Sharpe being rather of the
two the least able to go to those who buy and sell.

I have to add my best respects to Lady Montagu and
Misses M with such of the Buccleuch ladies as may be at
Ditton and am always truly your Lordships
A curious little book on the Traditions of Edinr.1 very cleverly written by a young man a bookseller here call'd Chambers is making some noise here. I will desire the young man to send a copy for your Lordship to Gibson.

[PM. 18th February 1825]
[Buccleuch]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 9

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,-Nothing but the pressure of engagements arising out of the existing circumstances to use an oer-scutched phrase could have prevented me from long since expressing the high sense I feel of your kindness and of the friendly interest you take in my domestic happiness. I trust what has happened will be a means of assuring it. At present it promises all I wish for the girl is rational well accomplished and of the excellent old fashioned Scottish character "tender & true." It is an odd story and something like what would happen in old times for the young people had met with some familiarity in the country two years since and I suppose there had been a little flirtation indeed I saw enough to make me get Walter away his age not permitting any thought of settlement at 22 and moreover my own ideas [of] hunting-law being too correct to think of snatching up the poor hare in her form before she had a fair start in the gay world-I fancy it was as I believe too often happens

The lad forgot but the lass thought on.
She never encouraged any admirers though she had enough of followers of course and when they met again at a more mature age the matter was made up somewhat to the temporary displeasure of an old presbyterian mother who disliked the moustaches of the young Hussar the poetical renown of the old Papa the Episcopalian principles of the whole party and above all disliked the parting with the only object on which she had been long in the habit of inflicting her whole attention and croaking. However we got perfectly reconciled and all I have to regret is that she has given a girl naturally sweet tempered sensible and amiable a reserve in manner which she will probably never get the better of.

I was with them for two or three days before they returned from Abbotsford and the little Bride became familiar with me and cheerful even gay within our little circle. But no sooner did she meet the mother again than the spell seemed to operate and she shrank back into silence. Today I had to walk with the mother and daughter to some distance. As wont we were all sadness and ceremonial, but when we returned Mamma left us and my little friend became lively and communicative and told me with great naivete and humour all her little puzzles about returning her visits & preparing for her journey and so forth. I wish to God she had been to stay here for some time when I could have coupled her up with Sophia on whose tact and taste I can so perfectly depend for the thawing of this species of frost is always a little perilous. She has however excellent sense and principle and Walter has seen so much of good society at home and abroad that I daresay her manners will be
formed without her character being altered. It would be
miserable work to get back instead of my simple shy
sensitive Scottish lassie a genuine specimen of the Irish
free and easy with a green feather and a blue one crossing
each other saltire wise in the front of a new tangled riding
hat. But enough of all this gossip which flows to my
pen as it would to my tongue had I the pleasure of chatting
to your Ladyship. I must add in case of leading to
mistakes that I only speak of the Lady of Lochores
manner not her acquired accomplishment of which she
has a good deal having received an excellent education
under the best masters both in London and Paris. And
now about the matters of the library I only petition you
in judgement to remember mercy. I Think how many
antiquarian eyes have been moistened or rather how many
antiquarian chops have slobbered over the fiery trial the
doleful Auto da Fe held by the relentless curate and
Barber. How many pounds of pure gold would be
cheerfully given for the casts to speak in horse jockey
phrase of the Dons library. Think of this my dearest
friend and do not let your excellent judgement mislead
you so far as to trust much to it in a matter where value
depends on anything rather than sense and utility.
Dread, my dear Lady Louisa that in preferring some
comely quarto to a shabby duodecimo your Ladyship
may be rejecting the editio princeps. Consider that in
banishing some antiquated piece of polissonerie you may
destroy the very work for which the author lost his ears

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parting with duplicates for they may have a value in
being tall or a value in being short or perhaps in having
the leaves uncut or some peculiar and interesting misprint
in a particular passage that there is no end to the risque
of selection. So much for Bibliomania—But besides the
whims of the book-collectors there are real and serious
reasons why books should not be discarded but with the
utmost caution. Many useless in themselves are curious as
making manners. Many neglected and run down when
they appeared and ill spoken of by contemporary critics
contain much nevertheless that is worthy of notice and
preservation. These fall asleep like the chrysalis and
awaken to glitter in the sun of popularity like the Butterfly
—I firmly believe I could bring myself to send nothing
to the bookstalls excepting school books and ordinary
editions of English classics and that should be done with
great caution. I do not condemn banishment to the
garret or your ladyships more honourable species of
relegation as the civilians call it by placing them on the
upper shelves which will have this additional advantage
that there may be some chance of getting an old
antiquary's neck broken in clambering up to examine them.
But actually parting with them is very hazardous. I
remember when Dibdin that eminent Bibliomaniac went
down to Lincoln and offered in the kindest manner a few
of the best and most readable modern authors for some
of their antiquarian treasures. They allowed him to
take I think sixteen volumes and were confounded with
his liberality in sending books to the extent of 300 £ or
so in exchange. But Dib. like Tam o' Shanter

Kend what was what fou brawly.

The Lincoln nosegay I as it was called was sold for 1800 £ and
the consequence was that when the Bibliomaniack went
down to repeat his researches he was indignantly refused
admission by the affronted parsons. I think here be
feeds[?]. Adieu however dear Lady Louisa. One thing
I am sure of that if the formation or reformation of a
library depended upon high talent united with extensive
information the most correct taste and the purest principle
there could not be such a heaven born Librarian as She of
Ditton. But you know what old Noll said to a man who
threatened to take the sense of the house upon some
particular point "Well" answered Noll perfectly conscious
he was in the wrong " do so if you will and I'll take the
nonsense of the house and see which will have the best of
jit"-Remember me most kindly to Lord & Lady
Montagu to the former I wrote two or three days since.
The little Buckleuch turns out a goodly youth with fine
points of sense and generosity about him. A better
selected course of reading & still more of conversation
will do very much for him and I think Mr. Blakeney will
accomplish this. Always dear Lady Louisa your truly
honoured & obliged                  WALTER SCOTT

EDIN. 21st Feby 1825.
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO SIR WILLIAM KNIGHTON 1

DEAR SIR WILLIAM.-A very ingenious mechanick Mr
Thompson Gunsmith in this place and I believe belonging
to the Household in that capacity has a particular wish
to see His Majesty's Armoury with a view of perfecting

a series of observations on the early history of fire arms.
If such a favour can be granted I believe it will be conferred on a worthy and ingenious man.

You will easily believe I was penetrated with gratitude for His Majesty's gracious and condescending message.

My young people have just left us to join the 15th Hussars in Ireland which I fear will be a singular change for an only and indulged daughter but she who loves the soldier must carry the knapsack. Believe me with much regard Dear Sir William Yours most truly

WALTER SCOTT

EDINB. 22 Feby. [1825]

TO HIS SON WALTER

DEAR WALTER,-I have your letter 1 explaining all your negotiation about the Troop. I can without inconvenience advance the money for a longer or shorter period as the case may be and should it prove inconvenient to me as in some chances it may I can easily borrow it for you elsewhere. But it seems to me the Captain elevates his terms in order to bear proportion as I suppose to your elevation on which with justice he congratulates you. I have sometimes heard matrimony compared in certain respects to hanging as we talk of the noose, turning off and so forth but the resemblance that each operation was an elevation never before occurred to me.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 15

It appears to me that the worthy & gallant Captain might have spared his hint about postponing his plans of
advancement out of deference to you for if he cannot as I conceive obtain a guinea above the regulation by selling to another he must wait the convenience of the only person he can deal with. If the adjutant were to purchase at the regulation it would probably be by borrowing money with the purpose of selling again at advantage & I suppose were he to get 500., or 1000 not to purchase it would be a thing he would understand very well & be quite willing to cede the right of purchase to you. So I would take good advice before I gave him more than 3000 which I understood to be his original demand. To sacrifice 600 more seems at least unnecessary unless you hear good reason for it. Your answer was quite prudent but if when in town you find yourself quite right at the Horse Gds. I dare say you may indulge him on the point of the deposit. The gentleman seems pretty sharp so—a brave, brave et demi

I am to have a meeting with Nicol Milne about the 8th March but I have great doubts of our making a bargain though we were near one last summer. He also will found on your elevation and though I would make some exertion for Faldonside as it would round us so handsomely yet I fear the old Nabal's demands will be higher than I ought to comply with.

I presume this will find you under the hospitable roof of our friends at Piccadilly. I presume further your stay there will be short & dedicated to business and preparations. Respecting the latter I venture to offer one word of advice. Let the things you buy be good and substantial & have the most necessary articles of the best-but encumber yourself with as little as possible. A few silver things look well and pass off indifferent equipment of another kind. They are easily transported and apologize for want of china &c which would be soon broken on your
We are all well here but dull from the want of Jane and you. I have had two divertisements however since you left us afire videlicet and a puppet show. I will tell Jane about them. Any letters you may send here put them in a packet addressd to me and Croker will frank them. He is at the Admiralty daily.

My love attends Mrs. Nickie and Miss Dumergue.

Always believe me Dear Walter Your affectionate papa

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 24 feby. [1825]

I have settled to get the money forthcoming next month which I suppose will meet your views and wishes as you will not of course make any arrangement till you join the regiment.

When you remember the breast clasp please observe it is to cost Jane and you one guinea each and is to have the names Jane & Wa[l]ter engraved on the inside to keep the old gentlemans heart the warmer.

EDINR. 2d March [1825]

TO MRS. WALTER SCOTT

You must suppose my dearest Jane that the departure of those for whom we have been anxiously interested for so many weeks has made us feel rather dull here. For my part every morning I wake I think on the verse in
(9-16) Cymbeline

(9-16) The bird is flown
(9-16) That we have made so much of.

(9-16) The inclosed piece of paper will add a pen-feather to
(9-16) my pretty bird's wing since fly away she must. You
(9-16) have only to put your name on the back and Walter will

1825                            SIR WALTER SCOTT

(9-17) get the contents for you. I meant to have bought a set
(9-17) of teaplate for you but perhaps the most convenient
(9-17) though least genteel way is to send you the vile Mammon
(9-17) of unrighteousness and leave you to put it to the use most
(9-17) convenient in making up your kit a military phrase for
(9-17) which you have an interpreter at hand. And here I
(9-17) ought to stop for I have twenty letters to write. But like
(9-17) all old papas I would rather read nonsense to my children
(9-17) than play genteel sensible and clever with half the world
(9-17) beside. After all this propensity requires some apology.
(9-17) For I know there [is] such a thing as inflicting kindness
(9-17) and that officious affection is sometimes as troublesome
(9-17) as a blistering plaister which while it is doing perhaps
(9-17) some good is giving all the while a great deal of plague
(9-17) & vexation to the patient. But then the difference
(9-17) between writing and haranguing is this-that the letter
(9-17) is the blistering affair sent from the apothecary's
(9-17) laboratory-You may either use it or throw it into the fire-
(9-17) it costs you but a shilling in either case. But when you
(9-17) receive a long speech (such as some which you may
(9-17) remember to have heard at Abbotsford & elsewhere) it
(9-17) is like the Doctor come to see his remedy applied and see
(9-17) that it has the proper effect-there is no parrying the
(9-17) matter-you must in civility sit still and listen-whereas
(9-17) you get off in the other case for the shilling and the fright.
I think however on consideration I have rather let my pretensions down in this same surgical simile. For as I intend my letters to be as elegant as Lord Chesterfields and as moral and instructive as that Dullest of all possible Doctors Dr Gregory's advice to his daughters 1 I expect you will fold them up read or unread and transmit them as a precious legacy to those who may follow you and who may care as little to be bored with them in their day as you in yours. On the other hand remember it is our bargain that you are never so much as to mend a pen when you write me or think a moment either about subject or about expression. Sometimes perhaps I shall suggest topics as I did in my last which you answered so faithfully from Abbotsford. I will however be extremely prudent in this. For instance I may ask you if you liked Warwick Castle or if you thought it belonged to the class of old chateaux which your classical neighbour calls stupit things. But on the other hand I will be careful not to enquire whether you were very glad to be rid of papa and his old stories as you passd the Border land & whether you did not feel his absence quite as great a relief as when you found that a certain good friend was only going to escort us as far as Darnwick toll and had no intention of being kirked amongst with us. Neither will I be so inquisitive as to ask how often Rebecca & pixie were turnd into the coach with you while the gallant Captain like the man in the little toy callld the Dutch Weatherhouse turnd out to smoke his segar al fresco upon the box.

But you will expect news instead of asking it and the best I have to tell you is that all were well at Shandwick.
Street and Castle Street by the last accounts. On the night of tuesday broke out another dreadful fire in the High Street. I was waked at midnight with the ringing of bells and beating of drums and when I saw the sky entirely red with flame I could not help dressing myself & going to the scene of action where there was a most horrible confusion. I met our pet skeleton Major Stisted of the Royals and getting with him through the guards I got a fine view of the fire which destroyd all [the] tenement on the opposite side of the street from that where I had my post-the sight was terribly grand-This is one divertisement we have had since your departure. Another is an excellent exhibition of Italian puppets extremely well managed. We went to see it and I wishd for you often as the exhibition was extremely comic. A restive mule which flung its rider was extremely well managed and not less so a coach run away with by the horses--but the last might have awakend recollections of the tragical accident which befell your own chariot. Since I began this letter I have been over to fulfill an old promise which carried me for two days to Sir Robert Prestons at Valleyfield on your side of the water. We had charming weather and I visited the old Monastery of Culross which has been a magnificent place. Moreover there at Valleyfield the finest gardens I ever saw in Scotland, And to crown all Sir Robert gave me some fine old carved oak which had come from the church. I think it will make a beautiful back to a Gothick couch for Abbotsford Adieu my dearest Jane you are tired and so am I-Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT
EDINR. 1st March [1825]

Mr Baillie 3 intends going to Lochore on the 13th or so and I propose accompanying him chiefly to see what should be done about the plantations next season as no kind of property suffers so much from neglect. I inclose some letters from Shandwick place.

TO HUGH SCOTT, DRAYCOTT, NEAR DERBY

MY DEAR HUGH,- The picture is finished and only waits your directions in what manner I am to forward it. Perhaps rather than risque crossing and jostling as there is no direct conveyance from this place to Derby I had as well send it to London by a smack to any one there who would forward it down to you.

Walter and his little bride had a great desire to make Mrs. Scott and you a visit at Draycot but his leave is so short being obliged to join his regiment that I find they were unable to make it out though they left Edinburgh with the wish much at heart. Their stay in London will be very short. You will have heard that the death of poor Charles Erskine has enabled me to make your brother William rather better by a new office of about 260 which in his unlucky circumstances and with a spirit above his means will always be of some service.

Remember me kindly to Mrs. Scott & let me know how the portrait is [to] travel. It is generally thought
time has made some change on the original but I must
time has made some change on the original but I must
thank God for good health and the continued power of
thank God for good health and the continued power of
study and of amusement. Believe me Always truly yours
study and of amusement. Believe me Always truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 5 March [1825]

[Halliburton Scott]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 21

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT, 24 STEIGN, BRIGHTON

MY DEAR MORRITT,-I am sorry to see by yours this
MY DEAR MORRITT,-I am sorry to see by yours this
morning received that a letter of mine dated about three
morning received that a letter of mine dated about three
weeks since or more has not reachd you and where it is
weeks since or more has not reachd you and where it is
now must be uncertain. I directed it Brighton unless I
now must be uncertain. I directed it Brighton unless I
had made some blunder thro' absence. It was written
had made some blunder thro' absence. It was written
about a week before I had your former kind marks of
about a week before I had your former kind marks of
remembrance 1 which by my calculation it should have
remembrance 1 which by my calculation it should have
crossd on the road. It is of no great consequence unless
crossd on the road. It is of no great consequence unless
that it mentiond the particulars of poor Lady Alvanleys
that it mentiond the particulars of poor Lady Alvanleys
death & the circumstances of my sons then approaching
death & the circumstances of my sons then approaching
marriage more confidentially than I would probably have
marriage more confidentially than I would probably have
stated either to another. I may however have it back
stated either to another. I may however have it back
from the dead Letter office unless it has fallen into the
from the dead Letter office unless it has fallen into the
hands of some Curious Impertinent 2 who after all will find
hands of some Curious Impertinent 2 who after all will find
little in it to make it worth putting into his private
little in it to make it worth putting into his private
collection.
collection.

I told you therein how much the poor Miss Ardens
I told you therein how much the poor Miss Ardens
were thrown on my willing but ineffectual assistance in
were thrown on my willing but ineffectual assistance in
their late extreme distress and what a strange contrast
their late extreme distress and what a strange contrast
it was betwixt their deep affliction and the necessity I was
it was betwixt their deep affliction and the necessity I was
under of passing from their chamber of mourning to
under of passing from their chamber of mourning to
remove obstacles and smooth difficulties and arrange
The dear young ladies behaved themselves like themselves and you know it is difficult to say more. But having seen them so happy under the affectionate protection of our excellent friend during the ten or twelve days when they were our guests at Abbotsford it was a sight to melt a heart of steel to and from circumstances their almost solitary state of affliction.

With the incident in my own family I have every reason to be pleased. There had been a little flirtation betwixt the young folks two years ago and more which it seems had not been forgotten by either. And the young lady's walk through the Edinburgh public where in the character of an heiress she did not want danglers & admirers had not it seems put the absent Hussar entirely out of memory as she was never known to have encouraged any one else.

The mother one of the Stewarts of Stenton in Athole a good and excellent person but rather high in the presbyterian buckle was very averse to part with an only child to follow "a soldier laddie." So we had the old song to sing

My bonny Lizie Baillie
Your mither canna want ye
Sae let the trooper gang his lane
And carry his ain portmanteau.

But as bonnie Lizie or rather bonnie Janie would not join in the chorus-as in every respect of situation character and so forth and even in that of fortune the match could not be excepted against-as the good lady's pastor took the pains to convince her that a hussar might get to heaven even though the son of a poet-as all the other
friends of the young lady were anxiously desirous of the
match—and above [all] as she got a little better
acquainted with us she has ended by being very fond of her
son in law moustaches snur-bart and all. She has done
a great duty by her daughter breeding her up in excellent
principles & with great care both as to useful & elegant
accomplishments but a little too strictly which has led
to a silence and reserve in the little lady's manner unless
she is quite acquainted with her company when she is
gay as well as sensible and particularly goodhumourd and
considerate. She is low in stature which is not amiss
Walter being as you know Patagonian—has no pretensions
to beauty but is what may be fairly call'd pretty and as
she has fine eyes and regular features she looks at times
extremely interesting. I could dispense with her extreme
likeness to Bonaparte though it saves the trouble of a long
description. Her father long a respectable Merchant in
London and latterly laird of Lochore left her in lands &
funds the value of from £50,000 to £60,000 only burthend
with her mothers jointure which she has augmented very
generously on this occasion. With what Walter has of
his own and what I can afford to do for him now & hereafter
he will be in possession of an easy though not overgrown,
income but is very sensibly determined to push on
in his military career for which to say truth he is
singularly well calculated and would otherwise sink into a mere
shooting hunting squire. He expects soon to get a troop
and in the meantime joins his regiment in Ireland after a
few days stay in London which I suppose they will reach
by Monday next. They were to go by Oxford to see
Charles now an inhabitant of the Classical quarters of
Brazen Nose. I imagine with what importance he will
do the honours of the University. Had Rokeby been
tenanted your old fellow sportsman would certainly have made it a gite and introduced his prize as a falcon comes with a dove in its clutch.

I am truly happy to hear that Miss Morritts health is improving and that Anne is well. I would by no means expose either to the pain which must attend a visit to Lady Beresford who I fear by a line I had from Sir John is very very ill indeed. Sir John should he lose her as I fear is inevitable will deserve as much pity as any man in the world.

Don Miguel Alava always rankd very high among the Spanish generals— it was beastly of the king to exile him. Hard too that a man who alone of [the] Duke [of] Wellingtons suit[e] escaped horse and man from the storm of Waterloo should suffer by so paltry an accident as you mention.

I will write all about the Great Lords manuscripts when I hear from you having stuffd this multum in parvo letter with matter which I have more at heart however less important it may be. Lady Scott & Anne as well as Sophia join in kindest love to you & the ladies Ever yours sincerely WALTER SCOTT

I intended faithfully to have been in London this spring. But marriages are no joke and I fitted out our young couple suitably in the world that they might begin free and on their own income unanticipated so I must stay at home & make money instead of coming to town to spend it. Besides in summer I intend to go to Ireland to see how they come on. Why should you not toss up your
hat for a trip to Dublin if as God grant your young ladies be well. You like travelling and never saw Patt in his own green island. Pray think of this.

[PM. 5th March 1825]
[Law]

TO HIS SON CHARLES

CASTLE STREET Sunday the 13th March(1) [1825]

DEAR CHARLES,- I am very glad you like your new Sister who seems to me a sweet girl sensible and affectionate and if no dasher just the more likely to make a domestic connection happy. I suppose you swaggerd about in great form at the head of your lions. Pray how did they stand the critique of your Oxonian loungers who are I know severe observers of lions of low degree & whose manes and tails are not managed comme il faut.

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Poor Elmesley! I knew him very well and valued him as a most accomplishead scholar We have had a dreadful shock here with the awful catastrophe of poor Colonel Stanhope. I forget if you saw him & his last wife Lady F[red]erica here or at Abbotsford. He was the last man from whom an act so fatal was to have been anticipated but there is insanity in the family and he sufferers grievous torture from an ill cured wound. I lived much with him at Paris and always held him one of the most sensible as well as agreeable men I ever knew. But we hold our intellectual powers by a fea[fully] slight tenure. When I saw [him] about two months since at Pennycuik where I passd a day chiefly to meet him I thought him very gloomy but did not wonder as it was the first time
we had met since his wife's death who was also a great friend of ours.

We are all here in the old way—Little Johnie is a little colded—that poor child is sadly delicate but I think & trust he will get stronger as he goes on. Lockhart remains chiefly in town & Sophia of course during the vacation.

I go to Lochore today to remain tomorrow on some little business and when I return I will be at Abbotsford immediately whither address your letters.

I entirely approve of your accepting Dr Hughes's invitation it is impossible you can be with kinder or better friends. Mama and Anne send kind love. I will leave this paper in case any of them may add a few lines as it is not fair to send half sheets. I

I hope Sir Alexr. Boswell 2 turns out well. He had the character here of being rather idle and inattentive. I will be glad to hear the learned air of Oxford has worn this off.

I am always Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 13 March [PM. 1825]

You have been long enough at Oxford to gain some notion of the genius Loci—how do you like it upon the whole and how far do you feel yourself qualified to keep abreast with the "right hand file" of students My kindest respects to Mr Surtees.
TO THE MARCHIONESS OF HUNTLY 3

(9-26) DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,-A passage in a letter from your Ladyship to my friend Geo: Huntly Gordon relieved me from much anxiety by shewing me not that I had forgotten as I imagined some command of your Ladyship a communication from you which should have argued a state of dotage on my part but only that my memory had lost hold of some legend which I had told to you, a circumstance so natural to tellers of long stories that it is recorded to have befallen that empress of tale-tellers the princess Scherazade when she told stories for the benefit of her pretty neck.

I quite recollect now the tale of Walter of Gaick who was I think a Cumming. He was not however the same with the Wolf of Badenoch called Alaster More Mac an Ri by the highlanders and who lies buried at Dunkeld that wolf was of a Royal Kennel being son to Robert IIId or IIIId I forget which. I This wolf was sire to all the Athole Stuarts with one family of which I am now connected by my little daughter in law having to her mother one of the Stewarts of Stenton. She had to her father what the world will think a better thing namely a respectable London Merchant who left her a considerable fortune an important consideration to me, without such an independence my sons early settlement in life could not have been accomplished.

To return to Walter of Gaick, my unlucky namesake, I think I had the story from Sir William Cuming Gordon 2 who will doubtless recollect if there is more of it than my
memory has retained. I think it continued to be an
imprecation. May you die the death of Walter of
Gaick.

I fear little good can be done for Captain Fraser.1 His
ideas are very singular—He wants me to ask the Duke
of Buccleuch, a minor and now studying at Cambridge
to present his request to the King to patronise his work—
This is out of the order of such things. Then he mingles
even his prospectus with complaints against those whom
he has been connected with in life and seems to intimate
that his book is to contain an attack on individual
characters for offences real or supposed which the public
will not take the trouble to understand or enter into.
Besides such private disputes are not fit subjects for a
work inscribed to the King. Moreover he is about to
give us a great deal of very indifferent English poetry
which will overpower the effect of his music. If he would
confine himself to his tunes and antiquities I have no
doubt he might make a good deal by the publication
but I greatly fear the plan he is adopting will be a losing
one as it shews a want of judgement. I have great
hesitation in writing to him not quite aware in what tone
I should address him and something alarmed besides at
his proposal to publish my private letters.

With all this if I knew anything I could do for the poor
gentleman and to save the music I would do it with all
my heart but I fear it is impossible as his prospectus shews
such a deal of bizarrerie. I think the best thing is to
advise him to reserve his tracts on national matters and
give us the music and the tradition relating to it by
themselves and in the first instance and for such a publication
it might be possible to get him a good list of subscribers
which is the only way by which he will ever take
any serious advantage from his labours. I am very sorry
to see he talks so much about his own sufferings and
misfortunes and the ill usage he has met with. It is
wonderful how very little the publick cares about such
complaints and on the other hand how easily those who
are hasty and rash in making them may get into trouble
from the anger they excite in the parties attacked. In
short I am afraid our poor friend is a little too fanciful and
irritable to be trusted with wielding that delicate and
double-edged weapon a pen. I have given him the best
advice I could both in respect to his real attainments and
to the protection which your Ladyships goodness has
extended to him. It is the last circumstance which
induces me to give your Ladyship this trouble.

Poor Huntly Gordon is much gratified by your Ladyships
kindness and [the] Marquis's. I wish he had some quiet
little kirk and some quiet little wife, the one to support
him, and the other to converse with him for his present
situation is rather precarious both as conversation and
fortune are concerned and [he] deserves to be fortunate as he
joins an excellent disposition to considerable talents and
accomplishments.

I must apologise for this bavardage which I will put inside
the marquis's cover being quite unworthy of postage.
Ever your Ladyships honoured and obliged humble
Servant,

WALTER SCOTT
ABOTSFORD, MELROSE. 13 March [1825]

[Brotherton]

30 LETTERS OF 1825

TO WALTER SCOTT, 15TH OR KINGS HUSSARS, CORK

ABOTSFORD 19 March [PM. 1825]

To remain at Post Office till callld for-

(9-30)MY DEAR WALTER,—I have your letter of the 13th.2
(9-30)received on thursday. The advice I have received from
(9-30)one or two military friends is quite to the same tune with
(9-30)your own opinion and besides I think that for Janes sake
(9-30)as well as the consideration atttachd to rank it would be
(9-30)better to purchase the troop at once though your friends
(9-30)terms should be something extravagant. You get a right
(9-30)I believe to better quarters & superior accommodations
(9-30)to the Subaltern. About the middle of this next month
(9-30)I shall be ready to add [] 1500 to the [] 2100., lying at
(9-30)Coutts but the negotiation is a delicate one and you
(9-30)must be very distinct in telling me how when and to whom
(9-30)the cash is to be made payable. You will at the same
(9-30)time complete your arrangement with your cornet which
(9-30)will dub you Captain in good earnest. After the Duke of
(9-30)Yorkes kindness you need not I presume be very scrupulous
(9-30)in trusting to your own interest. I presume you saw
(9-30)MacDonald, and the two knights of the Horse Gds. who
(9-30)have both been very civil in your case.

(9-30)I fancy Jane would [be] well tired of Piccadilly before
(9-30)you left it. Our kind friends are a little worrying
(9-30)sometimes but the visit is paid and another time you can go
(9-30)to a hotel & be more independent.
I think I told you in my last that I meant to go one day with Mr. Baillie to Lochore and take Mr. Laidlaw with me as he was in town at the time. It is his opinion as well as mine that this property in which Janes confidence and affection have given you so deep an interest is under excellent management and rapidly improving in value with the improvement of the times. Its value may be at present held very low at $40,000 or from that to $45000 but if times hold good it will reach $50000 as readily as any estate in that country. The parks are particularly excellent and it was a novelty to South Country bodies to hear of grass land at $3., and so far as $4., per acre. Allowing for the dead season of the year the grounds looked very well. There is a noble screen of thriving planting which forms a fine background to the House and rises nearly to the top of Bennarty and there is a great deal more plantation and many full grown trees. Upon the whole it is a most gentlemanlike place—no rail roads needed there. You may send the cookmaid with the coal scuttle to dig out the coals she wants for the day. Plenty of lime stone rock and plenty of freestone for the quarrying. I find Jane had ordered some spots of planting which were stopped till her pleasure should be known. I took on me to say they should be proceeded with. I can assure you the places were chosen with great taste though she was sly enough not to allow she knew anything about plantations I suppose for fear she should hear more than enough upon that subject. I must not omit the game which is plenty. I sprang several pheasants in my walks for which you are obliged to the vicinity of the Ld. Chief Commissioner for as he had little corn last year the birds had come down upon Lochore. The gardener John Macleod by name reported to me that he had destroyed
of vermin 2 wild cats 8 household cats gone wild four
pole-cats one of terrible size & weight which I think
must have been a marten five weasels three whittrets 1
besides; sundry magpies. I exhorted him to continue to
set the traps assuring him it would be held good service.
I did not wait to see how the parks let & leave it to Mr.

Baillie to write you about that & matters of business.
We were most comfort[ably] lodged & accommodated
during our stay & every thing seemd in perfect order on
my arrival yesterday. I will write her fully to Edgeworthstown.
Janes letter 2 is like herself sensible pretty
and unaffected. I therefore[e] conclude she writes easily
and would not willingly believe the contr[ar]y because
I should be sorry to think that our correspondence so
agreeable to me was very troublesome to herself.

The Lockharts are lazy and stay in town this spring so
we have only Mama & Anne at Abbotsford. Both join
in kindest love to you and Jane Always your affectionate
father                                WALTER SCOTT

Write me precisely about the troop as soon as you can
& be sure to make your figures legible. I see you will be
a little short having had so much to pay for but you
know when [you] want 50., or 100 I would rather you
would draw than get in debt & above all there can be no
occasion for any oeconomy which can trench on Janes
comforts. I had the great pleasure to find a very kind
letter from her lying here.

Mrs. Jobson was quite well on thursday I calld before
leaving town.
TO MRS. WALTER SOOTT, DUBLIN

(9-32) ABBOTSFORD 20th. March 1825

(9-32) MY DEAREST CHILD, - I had the great pleasure of receiving your kind and attentive letter from London a few days later than I ought to have done because it was lying here while I was absent on a little excursion of which I have to give a most interesting account. Believe me my love I am VERY grateful for the time you bestow on me and that you cannot give so great happiness to any one as to me by saying you are well and happy. My daughters who deserve all the affection a father can bestow are both near me and in safe guardianship the one under the charge of a most affectionate husband & the other under the eye of her parents. And for my sons I have taught them and what was more difficult I have taught myself the philosophy that for their own sake and their necessary advancement in life their absence from my home must be long and their visits short and as they are I hope able to conduct themselves wisely and honourably I have learnt to be contented to hope the best without-making myself or them uneasy by fruitless anxiety. But for YOU my dear Jane who have come among us with such generous and confiding affection my Stoicism must excuse me if I am more anxious than becomes either a philosopher or a hackneyed man of the world who uses in common cases to take that world as it goes. I cannot help worrying myself with the question whether the object of such constant and affectionate care may not feel less happy than I would wish her in scenes
which must be so new and under privations which must
be felt by you the more that your earlier life has been an
entire stranger to them. I know Walters care & affection
will soften and avert these as [much] as possible and if
there be any thing in the power of old papa to assist him
in the matter you will make him most happy by tasking
that power to the utmost.

I wrote him to Dublin post restante that he might
proceed in bargain[ing] for the troop and write me the
terms that I might provide the Needful as mercantile
folks call it in time & place suitable. If he has not
already got my letter you can tell him to enquire for it.
The rank of Captain gives I am aware a degree of
consideration which is worth paying for and what is still
more my little Jane as a Captains lady takes better
accomodation every way than is given to a Subalters.
So we must get the troop by all means coute que coute.
Now I will plague you with no more business but give an
account of myself in the manner of Mr Jonathan Old Buck
if ever you heard of such a person-You must suppose
that you are busy with your work and that I am telling
you some long story or other and that you now and then
look round and say Eh as you do when you are startled
by a question or an assertion-it is not quite Eh neither
but just a little quiet interjection which shews you are
attending-You see what a close observer papa is of his
child.

Well then when as I calculate (as a Yankee would say)
you were tossing on the waves of the Irish channel I was
also tossing on the Vadum Scotticum of Ptolemy on my
return from the celebrated Urbs Orrea of Tacitus-Eh-
(9-34)says Jane Lord Walter what can the old gentleman mean
(9-34)-" Weiss nichts davon " says the Hussar taking his segar
(9-34)from under his moustaches (no I beg pardon he does not
(9-34)take out the segar because from the last advices he has
(9-34)used none in his London journey)-He says weiss nichts
(9-34)however which is in Italian No[n] So-in French Je ne'n
(9-34)scais rien-in broad scot[c]h I neither ken nor care-
(9-34)Well you ask Mr Edgeworth or the Chaplain of the
(9-34)regiment or the first scholar you can come by-that is
(9-34)to say you do not attempt to pronounce the hieroglyphical
(9-34)word but you fold down the letter just at the place show
(9-34)the talismanic word Urbs Orrea and no more and ask
(9-34)him in what corner of the earth Sir Walter can have been
(9-34)wandering? So after a moments recollection he tells
(9-34)you that the great Roman general Agricola was strangely
(9-34)put to his trumps at the Urbs Orrea during his campaign
(9-34)in Caledonia and that the Ninth Legion was surprized
(9-34)there by the British and nearly destroyed 1 then he gets a

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(9-35)county history and a Tacitus & Sir Robert Sibbalds tracts
(9-35)and begins to fish about and finds at length that the Urbs
(9-35)Orrea is situated in the Kingdom of Fife-that it is now
(9-35)callld Lochore-that it belonged to the Lochores-the De
(9-35)Vallenses-the Wardlaws-the Malcolms and Lord
(9-35)know[s] whom in succession-and then in a sheet wet
(9-35)from the press he finds it is now the property of a
(9-35)pretty and accomplishd young lady who in an unthrift
(9-35)generosity has given it-with a much more valuable
(9-35)present namely her own self-to a Lieutenant of Hussars.
(9-35)So there the scholar shuts his book and observes that as
(9-35)there are many cairns and tumuli and other memorials
(9-35)upon the scene of action he wonders whether Sir Walter
(9-35)had not the curiosity to open some of them. "Now
(9-35)Heaven forbid " says Jane " I think the old Knight has
stock enough for boring one with his old border ballads and battles without raising the bones of men who have slept 1000 years quietly on my own estate to assist him "- Then I can keep silence no longer but speak in my own proper person. "Pray do you not bore me Mrs Jane and have not I a right to retaliate"-"Eh" says the Lady of Lochore " how is it possible I should bore you and so many hundred miles between us "-"That is the very reason " says the Laird of Abbotsford " for if you were near me the thing would be impossible. But being as you say at so many hundred miles distant I am always thinking about you and asking myself an hundred questions which I cannot answer-for instance I cannot go about my little improvements without teasing myself with thinking whether Jane would like the green house larger or less-and whether Jane would like such line of walk or such another-and whether that stile is not too high for Jane to step over "-" Dear papa " says Jane "your own stile is really too high for my comprehension "- 

Well then-I am the most indulgent papa in the world and so you see I have turnd over a new leaf. The plain sense of all this rambling stuff which escapes from my pen as it would from my tongue is that I have visited for a day with Isaack Bayley your dominions of Lochore and was excellently entertaind and as happy as I could be where every thing was putting me in mind that she was absent whom I could most have wishd present for where every thing put me in mind of my child and she was so far distant the predominant feeling was a sort of quiet melancholy. It felt somehow like an intrusion and as [if] it was not quite right that I should be in Janes house while Jane herself was amongst strangers. This is the sort of false colouring which imagination gives to events and
circumstances—Well—but I was much pleased with all I saw & particularly with the high order Mr Bayley has put everything [in] & I climb’d Bennarty like a wild goat and scrambled through the old crags like a wild cat and pranced through your pastures like a wild buck (fat enough to be in season though) and squattered through your drains like a wild duck and had nearly lost myself in your morasses like the Ninth Legion and visited the old Castle which is not a stupit place and in short wander’d from Dan to Beersheba and tired myself as effectually in your dominions as I did you in mine upon a certain walk to the Rhymers glen. I had the offer of your poney but the weather being too cold I prefer’d walking. A cheerful little old gentleman Mr Burrell & Mr Greig the clergyman dined with us and your health was not forgotten.

On my retreat (border-fashion) I brought away your poney and the little chaise believing that both will be better under Peter Mathison’s charge than at Lochore in case of its being let to strangers. Don’t you think Jane’s poney will be taken care of? It has reach’d this place in great safety.

The first day we arrived the weather was gloomy & rainy the climate sorrowful for your absence I suppose.

the next a fine sunny frost—the third when I came off so chequerd with hail showers as to prevent a visit I had meditated to two very interesting persons in the neighbourhood. " The Chief Commissioner & Charles Adam I suppose ? "-No they were not at Blair Adam-Guess again. "O Mr Betson of Contle 1 or Mr Sym of Blair? "- Not a bit. Guess again "-" I wont guess any more." Well then it was two honest gentlemen hewn in stone some of the old knights of Lochore who were described to

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me as lying under your gallery in the kirk but as I had no
reason to expect a warm reception from them I put off
my visit till some more genial season.

This puts me in mind of Warwick unvisited and of my
dullness in not letting you know that the Church is as
well worth seeing as the Castle & you might have seen
that notwithstanding the badness of the morning. All
the tombs of the mighty Beauchamps and Nevilles are to
be seen there in the most magnificent stile of Gothick display
and in high preservation. However this will be for
another day and you must comfort yourself that Life has
something still to show.

I trust you will find yourself happy for a few days at
Edgeworth's town where I know you will be received with
open arms for Miss Edgeworth's kindness is equal to her
distinguished talents. Meanwhile here we are till May-
that is Lady Scott, Anne and I for the Lockharts remain
in town. Anne is to write and to send you the news of
the great bal pare.

I am glad you like my old acquaintance Matthews.2
Some day I will make him shew his talent for your amusement
in private for I know him well. It is very odd he is
often subject to fits of deep melancholy.

I saw Mrs Jobson on Thursday—she was very well and

in excellent spirits. We have establishd a commercial
treaty the object of which is to let each other know when
we have advices for Ireland. I Now and then when you
wish to send a packet of letters you can put them up
addressed to me under an outer cover John Wilson Croker
This is a letter of formidable length but our bargain is that we are to write long or short just as the humour chances to be and you are never to mend a pen or think upon a sentence but just write whatever comes readiest.

My Love to Walter. I am rather anxious to know if he has got his horses safe over and whether all his baggage come safe. I am glad you have got a carriage to your mind; it is the best oeconomy to get a good one at once. Above all I will be anxious to know how you like the society of the ladies of the 15th. I know my Jane's quiet prudence and good sense will save her from the risque of making sudden intimacies and induce her to consider for a little while which of her new companions may suit her best in the mean while being civil to all.

You see that I make no apology for writing silly letters and why should you think that I can think yours stupid-there is not a stupit bit about them nor any word or so much as a comma that is not interesting to me. Lady Scott and Anne send their kindest love to you and grateful compliments to Mrs Edgeworth, Miss M. Edgeworth, Sir Walter and all the family at Edgeworthstown-Buona notte amata bene. Good night darling and take good care of yourself. I always remain Your affectionate father

Sir Walter Scott

1825

WALTER SCOTT

Sir Adam was over here yesterday he is still lame but better than when we left him. Lady Fergusson is suffering through her stomach complaints.
Now have I come by such a worm-eaten sheet of paper—it is a shame to be seen and will cost me an envelope that the postman may not read it through the flaws.

They say a man’s fortune depends on a wife’s pleasure. I do not know how that may be but I believe a lady’s comfort depends much on her fille de chambre. I therefore beg to know how Rebecca discharges her office.

Bayley

TO MRS. SCOTT OF LOCHORE, POST OFFICE, CORK 1

MY DEAREST JANE,—I am afraid you will think me a merciless correspondent assailing you with so close a fire of letters, but having a frank I thought it as well to send you an epistle though it can contain nothing more of interest excepting that we are all well. I can however add more particularly than formerly that I learn from Mrs Baillie that Mrs Jobson’s health is not only good but her spirits are remarkably so as to give the greatest pleasure to all friends. I can see I think a very good reason for this for after the pain of the first separation from so dear an object and after having brought her mind to believe that your present situation presented to you a fair chance for happiness I can easily suppose that her maternal anxiety is greatly relieved from fears and apprehensions which formerly distressed her. Nothing can be more kind & more handsome than the way in which Mrs Jobson speaks of Walter which I mention because it gives me sincere pleasure and will I am sure afford the same to you or rather much more.
My troops here are sadly diminish'd. I have only Anne to parade for her morning walk and to domineer over for going in thin slippers and silk stockings through dirty paths and in lace veils through bushes & thorn brakes. I think Jane sometimes came in for a share of the lecture on these occasions. So I walk my solitary rounds generally speaking look after my labourers & hear them regularly enquire if I have heard from the Captain and his Leddy. I wish I could answer them Yes but have no reason to be impatient. This is the 23d. and I suppose Walter will be at Corke this evening to join the 15th. and that you are safe at Edgeworthstown to spend your first short term of widowhood. I hope the necessary hospitality to his mess will not occasion his dissipating too much for to be a very stout young man I know no one with whom what is called hard living agrees so ill. A happy change in the manners of the times fortunately renders such abuse of the good creature wine much less frequent and less fashionable than it was in my days and Sir Adam's. Drinking is not now the vice of the times whatever vices & follies they may have adopted in its stead.

I had proceeded thus far in my valuable communication when lo! I was alarmed by the entrance of that terrific animal a two-legged boar-One of the largest size and most tremendous powers. By the way I learnt from no less authority than George Canning what my own experience has since made good that an efficient bore must always have something respectable about him other wise no one would permit him to exercise his occupation and bestow his tediousness upon him.-He must be for example a very rich man (which perhaps gives the greatest privilege of all)-or he must be a man of rank and condition too important to be treated sans ceremonie-or a man of learning (often a dreadful bore) or of talents undoubted & privileged-or of pretensions to wisdom and
experience—or a great traveller—in short he must have
some tangible privilege to exercise his profession. Without
something of this kind one would treat a bore as you
do a vagrant mendicant & send him off to the workhouse
if he presumed to annoy you. But when properly qualified
the bore is more like a beggar with a badge and pass from
his parish which entitles him to disturb you with his
importunity whether you will or no.1 Now my bore was
a neighbour, a complete gentleman and an old friend but
unhappily for those who know him master of all Joe
Millars stories of sailors and Irishmen and full of quotations
from the classics as hackneyed as the post horses of
Melrose. There was no remedy. I must either stand his
shot within, doors or turn out with him for a long walk and
for the sake of elbow room I preferd the last. Imagine an
old gentleman who has been handsome and has still that
sort of pretension which leads him to wear tight pantaloons
and a smart half boot neatly adapted to shew off his leg.
Suppose, him as upright and straight as a poker if the
poker’s head had been by some accident bent to one side.
Add to this that he is as deaf as a post 2—consider that I was
writing to Jane and desired not to be interrupted by much
more entertaining society—Well I was had however—
fairly caught and out we sallied to make the best we
could of each other. I felt a sort of necessity to ask him
to dinner in mere good neighbourhood but the invitation
like MacBaths Amen stuck in my throat. For the first hour
he got the lead and kept it—but opportunities always
occur to an able general if he knows how to make use of
them. In an evil hour for him and a happy one for me he
started the subject of the intended rail-road—there I was a
match for him having had on tuesday last a meeting with
Harden the two Torwoodlees and the engineer on this subject so that I had at my finger ends ever[y] cut every lift—every degree of elevation or depression—every pass in the country and every possible means of crossing them. My friend as Maisie would have it is only a renter of a place in my neighbour[hood] so was no way interested in what might have engaged the attention of a proprietor. So I kept the whiphand of him completely and never permitted him to get off the railway again to his own ground—In short so thoroughly did I bore my Bore that he sickend and gave in taking a short leave of me when I had adroitly brought him to the nearest turn to his own house. Seeing him in full retreat I then ventured to make the civil offer of a friends [?] dinner. But the rail-road had been breakfast luncheon dinner & supper to boot—he hastily excused himself and left me at double quick time sick of railroads I dare say for six months to come.—But I must not forget that I am perhaps abusing the privilege I have to bore you being that of your affectionate papa.

How nicely we could manage without the said rail road now the great hobby of our Teviotdale lairds if we could by any process of conjuration waft to Abbotsford some of the coal and lime from Lochore. Though if I were to wish for such impossibi[l]ties I would rather desire Prince Hoseins tapestry in the Arabian Nights to bring Walter & Jane to us now and then than I would wish for "Fife and all the lands about it." I

By the bye Jane after all though she looks so demure is a very sly girl and keeps her accomplishments to herself. You would not talk with me about planting and laying out ground and yet from what you had been doing at Lochore I see what a pretty turn you have for these
(9-42)matters-I wish you were here to advise me about the
(9-42)little pond which we passd where if you remember
(9-42)there is a new cottage built. I intend to plant it with
(9-42)aquatic trees-willows alders poplars and so forth

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(9-43)and put trouts and perches into the Water and have a
(9-43)preserve of wild ducks on the pond with Canadian geese
(9-43)and some other waterfowl. I am to get some eggs from
(9-43)Lord Traquair 1 of a curious species of half reclaimd wild
(9-43)ducks which abound near his solitary old chateau and
(9-43)no where else in Scotland that I know of and I can get
(9-43)the Canadian geeze curious painted animals that look as
(9-43)if they had flown out of a figured Chinese paper from Mr
(9-43)Murrays of Broughton. The foolish folks when I was
(9-43)absent chose to improve on my plan by making an island
(9-43)in the pond which is exactly the size & shape of a Stilton
(9-43)cheese. It will be useful however I believe for the fowls
(9-43)to breed in.

(9-43)Mama drove out your poney & carriage to day. She
(9-43)was (twenty years ago) the best lady-whip in Edinburgh &
(9-43)was delighted to find that she retaind her dexterity. I
(9-43)hope she will continue to exercise the rein and whip now
(9-43)and then as her health is much improved by moderate
(9-43)exercize.

(9-43)Adieu my dear Jane. Mama and Anne join in the
(9-43)kindest love and best wishes. I please myself with the idea
(9-43)that I shall have heard you are well and happy long before
(9-43)this readies you Believe [me] always Your affectionate
(9-43)father WALTER SCOTT

(9-43)ABBOTSFORD 23 March 1825
I hope you will take my good example and write
without caring or thinking either what you have got to
say or in what words you say it.

[Bayley]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

ABBOTSFORD, March 23, 1825

MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,—I calculate, as the
Americans say, that this will find the Lady of Lochore

with her Schwartz Ritter as a friend of mine calls Walter
(alleging that he is a croat in disguise and that he longs
to ask him about the battle of Austerlitz) I say I hope that
this will find the black hussar and his little bride at quiet
moorings at Edgeworthstown though I suppose the
gentleman's stay will be very brief. I hope my dear little
Jane will get over her fears, and show to such advantage
as her quiet nature will permit as with all her humility
and shyness she has at the foundation a strong share both
of principle and good sense with fortitude where it is
necessary. I am anxious to hear she is safe on your side
of that vile channel, and under the protection of the kind
friends who have offered her hospitality.

You wished to have for a medical friend I think one
of Spice's puppies. I did not send you one or indeed keep
any of the first litter which is seldom good for much but
she will have a family this spring and as the sire is of high
fame and she herself one of the best-bred terriers in
Scotland I wish to know whether you still wish me to keep
a whelp and whether it should be male or female or if
you would prefer a brace. Spice is quite recovered of her asthma notwithstanding Miss Harriets most ominous dream. She despatches rats and vermin in the most knowing stile and is an extremely kind and sensible creature. She is a capital specimen of the Fierce terriers wont in high-hill'd Liddesdale. To storm the wild cat's lodge and badgers rough.

How does your literary undertaking come on? and have you determined to play the incognita? If so it will cost you bold fibbing if it can be termed so when one denies what no one has a right to enquire into. Have you heard from Mrs. Fox Lane whose absence at this time I sincerely regret as I know she would have been kind to Jane. I hope she will bring some Venetian or Sicilian ballads home with her the prettiest musical importations in the opinion of such vulgar hearers as I am. We are rather lonely here, having nobody but Lady S. Anne and myself at Abbotsford. Lockhart's business detaining him in town: the want of Sophia and little Johnie is rather annoying. I have given Johnie a pony so very small that it is less than many dogs otherwise so beautiful[ly] made and so active that it might serve the king of Lilliput God save his grace. Johnie with a little assistance rides into the hall and dining parlour and like the minstrels of old "up to the fair board-head" and the pony perfectly understands the value of a dainty piece of bread. When I write about these trifles you may be sure I have little else to say. The people are all mad here about joint stock companies and the madness which possesses John Bull has caught his speculative brother Sawney. No man can commit the extremity of folly with so grave a countenance and under
(9-45) the influence of such admirable reasoning as a Scotchman.
(9-45) The whole nation, indeed, deserve the character given
(9-45) to the sapient Monarch of old " that of the wisest fools in
(9-45) Christendom." Such folly however has a better chance
(9-45) to pass unnoticed, as the perpetrator completely possesses
(9-45) his own self-opinion ; they treat laughers as the Newcastle
(9-45) keelmen did the owl. The keel (a particular boat
(9-45) for carrying the coals down the Tyne) had run ashore
(9-45) under the ruins of the old abbey of Jarrow, and the
(9-45) shock startled out an owl from her place of strength. The
(9-45) Hand who was afore having never seen such a bird in
(9-45) his life concluded from its appearance and cry that it
(9-45) must be a spirit and exhorted his comrade to come ahead
(9-45) and speak to it which he did to this purpose. The
(9-45) supposed ghost you must understand had treated them
(9-45) with two or three shrieks. " Hoo ! hoo !" said the

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(9-46) keeler who thought the expressions of the owl's wonder
(9-46) too strong for the occasion " What's thee hoo-hooing at-
(9-46) didst never see a keel ashore before ? " I believe we shall
(9-46) see a few keels ashore before the play is playd out whether
(9-46) we are all allowed to laugh at them or no. We are
(9-46) endeavouring to profit by the mania to get a rail road
(9-46) brought up from Kelso which would accommodate a
(9-46) valuable track of country with coal and lime from which
(9-46) we are twenty miles distant. We had a meeting of our
(9-46) committee here on Tuesday on which occasion Anne
(9-46) (who is a decided punstress) hearing more of the undertaking
(9-46) I supposed than she relished observed if our conversation
(9-46) was deficient in wit there was no want of raillery.
(9-46) Did it ever strike you that Anne (talent apart) has an
(9-46) odd cast of Beatrice's humour about her. I She begs her
(9-46) kindest respects to you and has written a letter to Miss
(9-46) Harriet, which I enclose. My kindest compliments
ATTEND MRS. EDEWORTH AND ALL YOUR KIND FAMILY.

ALWAYS, MY DEAR MISS EDEWORTH, MOST RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

WALTER SCOTT
[Butler and Familiar Letters]

TO HIS NEPHEW WALTER SCOTT

[Extract]

ABBOTSFORD, 23rd March 1825.

MY DEAR WALTER,- I desired your cousin to look into your affairs and see what cash you needed, and by his report I send you a cheque for £30, to pay your tailor's bill and other inevitables. I learn you are living with economy on your pay, which is very right, and a good lesson to begin with. Walter would give you all the last Edinburgh and Abbotsford news. I fancy you did not see his Cara Sposa. I was visiting her Fifeshire property at her request since the Session rose, and it is a very fine estate indeed. Your cousin may think himself very fortunate in getting so handsome a property with a pretty and amiable young person.

Let me know how you come on at your new institution, and what your motions are likely to be when you get your commission, and all about it.

We are here, Anne, Lady Scott and I, rather lonely wanting all our natural beaux and useful persons, but we rub on as well as we can. Dogs, etc., are all in handsome enjoyment of their health, and the chateau is
(9-47) peaceful, though solitary and quiet compared to our
Christmas rejoicings. Charles is at his College. If he
gets for a day or two to London, perhaps you may meet
him, for I daresay if your duty prevented your coming
up, he would be desirous to go down. ...

Mama and Anne send their best loves to you and wish
you all luck in your studies. I suppose you will have
some time to spend here ere you go to India. I should
be very desirous that it was spent in acquiring as much
insight as possible into the mysteries of civil engineering:
pray lose no opportunity of looking into such subjects.
They may be the making of your future.-Believe me
always, dear Walter, your affectionate uncle,

WALTER SCOTT
[Familiar Letters]

To MRS. SCOTT OF LOCHORE, CARE OF WALTER SCOTT, ESQ.,
15TH. OR KINGS HUSSARS, CORKE, IRELAND

ABOTSFORD 26 March [1825]

MY DEAREST JANE,- Your very attentive and kind letter 1
from Dublin reachd me this morning & gave me both
great pleasure & some vexation. The former greatly
predominated for it told me my dear child was safely
across the channel although after a rough passage. I wish
I had been with you to have consoled you for I am an
excellent nurse to ladies on shipboard and a capital
maker of negus & mulled wine and I dare say the Schwarzritter
was too sick himself to be of half the use he should
have been. He has a good share of his mothers bilious
tendency and suffers usually on shipboard.

My vexation is from finding you have not heard from us though I have written three times one to Walter Dublin paste restante and twice to you. The first is on business and I am surprized he has not had it. It was in general to apprize him of the terms on which he could agree with Captain Macalpine for his Troop and in addition to 2100 I say two thousand one hundred pounds) now with Coutts & deposited for that purpose I would find him the overplus which I think was to be about 1500 for which we can afterwards arrange together. Beg him to be very precise concerning what is to be done in this matter and you had better write me than he because paying money beyond regulation though every day done [is not] strictly regular. I fear in succeeding in this great object you will lose your new acquaintance Mrs MacAlpine whose manner you seem to be pleased with.

My two letters addressd to you were both sent to Edgeworthstown not being aware of the alteration of your motions. I hope Walter or you have written there and then the letters will be sent forward as you may desire. The receiving old dated letters is to be sure like getting old newspapers which scarce reward the trouble of reading them. But mine to you are full of little affectionate nonsense which may amuse Walter and you but are not quite fitted for other eyes so I hope you will enquire after them. You must make out your visit to Edgeworthstown when you get to Dublin otherwise there will be little affronts and disappointments & they are really valuable people from the kindness of their hearts as well as the distinguishd talents of Miss Maria Edgeworth.
I observe you have seen my very honest good-nature[d]
and tiresome friend Mr Hartstonge one of the best
creatures in the world could he lay aside a rage for being
a literary character for which he has so very little
qualification. But many clever people I know might envy
him his goodnaturd and obliging disposition.

Mrs Jobson is quite well happy and as I hear from
take as a great compliment since it infers her perfect
reliance on his care of a certain person who shall be
nameless. I dare say she had her share in a fright which all
Shandwick place experienced from a melancholy accident
two days since.

An unlucky foot-boy of Colin Mackenzies chose during
the absence of the family from town to amuse himself
by removing the burner as it is calld from the gas-pipe in
a small cellar in front of the house. Ask Walter if he
knows of no young gentleman who has practised such a
trick in his time? The consequence was that the gas
having no exit by door or window became inflammable
and when the unhappy urchin instead of calling in proper
assistance came with a lighted candle to examine the
mischief he had done a terrific explosion took place by
which the poor thing was killd and a maidservant much
hurt. Though there required as much malice prepense to
produce this catastrophe as in the very similar case of
the monkey [who] while he put a match to the touch hole
of a cannon peepd into the muzzle to see the effect of the
explosion yet it will check for a time the use of gas which
was becoming generally popular.

There is something of farce mingles with the most
(9-50)serious events of life and when I heard among other effects
(9-50)of the explosion that a butler in a neighbouring house
(9-50)had lost the use of speech I could not help thinking that
(9-50)had Rebecca been in her old quarters you would not have
(9-50)sorrowd greatly if her talents for conversation had been
(9-50)something impaird.

(9-50)This I presume will find you at Corke though there is
(9-50)a fine uncertainty in all your motions which put me
(9-50)(beaks and claws out of the question) something in mind
(9-50)of a partridge transported through the air by a hawk.
(9-50)Your cautious qualification of I believe added to your
(9-50)announcing your journey to Corke for the next day
(9-50)reminded me of an expression I found in an Irishmans love
(9-50)letter-" I do not know my dear when I am going to the
(9-50)highlands but I will certainly know before I set out." Pray
(9-50)write soon-let me know how you like or how you endure
(9-50)your quarters & accommodation and how you like the
(9-50)regiment and whether Walter looks well in his uniform.

(9-50)In my former letter I told you all about a 24 hours visit
(9-50)to Lochore but I forgot to say there was an important
(9-50)personage in the family whose notice I courted & who
(9-50)resisted every attempt at intimacy. I suppose he was
(9-50)angry with me for being accessory to depriving him of
(9-50)his mistress-it was the large yard dog. I am sorry to
(9-50)say you are about to lose an excellent housekeeper there
(9-50)in Elizabeth Shoolbred who taking her mistresses good
(9-50)example is about to get married. Anne sent a letter to
(9-50)you with more to Edgeworthstown. She [and] Mama
(9-50)send kindest Love Addio Amata bene

(9-50)WALTER SCOTT
[Law]
TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

(9-50)MY DEAR SIR,- I have had my pen in my hand to write
to you repeatedly but this has been an unusually hurried
winter and you are aware I do not pique myself on being
a very regular correspondent. Many thanks for your

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(9-51)congratulations on Walters marriage it is a very different
launch from that we made with him on Cauldshiels Loch
but he has got a very amiable partner for the voyage of
Life and I trust they will make it out happily she has
considerable fortune and with prudence they will be
perfectly independent without it no one can be so. I am
only sorry they are so far from me but this has one good
consequence that God willing I will visit Ireland this
summer. I have always had a desire to go there and
casting this new motive into the scheme I daresay I will
make it out, so if I shake you by the hand in Molesworth
street in the course of summer do not think it is my ghost.
I must make the same compromise with you I make with
all my friends and intreat you when you confer the honor
of a dedication on me that you will confine it to a simple
inscription. I value the enclosed verses as expressing
your sentiments but I should be much concerned
by seeing them printed. The applause of friends is like
the fondness of Lovers very agreeable in private but rather
ridiculous before witnesses. Our age is more delicate
than the last and will not endure to see two honest
gentlemen standing complimenting each other at the beginning
of a book it is not nowadays the right thing. This boon
granted which I am very serious in asking I will be
delighted to see your Irish tale and I am sure your Ireland
gives ample scope and verge for such a work.
I trust to see your portrait of Shakespeare the best readings of Shakespeare are with all their varieties to be found in the variorum editions so that I suppose Mr. Lockheart will be satisfied with consulting them there. My own share in the publication (if it go on) is scarce worth mentioning being only the condensing the little which is known of Shakespeare and the quantity of information we possess of his time into a popular and readable shape in short the object is to make a deep and at the same time an interesting impression on the public.

The acorn and walnut seeds look all excellently and in a way of prospering and destined for favourite spots in my wild dominions. I hope that poor Mrs Maturin's matters will get on better, but ill luck seems to pursue the family. Sophia has not been quite well for which she has to thank parties and Balls she is better however and little John Hugh well and in spirits as I hear they are all in Edinburgh—Chiefs wood for the time solitary I am dear sir

Your obliged & faithful WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 26th March 1825

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO DANIEL TERRY, LONDON

EDINBURGH (2) [March-April] 1825

MY DEAR TERRY.—I received your long confidential letter; and as the matter is in every respect important, I have given it my anxious consideration. "The plot is a good plot, and the friends, though I know them only by your report, are, I doubt not, good friends, and full
of expectation." 1 There are, however, two particulars unfavourable to all theatrical speculations, and of which you are probably better aware than I am. The first is, that every scheme depending on public caprice must be irregular in its returns. I remember John Kemble, complaining to me of Harry Siddons's anxious and hypochondriac fears about his Edinburgh concern, said, "He does not consider that no theatre whatever can be considered as a regular source of income, but must be viewed as a lottery, at one time strikingly successful, at another a total failure." Now this affects your scheme in two ways. First, you can hardly expect, I fear, your returns to be so regular every season, even though your calculation be just as to the recent average. And, secondly, you must secure some fund, either of money or credit, to meet those blanks and bad seasons which must occasionally occur. The best business is ruined when it becomes pinched for money, and gets into the circle of discounting bills, and buying necessary articles at high prices and of inferior quality, for the sake of long credit. I own your plan would have appeared to me more solid, though less splendid, if Mr Jones, or any other monied man, had retained one-half or one-third of the adventure; for every speculation requires a certain command of money, and cannot be conducted with any plausibility upon credit alone. It is easy to make it feasible on paper, but the times of payment arrive to a certainty. Those of supply are less certain, and cannot be made to meet the demands with the same accuracy. A month's difference between demand and receipt makes loss of credit;—loss
of credit is in such a case ruin. I would advise you and
Mr Yates to consider this, and sacrifice some view of
profit to obtain stability by the assistance of some monied
man—a class of whom many are in your great city just gaping
for such an opportunity to lay out cash to advantage.

This difficulty—the want of solid cash—is an obstacle
to all attempts whatsoever; but there is something, it
would seem, peculiarly difficult in managing a theatre.
All who practise the fine arts in any department are, from
the very temperament necessary to success, more irritable,
jealous, and capricious, than other men made up of
heavier elements; but the jealousy among players is
signally active, because their very persons are brought
into direct comparison, and from the crown of the
head to the sole of the foot they are pitted by the public
in express rivalry against each other. Besides, greatly as
the profession has risen in character of late years, theatrical
talent must still be found frequently allied with imperfect
general education, low habits, and sometimes the follies
and vices which arise out of them. All this makes, I
should think, a theatre very difficult to manage, and liable
to sudden checks when your cattle jibb, or do not work
kindly. I think you have much of the talent to manage
this; and bating a little indolence, which you can always
conquer when you have a mind and a motive, I know no
one whose taste, temper, and good sense, make him more
likely to gain the necessary influence over the performers.
But il faut de l’argent—you must be careful in your situation
that a check shall not throw you on the breakers, and for
this there is no remedy but a handsome provision of the
blunt. This is the second particular, I think, unfavourable
to undertakings of a theatrical description, and
against which I would wish to see you guarded by a more
ample fund than your plan involves.
You have of course ascertained from the books of the theatre that the returns of receipts are correct; but I see no provision made for wear and tear of stock, expense of setting up new pieces, &c. which, in such an undertaking, must be considerable. Perhaps it is included in the charge of \[36\, \text{per night}\]; but if not, it seems to me that it will materially alter your calculations for the worse, for you are naturally disposed to be liberal in such expenses, and the public will expect it. Without baits the fish cannot be caught. I do not state these particulars from any wish to avoid assisting you in this undertaking; much the contrary. If I saw the prospect of your getting fairly on the wing, nothing could give me more pleasure than to assist to the extent of my means, and I shall only, in that case, regret that they are at present more limited than I could wish, by circumstances which I will presently tell you. But I should not like to see you take flight, like the ingenious mechanist in Rasselas—only to flutter a few yards, and fall into the lake. This would be a most heart-breaking business, and would hang like a millstone about your neck for all your life. Capital and talent will do excellent things together; but depend on it, talent without capital will no more carry on an extensive and progressive undertaking of this nature, than a racehorse will draw a Newcastle waggon. Now, I cannot at present assist you with ready money, which is the great object in your undertaking. This year has been, owing to many reasons, the heaviest of my expenditure, and the least fruitful of profit, because various anxieties attending Walter's marriage, and feasting, &c. after it, have kept me from my usual lucrative labours. It has no doubt been a most advantageous concern, for he has got an amiable girl, whom he loves, and who is warmly attached
to him, with a very considerable fortune. But I have had
find cash for the purchase of a troop for him—about 3500 : item, the bride's jewels, and so forth, becoming her situation and fortune, 500 : item, for a remount to him on joining his regiment, equipage for quarters, carriage, and other things, that they may enter life with a free income, 1000 at least. Moreover, I am a sharer

to the extent of 1500 on a railroad, which will bring coals and lime here at half price, and double the rent of the arable part of my property, but is dead outlay in the meantime; and I have shares in the oil-gas, and other promising concerns, not having resisted the mania of the day, though I have yielded to it but soberly; also, I have the dregs of Abbotsford House to pay for—and all besides my usual considerable expenditure; so I must look for some months to be put to every corner of my saddle. I could not let my son marry her like a beggar; but, in the meantime, I am like my namesake in the days of the crusades—Walter the Penniless.

Every one grumbles at his own profession, but here is the devil of a calling for you, where a man pays 3000 for an annuity of 400 a year and less—renounces his freewill in almost every respect—must rise at five every morning to see horses curried—dare not sleep out of a particular town without the leave of a cross colonel, who is often disposed to refuse it merely because he has the power to do so; and, last of all, may be sent to the most unhealthy climates to die of the rot, or be shot like a black-cock. There is a per contra, to be sure—fine clothes and fame; but the first must be paid for, and the other is not come by by one out of the hundred. I shall
be anxious to know what you are able to do. Your ready
is the devil—

"The thing may to-morrow be all in your power,
But the money, gadzooks, must be paid in an hour."

If you were once set a-rolling, time would come round
with me, and then I should be able to help you a little
more than at present. Meanwhile, I am willing to help
you with my credit by becoming one of your guarantees
to the extent of £1250.

But what I am most anxious about is to know how
you raise the £5000 cash: if by bills and discounts, I beg
to say I must decline having to do with the business at
all; for besides the immense expense of renewals, that
mode of raising money is always liable to some sudden
check, which throws you on your back at once, and I
should then have hurt myself and deprived myself of the
means of helping you some other way. If you can get
such a sum in loan for a term of years certain, that would
do well. Still better, I think, could you get a monied
partner in the concern to pay the sum down, and hold
some £2000 more ready for current expenses. I wish to
know whether in the £36 for nightly expenses you include
your own salary, within which you would probably think
it prudent to restrain your own expenses, at least for a year
or two; for, believing as I do, that your calculation of
£70 per night (five per cent. on the outlay) is rather
sanguine, I would like to know that your own and Mr
Yates’s expenses were provided for, so as to leave the
receipts, whatever they may be, free to answer the burdens.
If they do so, you will have great reason to be contented.
I need not add that Theodore Hook's assistance will be impayable. On the whole, my apprehension is for want of money in the outset. Should you either start with marked success, or have friends sufficient to carry on at some disadvantage for a season or two, I should have little fear; but great attention and regularity will be necessary. You are no great accountant yourself, any more than I am,—but I trust Mr Yates is. All rests with prudence and management. Murray is making a fortune for his sister and family on the very bargain which Siddons, poor fellow, could not have sustained for two years longer. If I have seemed more cautious in this matter than you might expect from my sincere regard for you,

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it is because caution is as necessary for you as myself; and I assure you I think as deeply on your account as on my own. I beg kind compliments to Mrs Terry, and inclose a lock of my gray hair, which Jane desired me to send you for some brooch or clasp at Hamlet's.—Ever yours,

WALTER SCOTT
[Lockhart]

TO HENRY MACKENZIE

MY DEAR SIR,—I take the advantage of Mr. Ballantynes return to Edinburgh to return you in safety the collection of Reminiscences 1 which I am happy to find you taken the trouble to write and with the same vein of humour with which you introduce them so happily in society.

Two or three trifling remarks struck me—The flying
(9-58) A descent is well described in the Fool of Quality. But he was not the first of his trade. Old Bervie [?] in his diary mentions a man who flew from the top of Saint Giles's steeple down to the High street playing "sic soopele tricks on ane tow " that the citizens were greatly astonished. The boiling lead apparently swallowed by fire-eaters is in fact quick silver.

(9-58) About the Quarterly Review I certainly advised the setting it up; but Gifford was always the manager nor did I contribute above five or six articles.

(9-59) On the subject of the Edinr. Concert the strange and gothic custom of d——ning or saving the ladies is too particular to be forgotten.

(9-59) I have heard the story about the money told of Donald Gunn. I fear Rob Roy would have "impeticosed the gratility " as Shakesppear's clown says.

(9-59) Kouli Khan; The Glasgow people shewed an odd desire to appropriate even Robespierre—nothing would convince them that he was not an insolvent merchant of their own good town called Robert or Rob Spiers.

(9-59) Genl Melville. He passed my friend George Ellis on the Rhetian Alps pushing forward to investigate what he thought the route of Hannibal. Two days after Ellis met him on his return. " What the deuce has turned you back."—" I cannot get my elephant over the rock " said Melville.

(9-59) About large or small houses it must be conceded to the
present age that their residences are much more healthy.

My father & mother, healthy people, while residing high
above the Anchor Close in the High Street lost six children
successively.1 They went to the south side of the town
as you may remember and behold Six children grew up
to be men and women.

Forgive these scraps my dear Sir. As you bid me
mention anything that occurs may I be pardoned from

hinting that Sir Hay Campbells death is perhaps rather
too recent for publishing strictures on his judicial character
though you are quite just.1

I am sorry for the fatal Gas accident. We have such an
inspector & he was sent for but unhappily the mischief
took place before his arrival ; with Davys safety lamp the
matter would have been safe & simple.

We feel the case required a combination of all the
circumstances of a long previous escaping of Gas into a
very confined place without vent either at door or window
and finally the incaution of entering with a light to render
it so calamitous. It will not affect the Stock which
though it sank at first is now risen 4 per cent premium ;
as furiously Nervous people will be timbersome,2 as Dr Love
says, but the use of gas must soon become universal.

Here is a skimble skamble sort of letter. Believe [me]
always my dear and venerable Sir With the greatest
respect Your very faithful humble Servt

WALTER SCOTT
The deuce take your March dust: the drought which has produced it will lose me certain scores of pounds in letting grass parks this day when grass is none.

[Thompson]

TO WALTER SCOTT, 15TH KINGS HUSSARS, BARRACKS, CORKE

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—I receive[d] your joint composition without a date but which circumstances enabled me to fix as written upon the 24 or 25th. March.3 I am very sorry on Janes account for the unpleasant necessity of night journies and the inconvenience of bad quarters. I almost wish you had stuck by your original plan of leaving Jane at Edgeworthstown. As for you Mr Walter I do not grudge your being obliged to pay a little deference to the wig and gown—Cedant arma togae is a lesson well taught at an assize. But although you thanks to the discipline of the most excellent of fathers have been taught not to feel greatly the inconvenience of night journies or bad lodgings yet my poor Jane who has not had these advantages must I fear feel very uncomfortable and I hope you will lay your plans so as that [she] shall be exposed to them as little as possible. I like old songs and I like to hear Jane sing them but I would not like that she had cause to sing

Oh but I'm weary with wandering
Oh but my fortunes are bad
It sits not a gentle young lady
To follow a sodger lad.

But against the recurrence of these inconveniences I am sure Walter will provide as well as he can. I hope you have deliverd your introduction to Mrs Scott (of Hardens) friend in the neighbourhood of Corke—Good introductions should never be neglected though numerous ones are rather a bore—A ladys society especially when entering on life should be as they are said to chuse their liquor—little but [good] and Mrs Scott being really a woman of fashion a character not quite so frequent in reality as aspired to, and being besides such an old friend of yours is likely to introduce you to valuable and creditable society.

We had a visit from Lockhart yesterday. He rode out the Saturday with a friend and they dined here remaind Sunday and left us this morning early. I felt obliged to him for going immediatly to Mrs Jobsons when the explosion took place so near her in my friend Colin MacKenzies premises. She had experienced no inconvenience but the immediate fright—for the shock was tremendous and was rather proud of the substantial capacity of the house which had not a pane broken when many of the adjoining tenements scarce had one left.

We have had our share of casualties. Sybill 1 came with [a blank and a blot in MS.] me but without any injury but Tom Purdie being sent on some business by Mr Laidlaw she fell with him and rolld over him and bruised him very much. This is rather too bad so I shall be on the pave for a poney my neck being rather precious.
I am incompetent to offer advice about Capt Macalpine's troop but I think it is your interest to buy it is also his to sell. I should also suppose that he conceives in your situation the highest price may be asked—and that probably for a little delay you will get the troop cheaper. But as I said before it is a matter out of my sphere and I can only do my best to help you when you think you have made a reasonable bargain.

Touching Col. Thwackwell 2 of whom I know nothing but the name which would bespeak him a strict disciplinarian I suppose you are now arrived at that time of life when you can take your ground from your observation without being influenced by the sort of cabal which often exists in our army especially in the corps where the officers are men of fortune or expectations against a commanding officer. The execution of his duty is not always popular to young men who may like the dress and show of a regimental officer better than the discharge of his regimental duty. And it often happens that a little pettishness on the one side begets a little repulsiveness of manner on the other so that it becomes the question how the one shall command and the other obey in the way most disagreeable to the other without a responsible infringement of duty—This is the shame of our army—and in a greater degree that of our navy. A sensible and reflecting man keeps as much aloof as possible from such feuds. You have seen the world more than when you joind the 18th. I trust you will find a less divided regimental Mess but at any rate you have both the experience and the means to avoid mixing yourself up with idle factions. I will be anxious on account of my dear Jane that the regiment moves to Dublin on the 20th as proposed.
I suppose the stop at Cahir is now out of the question. I certainly hope to see you at Dublin. Mama and Anne threaten to accompany me but for this I have no great taste. Mama especially hates the sea dislikes bad beds and has an utter horror for night-journeys so it would be a progress of penance for her in the execution whatever it may be in the prospect and I suspect Anne has little more resolution or patience.

The Catholic question seems like to be accommodated at present. I hope though I doubt a little, that Ireland will be the quieter & the people more happy. I suspect however it is laying a plaster to the foot while the head aches & that the fault is in the landholders extreme exactions not in the disabilities of the Catholics or any more remote cause.

My dearest Jane pray take care of yourself and write me soon what you see and what you are doing. I hope it will contain a more pleasant account of your travels than the last. I trust Walters scattered forces, his horses and his baggage and yours have all arrived safely at Corke.

Mama and Anne send best loves. I hope my various letters have all come to your hand and am my dear children always your affectionate father.

WALTER SCOTT
ABBOTSFORD 4th April [1825]

[Bayley]
TO J. G. LOCKHART, ADVOCATE

(9-64)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—There is life as they say in a mussell and the inclosed from Lady Stafford is so promising that I cannot but hand it to you. I am much pleased with her good nature on the occasion. There will be a strike of work at the Table unless some new appointment takes place. Love to Sophia and John the preux chevalier.

(9-64)Yours affectionately

W SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD friday [8th April 1825] (1)

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD

(9-64)MY DEAR LADY STAFFORD,—Allow me to express my sincere and most grateful thanks for the kind manner in which your ladyship has condescended to attend to Lockhart's concern under circumstances which is the more particularly flattering, as you could only have done so by overcoming upon our account feelings which it was both natural and proper to your ladyship to entertain. I have heard nothing of the matter myself for several weeks and months. My friend, the Advocate, was so intolerably wise and mysterious on the subject the last time it was mentioned that I vow that to be made Sheriff of all Scotland either in a friend's person or my own, I could not have attempted again to penetrate the deep and awful gloom. The game to be played is a sort of gambit at chess. First, old Mr. Ferrier is to be permitted to

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resign his office of clerk of Session on some superannuation,
the poor gentleman being upwards of eighty years
old, and having wasted eyes, years, and understanding to
the last dregs in writing the judgements of the Court of
Session for thirty or forty [years]. This old horse released
from the carriage, James Fergusson, who vacates a place
called a commissaryship, where he judges of all the
iniquities of marrying and not marrying, and marrying
once too often, and getting unmarried again altogether,
is to be conferd on your present sheriff, Charles Ross.

Et puis Charles Ross, having succeeded to all these
functions of marrying and putting asunder, I have been
led to entertain hopes that Lockhart may succeed in his
view. I should be delighted in it, for it is always getting
pignon sur la vie, and I think Lord Stafford and your
ladyship would be gratified with his acquaintance, as he
is perfectly a gentleman, and with a very uncommon
share of talent and information. When this happy
consummation will take place, or whether it is likely to take
place at all I really do not know. Like the old beggar
with the blue cloak and the pike-staff, I can submit to
make one bow and hold my hat out once, for what is not
worth asking is not worth having. But I am too old
and stiff to gird up my loins and run after folks chariot
wheels till they give to importunity. But, after all, this
is only a petted way of taking the little diplomatic secrecy
which great folks observe on great occasions, such as
bestowing sheriffdoms; and, I dare say, I am complaining
without reason. Only, I cannot forget that I went
expressly on purpose to Dalkeith when Lord Advocate 1

wished to be sheriff of Edinburgh, which he got entirely
by my interest with the late Duke of Buccleuch, and I
never kept him a moment in suspense about the matter.
After all, I am a sad dog to grumble, for the world has all my life gone very well with me. I have had more friends than I deserved, and if like an enfant gâté I tire a little of State mysteries, it is because the distinction of such kind friends as Lady Stafford has perhaps made me a little self-conceited. Above all, I should be thankful that the dispositions of my family and their success in life, as far as they have yet commenced its voyage, has more than answered my hopes and expectations. My eldest son was married in February to a young lady of considerable fortune, and to whom he was attached. They are rather a young couple, as he is scarce 24; but long engagements are like long avenues, you tire of the house before you reach it, and though an only child, and an heiress, she gallantly determined to carry the young soldiers portmanteau.

This new cause of interest has induced me to change the purpose about which your ladyship enquires of going to town this season, as I intend to go to Dublin or Corke, if the 15th Hussars, my son's regiment, shall continue there, and see how the young folks are carrying on menage. I should like to see Green Erin too, for I am a great admirer of the Irish, if it were not for their ugly propensity to cut throats, the benefit of which, I believe, they chiefly confine to themselves.

I fear, therefore, I will not have an Opportunity to express my very sincere and grateful thanks for your ladyship's goodness until you visit Scotland, when it will go hard but I find a time to say what I feel very deeply. With my most respectful compliments to the marquis, I ever am, dear lady marchioness, your truly obliged and grateful humble servant, WALTER SCOTT
(9-66)ABBOTSFORD, 11 April 1825.

[Fraser's Sutherland Book]

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TO MRS. HUGHES

(9-67)ABBOTSFORD 12 April [1825]

(9-67)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,—I should be worse than ungrateful
(9-67)did I not immediately communicate Lady Scott's
(9-67)gratitude as well as my own for the kind and parental
(9-67)notice which the good Doctor, your son and above all
(9-67)yourself have so very obligingly bestown on our young
(9-67)Oxonian. His future welfare in life must depend so
(9-67)much upon the habits which he adopts during his present
(9-67)state of freewill as it may be in some degree termd that we
(9-67)cannot but account ourselves inexpressibly indebted to
(9-67)those who admit him into society—alike favourable to his
(9-67)manners and his morals. I am sure he has that kind and
(9-67)affectionate disposition which will remember with deep
(9-67)gratitude the kindness you have shewn him. I am afraid
(9-67)Her Grace of Buckingham will think she has received a
(9-67)guest at your hand of rather an uncommon description at
(9-67)Stowe—a wild boy from the Scottish hills improved by an
(9-67)education chiefly bestow'd upon the mountains of Wales.
(9-67)However he would not I think make his deficiencies very
(9-67)obtrusive unless he has got a little more of the metal
(9-67)from which his college takes its name than he used to
(9-67)have before he became a Man as he calls himself of
(9-67)Brazen Nose. He writes in the highest terms of delight
(9-67)with what he has seen at Stowe and especially with
(9-67)the Duc[h]ess's kindness & affability which he justly
(9-67)sets down to the patronage under which he made his
(9-67)entree.
Touching the Clan tartans I have always understood those distinctions to be of considerable antiquity though probably the distinction was neither so minute nor so invariably adhered to as it is in general the custom to suppose. I have myself known many old people that were out in 1715 and I have understood that generally speaking the clan tartans were observed by the more numerous & powerful names—but many used a sort of brown & purple tartan and there were more from remote corners that had no tartan at all nor plaid either but a sort of dress worn by children in Scotland & called a polony (polonaise perhaps) which is just a jacket and petticoat all in one buttoning down in front from the throat to a palm's breadth above the knee. Very many had no bonnet their shaggy hair being tied back with a thong or a garter and very many had neither hose nor shoes. The custom of clan tartans arose very naturally—the weaver was, after the smith & carpenter a man of consequence whose art was transmitted from father to son and when he lighted on what he thought a good Sett or mixture of the colours he was unwilling to change and the clan creatures of habit in most instances gradually became attached to it and adopted it as a sort of uniform of the tribe. It is certain that in 1739 when the Black Watch or independent Companies of highlanders were formed into the 42d Regiment a doubt arose what tartan they should wear as hitherto the independent companies had worn the colours of those officers who commanded them. But none of these being entitled to a preference which others would probably have resented there was
formed a new Sett composed out of different Tartans &
still known as the 42d colour. Again and in 1745 when
the Chevalier landed he chose a tartan for himself of a
colour different from any clan tartan which existed to
avoid shewing a predilection for any particular tribe and
I have heard repeatedly that the Stewarts both of Athole
and Appin grumbled a little that he did not take the
colours of his own clan. Indeed a moments consideration
will shew that if the distinction of clan tartans had not
existed at the time of the 1745 it could never have existed
at all. For there was neither time nor means to introduce
it at the time of the rising when all came with such clothes
as they had nor was there a possibility of introducing
such distinctions after 1745 when the dress was prohibited
by government under the penalty of imprisonment and
transportation. The poor Highlanders were reduced
to great distress by this law—most of them both unwilling
and unable to obtain lowland dresses endeavoured to
elude the law by dying their highland tartans to one
colour dark green crimson purple or often black—I have
seen them wearing such dresses myself as long since as
1785. I have no doubt that Mrs. MacLeod 1 dined with a
party of gentlemen dressed without the least respect to
clan colours for it was no time to observe these distinctions
when the plaid itself was an illegal garb. Her mother
was not married till long after 1745 so she can have no
personal recollections of what the highlanders did before
that period. By the way the MacLeods at Dunvegan
might drink Charles's health but they fought for King
George and were defeated by Lord Lewis Gordon at
Inverury. So much for Highland dress—I could say a
great deal more but it would only be tiresome. I must

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however add that though I am sure I could show that
the Clan tartans were in use a great many years before 1745 I do not believe a word of the nonsense about every clan or name having a regular pattern which was undeviatingly adhered to and the idea of assigning tartans to the Douglasses Hamiltons & other great Lowland families (who never wore tartan) has become so general that I am sure if the Duke of Buckingham had asked at some of the shops in Stirling or Edinr his own family tartan they would not have faild to assign him one.

As to the kissing affair I it was a great fashion among the Scots of the last generation male & female. On the other hand as every period has its own fanciful limits of decorum I remember old people being much shock'd at seeing the modern fashion of gentlemen affording the full protection of their arm in leaving the drawing room with their fair partners whereas old fashiond etiquette only permitted such a slight junction of the finger and thumb as was allow'd in the minuet—" I canna bide to see them oxtering the men that gate " was the observation of an old Scotch lady of fashion to me scarce a dozen years since.

I have been horribly ungrateful not to thank Mr. Berens very particularly for the sketches especially poor Leydens. It is as far as I know the only memorial of the features of one who lived too short [a] time for his friends his country and general Knowlege and recalls him to my recollection in the most lively colours. I beg my most particular thanks to Mr. Beren[s] and am scarce able to believe that this is the first time I have expressed them for a favour so deeply valued.

I am much concerned about Charles's deafness especially as he must rise in the world by his own exertions to
which such an infirmity is a great impediment. I have always thought that it was in some measure nervous and depended much on his state of health and spirits. It is combined with a tendency to abstraction and absence of mind which I have observed it increases as on the other hand it is, increased by this sort of mental deafness. I wish him to see or correspond with Charles Bell from whose prescriptions he has formerly received benefit.

Here is an unmerciful letter. But when I begin to write to a valued friend I never know how to leave off and when I leave off I scarce know how to begin again. Lady Scott offers kindest & most grateful remembrances & I beg to be most kindly rememberd to the Dr. & Mr. Hughes. I am flattered that he thinks Charles worth his notice. I will write to Charles in a day or two. In the meanwhile perhaps you will be so good as to say to him that his brothers direction is 15th Hussars Barracks Corke Ireland. They expect soon to change for Dublin in the meanwhile Walters bride is like the maid of the mill in the Scots song

The mill, mill O, and the kill, kill O,
And the cogging of the wheel O,
The sack and the sieve all these you must leave,
And round with a sodger reel O.

As much of this valuable letter is intended to satisfy his Grace of Buckingham's curiosity about the highland dress I take the liberty of putting it under his covers. There remains ample room for a most interesting and curious dissertation on the gradual alterations which were introduced in the highlands from the period of Montroses wars when they first began to make some figure in history down to the present day. This will scarce be
done however for the highlanders contend for everything and are under the great misapprehension of supposing they derive honour from manifest fables whereas there is another cold-blooded set of folks who will not allow them the merit which they certainly deserve. Thus far is certain that this is the only case in which it might be distinctly shown how civilization broke in on patriarchal habits. Many of the highland Chiefs in the earlier part of the 18th century had two distinct characters—that of an accomplished gentleman in London & beyond the highland line that of a chief of an almost independant tribe. No more room. W. SCOTT

TO GEORGE HUNTLY GORDON

[Extract]

12th April 1825

MY DEAR MR GORDON,—I would have made some additions to your sermon with great pleasure, but it is with even more than great pleasure that I assure you it needs none. It is a most respectable discourse, with good divinity in it, which is always the marrow and bones of a Concio ad clerum, and you may pronounce it, meo periculo, without the least danger of failure or of unpleasant comparisons. I am not fond of Mr Irving's species of eloquence, consisting of outre flourishes and extravagant metaphors. The eloquence of the pulpit should be of a chaste and dignified character; earnest, but not high-flown and ecstatic, and consisting as much in close
reasoning as in elegant expression. It occurs to me as a good topic for more than one discourse,—the manner in which the heresies of the earlier Christian Church are treated in the Acts and the Epistles. It is remarkable, that while the arguments by which they are combated are distinct, clear, and powerful, the inspired writers have not judged it proper to go beyond general expressions, respecting the particular heresies which they combated. If you look closely, there is much reason in this. ... In general, I would say, that on entering on the clerical profession, were it my case, I should be anxious to take much pains with my sermons, and the studies on which they must be founded. Nothing rewards itself so completely as exercise, whether of the body or mind. We sleep sound, and our waking hours are happy, because they are employed; and a little sense of toil is necessary to the enjoyment of leisure, even when earned by study and sanctioned by the discharge of duty. I think most clergymen diminish their own respectability by falling into indolent habits, and what players call walking through their part. You, who have to beat up against an infirmity, and, it may be, against some unreasonable prejudices arising from that infirmity, should determine to do the thing not only well, but better than others. ... 

[Lockhart]

TO JOHN GIBSON LOCKHART, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET [EDINBURGH]

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I have a letter from Jane which I inclose & request you to have the goodness to attend to a commission of Walters about a cartouche box which
(9-73) seems pressing. The Maid says that if left in Edinr. it is
(9-73) in a drawer with his highland dress. He seems to be
(9-73) doomed to be always L'homme qui cherche.

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(9-74) When Sophia and you have read the letter will you hand
(9-74) it to Mrs Jobson and say that I will have an opportunity
(9-74) of an office frank in two or three days so that if she or
(9-74) Sophia chuse to write it may be sent to Mr Bal[lantyne
(9-74) . . 1] to me so as to find the [ . . 1] come there.

(9-74) I was down at Chiefswood looking at your bridge &
(9-74) damdike which being in the character of great works of
(9-74) public utility I wonder you had set them on foot without
(9-74) a joint Stock company. It may be as well to say that
(9-74) I was suddenly taken very sick with shuddering and
(9-74) headache which obliged me to lie down at Huntly Burn
(9-74) till I could send for the carriage but it has [been] merely
(9-74) a fit of my old friend the bile who has been of late a very
(9-74) rare visitor. I am to day as well as ever I was in my life.
(9-74) I fear Sophia might have some distorted account of this
(9-74) matter otherwise not worth mentioning.

(9-74) I quite agree with you to follow Popes plan on Mr
(9-74) Christophero Sly.2 I have an idea that much of this sort
(9-74) of interlude was left to the extempore wit of the actors as
(9-74) in the Italian Commedia del arte. We had something
(9-74) resembling this on our ancient stage—plots blockd out by
(9-74) the dramatist & characters assignd the diction of which
(9-74) was filld up by the actors from their mother wit.

[Unsigned 3]

(9-74) ABBOTSFORD 16 April [1825]
TO CHARLES SCOTT, B.N. COLLEGE, OXFORD

(9-74)MY DEAR CHARLES,—I am truly obliged to Dr and Mrs Hughes for taking such kind care of you and only wish I had better means than mere thanks to offer in requital. It was particular[ly] obliging to introduce you at Stowe one of the first houses certainly in England and which has long retaind that high character. There is this advantage in the very first society that it teaches a young man to hold the low strutting straddling make-believe sort of fashion which generally consists in caricaturing the manner of the great or what they conceive to be such with the contempt such affectation deserves. We should have been much honourd by receiving the Duchess of Buckingham because we would have been sure that in conferring on us the honour of her company Her Grace would have come prepared to make our good will supply any wants in the accommodation we had to offer.

Mama Anne and I are living here as quietly as possibly can be : I grieve much to say we have but sorry news of little John Hugh—an ugly cough & fever has affected the poor dear child whose acute intellect and slender form often remind me of the line of Richd IIId.

So wise and young they say seldom live long.

But I trust it will be better with the poor infant in whom his father & mothers happiness seem so absolutely wrapd up and absorbed. Children often endure much none more than Sophia herself who till she had the small pox
was very sickly indeed. So we'll hope the best—what else have we for it.

Walter has arrived in safety with his wife at Corke and joined his regiment. They march on the 20th current for Dublin so a letter addressd to him Kings Hussars Barracks Dublin will readily find him.

I visited his newly acquired territories for a day It is a very classical region being the Urbs Orrea (the name is still preserved in Loch-Ore) where Agricola as you may see in Tacitus had on his retreat through Fife nearly lost the ninth legion. Agricolas camp is almost destroyd to make a farm steading but a variety of cairns & tumuli attest the hardness of the conflict. There was a loch now draind in which was built upon an islet a pretty little castle still in preservation i.e. the ruins I was told of some curious monuments in the church but had not time to visit them.

Matters here go on as usual—only Tom Purdie has had a dangerous fall from Sybil Grey or rather with her as she rolld over him and bruised him. He is recovering slowly and still uses a crutch.

How does your money come on? Look into your affairs & let me know [how] you stand with the world for habits of debt are easily acquired and are most fatal to honour and independence of feeling; and I am always willing to do what is reasonable to prevent any apology of that kind.

I am uncertain whether this will find you at [MS. cut
College or still with Mrs Hughes. [MS. cut here]

direct to B. Nose however [suppos]ing you will have left
orders to forward your letters. Pheasants are very plenty
with us—a cock or two may fall next season and rather do
good. I am going to get you such a gun as Colonel
Fergussons one of the best I ever saw. Do you prefer the
explosive lock or the old fashioned prime and load. Forrest
at Jedburgh is the maker. I scarce ever saw better gun-
smiths work. All this is [in] hope you are to thump hard
away at the studies.

Mrs Hughes tells me—what I am much concernd to
hear—that you are rather complaining more of your
deafness than usual. I wish you would consult Charles
Bell either in person or by letter. It is such a serious
impediment to almost every professional exertion that if
any care or remedy could prevent it, neglect would be
unpardonable.

Remember Mama Anne & me kindly to Dr and Mrs
Hughes if you are still in their hospitable mansion. Anne
and Mama send kindest love to you and I am always Dear
Charles Your affectionate father WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 16 April [1825]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[Law]

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TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[circa middle of April 1825] (1)

MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,—I have not forgiven
Walter for his breach of appointment which was very
thoughtless after having permitted me to give you so much trouble. It is a very thoughtless thing in young people to make engagements which they do not mean to keep and though I can pardon a young woman just from her mother's charge I have [no] patience with a man who has seen the world and should know at least the rules of good breeding to the world in general if not what was particularly due on this occasion. Their stay in London was prolonged to the very last minute in order that he might attend a levee of the commander in chief. They had then a very stormy passage and fell in with the assizes which made their journey very uncomfortable for though it is quite right that, according to our old latin brocard, Arms should give way to the Gown yet petticoats do not owe the same deference. So I fancy that Jane had got frightend and afraid to quit convoy—at least this is all I can make of it. She is lucky in finding a married lady of good manners following the drum or rather the trumpet in the same regiment and they are both fond of Music and play duets which will help to keep concord between them. 1 By-the-bye I should add that they separated from their heavy baggage—perhaps it had the favourite gown in it—Who knows whether this might not be one spoke in the wheel—Walter used always to put me in mind of a character in a fairy tale called L'homme qui cherche 2 an unfortunate heroë spell bound who is condemned to spend his time in collecting and threading a rosary from which the beads alway escape and are dispersed anew. Walter's moveables are often in this condition—He has just sent a pressing request, that a cartouche-box forgotten in Edinburgh shall be sent without delay to Dublin and, what is worse I rather suspect that two horses worth [200] are seeking their own[er]
through the isle of Erin, or on the opposite shores of the sister kingdom—Charles on the other hand has established himself the Lord knows how at Stowe for a part of the Easter holidays and seems quite at home with the Duchess of Buckingham to whom I am hardly known.

I do most certainly intend to be at Dublin in the summer or autumn and indubitably one of my earliest objects will be to visit my kind friends at Edgeworthstown—so that any lion lovers in the neighbourhood who may have been disappointed at not seeing the lion's cub will be gratified by a sight of the old lion himself—though what can their curiosity desire more when they have such a first-rate lioness at their own door. I pique myself on being one of the best conditiond animals that ever was shown since the time of him who was in vain defied by the knight of the woeful figure— for I get up at the first touch of the pole rouse myself shake my mane lick my chops turn round lie down and go to sleep again. I have seen more irritable creatures than myself bounce and shew temper on these occasions but I know you at least agree with me and Snug the joiner That if one should as lion come in strife Into such place twere pity of his life.

Little Johnie Lockhart is not well—poor child its little frame is very delicate and I cannot but consider it as a threatening point on my horizon. A constant cough and low fever have sate on him for some weeks and made us apprehensive. But he has appetite and good spirits and we must hope the best—But I tremble when I think what a hoard of affection his parents have heaped upon the
poor infant who is really a very engaging child. We
must hope the best.

Depend upon it I will not fail to possess myself of the
books you recommend—it would be felony to neglect
your opinion of any and high treason when Ireland is
concerned. Jane writes me she has been much pleased

with the domain of a lady, Mrs. Newenham of Coolmore
near Corke to whom they had been introduced by Mrs.
Scott of Harden. She says that property forms a very
agreeable contrast to other places which she has seen
where the proprietors are absentees. I am glad she carries
her eyes about her however.

Your infantine work will delight me exceedingly. I am
very fond of philological researches and should think
language much improved by using in every possible case
at least with children a word in its primitive and not its
secondary or metaphorical meaning. If it were esteemed
necessary (which I cannot see) to use an active verb to
express what new denomination is acquired by two and
two when put together I think two and two compose
four would be a more proper expression than make four
—but your are fills it up more simply and better for in
either case you would have to explain how the eggs
and flour and suet put together compose a pudding that
is are united into that generous and nutritious mass
which we Scotchmen upbraid the English with being so
partial to. Properly speaking we might say that the
number four like the pudding is made by the component
integers in the first instance and the ingredients in the
other being put together. But it is the cook and the
arithmetician [sic] who make the dish and the sum total
by adding these integers and these ingredients to each other.

To return to my hopes of a visit to Edgeworthstown, Beatrice is extremely desirous [to be] of the party and so is Lady Scott but I am afraid of the health of the last not so able now as in her younger days to endure indifferent accommodation and much given to be frightened where no fear is. I believe I must come alone unless I can bring Lockhart with me. Depend on it that if Walter and his little lady have not made the amende honorable by going on their knees at Edgeworthstown before I appear it will be only that they may wish to shelter their bad behaviour under my countenance. Delighted I shall be to see Ireland but as for writing about her—it would be interfering with the office which her guardian Spirity has discharged and will I trust continue to discharge to honour of her native land and the encouragement of reciprocal kindness between its inhabitants and those of the other Island. I believe and indeed I've known many a poor Irish labourer against whom fifteen years ago mens minds would have been hardened by prejudice and preconception who has been treated with kindness as the countryman of the postillion Jervy and his ... [MS. incomplete]

[Butler]

TO MRS. SCOTT, WALTER SCOTT, ESQ., KINGS HUSSARS, BARRACKS, DUBLIN

A THOUSAND thanks my dearest Jane for your kind letter. We foolish old bodies were beginning to get
anxious about you. I don't think Mrs Jobson has your
letter yet but I sent mine to her which will make her easy
on your behalf. After our duties to Heaven and our
neighbours are discharged when folks are putting up
with little inconveniences which cannot well be helped
and enjoying with moderation the amusements within
their reach they cannot as you say be very unhappy but
on the contrary if they add a little employment of an
useful kind for their leisure hours and are free from the
presence of misfortune are perhaps as nearly being happy
as this motley world of good and evil will permit and so
I willingly believe that you are, my love, at this moment.

We are rather anxious here about poor little Johnie
Lockhart. He has a bad cough & perpetual slight fever.
They supposed the hooping cough. Would to God it
were that or any thing one could give a name to. But I
fear it may be the gradual wasting of a constitution too
feeble for the active intellect of [a] darling infant. This
would be distressing to us all but a dreadful scene of
misery to Sophia and Lockhart who are wrapt up in the
poor child. Yet weakly children get through much—
one was ever more puny than Sophia who yet grew up
to be a very healthy young woman. So we will hope
the best.

Charles has establishd himself for the Easter Holidays
of all places in the world at Stowe from which he writes
with as much composure about the Duke & Duchess of
Buckingham as if his being of their party was the most
natural thing in the world and yet I know very little of
the family.
I am much interested in what you mention of Mr Newenhams plan for I have always thought that when proprietors desert their estates they do a most unjustifiable thing. The greatest miser or the most selfish spendthrift in the world if he is living among his dependents can no more help doing them some good less or more than the clouds can help dropping the rain they are charged with. But an absent landlord however beneficent is like a cloud dropping its rain in a distant country while that from which the exhalations rose which formed it is parched for want of moisture.

In case any other correspondent should mention it I was very ill yesterday for an hour or two—a fit of bile. I think. I had been set down at Chiefwood with the purpose of walking home when suddenly I began to shiver excessively with a violent headache & severe sickness. I walkd to Huntly Burn with difficulty being unable almost to see my way and when I came there I frightend the friendly weird-sisters 1 by asking to lie down while I sent a person for the carriage. I could not hold up my head all the remaining day an uncommon thing for one who enjoys such perfect good health but today Richard is himself again and as well as ever I was in my life. I think I owe my attack partly to eating at breakfast some kipper made of a fish out of season which is sometimes very deleterious to some constitutions though I never before experienced inconvenience from it.

Tell Walter our old relative and friend Sir Henry Hay Makdougal is dead—he will not care much nor is my grief excessive but he is a man I have known all my life and maintaing a friendly intercourse with in the old fashiond
(9-83)stile of cousinship and that always makes a little sensation
(9-83)—at least to old bodies.

(9-83)I had a letter from Miss Edgeworth. I wish I had been
(9-83)less confident of your being there for I suspect it has been
(9-83)a little disappointment though she takes it quite good
(9-83)humouredly. They wish to see you from Dublin which
(9-83)I hope Walters duties will admit of. She is a much
(9-83)valued friend of mine and I would not wish her to think
(9-83)herself neglected.

(9-83)Izaac Baillie (I will not call him Matthew though it
(9-83)comes to pen's end and tongue's end) was here last week
(9-83)& staid two or three days at Sir Adams. He brings us
(9-83)the most satisfactory intelligence of Mrs Jobsons good
(9-83)health and spirits. Sir Adam and his Lady go to Edinr.
(9-83)tomorrow and are to reside at Shandwick place. I am
(9-83)sorry to say the merry knight goes chiefly for the purpose
(9-83)of trying what effect the warm sea bath will produce on
(9-83)his lame knee which does not mend as one could wish.
(9-83)He walks better however than when you last saw him.

(9-83)It is a great point gaind that you have a pleasant
(9-83)companion in the regiment. I dare say the duets will
(9-83)go on admirably and will have the advantage of maintaining
(9-83)concord betwixt you most infallibly. Capt. Studd

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(9-84)what a happy name for a cavalry officer. He could be
(9-84)nothing else. As Peter Tytler sweetly sings

(9-84)His infant foot
(9-84)Must have filld the boot
(9-84)His infant trews the saddle.1
No concatenation of circumstances could have given Captain Studd a company of infantry. Talking of Studs I am sorry to hear Walters horses have not joined him yet. I have committed to Lockhart the charge of seeking for & forwarding the cartouche-box judging he might know something more of the matter than the house maid though but a yeoman which is only one degree better I suppose than a chambermaid in the eyes of a lady of the regulars where military matters are concerned.

Did you ever read the Trois princes de Sarendip? I lay you sixpence—no—you have to go through a course of nonsense-reading which I will take in charge to superintend one day or other. Well but in the said Oriental tale there is a certain L’homme qui cherche—a spell-bound prince who is condemned to spend his time day after day in collecting and stringing a certain rosary of beads which always break and are dispersed just when he has almost completed his task. Now Walter is always l’homme qui cherche some of his accoutrements are always straggling. Cure him of this bad habit if you can—"Thank you for nothing" says Jane "I assure you Sir W. that I have enough to do to keep my own things in order. Rebecca does flirt so much with that Sergeant that she minds nothing."—

I hope this will find you settled at Dublin and free of Corke where your situation must be very uncomfortable with so much time left on your hands without either the usual modes of employing it or amusing it. Walter will be nearer you I conclude at Dublin and able to pay you more attention than with a towns breadth between you. Lady Scott and Anne are very well. Anne talks of writing in which case I will send this to London for an office
(9-85) frank—

(9-85) Take notice—whenever you want to send any paper or small packet of papers—or two or three letters for which you may not care the parties should pay postage you may address them in a cover to me under outward cover to John Wilson Croker Esq Admiralty London or to Francis Freling Esq P.O.G. London and I will receive them safely & distribute them as you may direct. But do not let my letters wait for any such conveyance—they are always worth postage. While we are on the subject of finance I fancy these marchings and countermarchings must have brought Walter near the bottom of his purse and you know I want him to get into no debt or even into any advance upon your income. Such encumbrances which military gentlemen call pulling the devil by the tail begin with trifles and become habitual. So if Walter wishes an extra 100 he may draw on Coutts to my accompt and I will advise them to answer it for you must at first have many disadvantages as well as a little inexperience as house keepers to contend with.

(9-85) Let me know if you have seen the regiment out and how the march came on and whether you went before the Corps or after it. In short never think you can bore me with the most minute particulars concerning your motions and your menage. Let me know how house-keeping comes on. My wife used to say when we were first married that all would have been very well but [for] the trouble of ordering dinner or as she calld it the plague about the gooses and turkies. May my dearest Jane have no worse complaints to make than of these little domestic cares.

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My kindest love attends L'homme qui cherche. Anne will expect your communication with impatience and hopes to hear of a most dashing ball. I suppose the care of doing the honours to the ladies would devolve in part on Mrs Studd and you. Mama and Anne send kind love always your affectionate papa WALTER SCOTT

You say you love long letters—do you also love those which are hard to be read—mine is both one & the other. But much was written by Candlelight and then Jane is the magnificent owner of three pair of spectacles & has plenty of time on her hand.

[PM. 21 April 1825] [Law]

TO HIS SON WALTER

MY DEAR WALTER,—I wrote Jane a long letter and sent it to the Advocate to frank but as I suspect that it followd him to London it may have been delayd by that circumstance. The cream of the correspondence was that as I supposed marching money would be necessary you might draw on me or Messrs. Coutts for 100 to help on the campaign. The Breast pin is arrived this morning and gives the old gentleman the highest satisfaction. I am not a little vain of it tell Jane, besides it prevents my displaying flannel at the throat a banner not too much comme il faut.

I observe from a note from Coutts you have drawn for 20., that leaves you 80 in bank. When you wish to have cash at a time always advise me if possible because I ought in regularity to apprise them of your draughts & they are very scrupulous about writing & so on which
(9-86)gives them trouble.

(9-86) Nicol is again talking of selling but I doubt his making
(9-86) up his mind to taking any price that might be but moderately

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(9-87)high and I do not feel justified in making too great
(9-87)sacrifices. A good deal will depend on your own views
(9-87) and wishes whether you would think it worth while to
(9-87) give 2000 or 2500 for the sake of the vicinity or no.
(9-87) I cannot by any calculation make the real value more
(9-87) than 33000. He would allow a large part of the price
(9-87) to be on the land at 3 1/2 per cent which would save raising
(9-87) much money.
(9-87) The lands are worth 1000 a year or thereabouts

(9-87) At 30 years purchase now a current value that is 30,000
(9-87) Wood say ............ 2500
(9-87) Vote ............. 500

  33000

(9-87) Now the interest of 33000 at 3 1/2 per cent would be
(9-87) 1155 not more than 155 above the probable rent which
(9-87) considering the value was in land would not be bad payment.
(9-87) But I dare say the very least it could be got for
(9-87) would [be] 35000. The Jew talks of forty thousand
(9-87) but he is an absolute Hebrew and once named 50,000. So
(9-87) I suppose he will come down. I am determined to lie
(9-87) by and say nothing. Meanwhile I should like to have your
(9-87) sentiments on the subject and also to know what Jane
(9-87) thinks. If we had the heugh of Tweed from Ettrick foot
(9-87) to the Carraweel 1 we would [have a] proper estate.

(9-87) I hope this will find you comfortably settled at Dublin
and I want to know all about your menage whether your horses have joined yet and what is become of them whom you see and who are kind to you.

Little news stirring with us but little Johnie has had the hooping cough. Mama Anne and I continue to vegetate in this quarter. The weather is now charming and things looking well. Ginger has puppies. Spice expects presently to be confind.

I hope Jane continues to like the campaign. Her last letter was a very pleasant & favourable account of matters & I suppose Dublin will greatly improve on Corke. I have a letter from Major Stisted just bound for Ireland. You will meet I suppose with the pet spider and his keeper. Anne has got the chains &c and seems delighted. Sophia sent your Cartouche box by the mail coach. I trust it has reach'd long since. All join in kindest and most affectionate love to Jane Yours affectionately WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 21 April [1825]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE, PRINTER, HERRIOT ROW, EDINBURGH

DEAR JAMES,—In the paging the proof sent you will observe that I am repeating more numbers for the purpose of maintaining my calculation & making up for more pages necessarily added to Vol. III. I think I have a good plot with two secrets in it. If I succeed I
(9-88) may make a sort of continuation bringing home Richd. 
(9-88) and giving an account of his captivity. Perhaps the tale 
(9-88) is threadbare.2

(9-88) You will see by the inclosed that our freind Terry 
(9-88) meditates mighty things.3 You can read them over at 
(9-88) your leisure and form your own judgement. I think the 
(9-88) thing very hopeful yet doubt his indolence a good deal. 
(9-88) He is certainly completely fitted to the task. I would 
(9-88) not like him to think poor fellow that I was flinching from 
(9-88) him at the pinch when his fortune might be made and

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(9-89) therefore I have agreed to become his security for 1250 
(9-89) in five yearly payments. If I lose this which I think is not 
(9-89) out of the cards for as sanguine as he is it will be a loss 
(9-89) but not more than I am willing to risk to make an old 
(9-89) freinds fortune—for the advantage is beyond all proportion 
(9-89) greater on his side in case of success than the risque on 
(9-89) them 1 in state of failure. Your fortune is neither so large 
(9-89) [nor] so independent and you must consider with yourself 
(9-89) what effect such a loss would produce on you before 
(9-89) you venture. It is entirely a personal consideration for 
(9-89) yourself entirely and I do not wish to influence you 
(9-89) either one way or other. There is this in it that the money 
(9-89) being payable by yearly instalments the loss cannot be 
(9-89) heavy at once.

(9-89) I shall be in real good humour with my task should it 
(9-89) continue to please you Yours truly w SCOTT

(9-89) ABBOTSFORD 22 April [PM. 1825]

(9-89) This letter should have gone with todays basket. I put 
(9-89) you to charges that it may reach at least tomorrow. The
TO WALTER SCOTT, LIEUT. KING'S 15TH HUSSARS, BARRACKS, DUBLIN

ABBOTSфорд MELROSE 27 April 1825

MY DEAR WALTER,—I received to day your interesting Communication 2 and have written to Edinburgh to remit 90 LETTERS OF 1825

1500 as soon as possible to Messrs Minets and Stride 21. Austin Fryars London to the credit of Major Lane's Hussars. I have sent such of the money to Edinr. I had ready and I have to say with certainty that the whole sum will be remitted from Edinburgh in the course of five or six days as my absence from town may occasion the exchange of a letter on the subject. I can make this without troubling Mr Bailey but it will pare my nails short for the summer and I fear prevent my paying your carriage as I intended. You would have my advice to rawn on Messrs Coutts for 100, minus 20, already rawn for. I suspect old papas are the best lottery tickets which even Bish 1 and Pidding have to sell.

I have written both to Sir Herbert & Sir Henry in case of accidents but I think you should have written yourself of the same date with the transaction either to Sir Henry or MacDonald or Mr Greenwood. Your letter being addressed Edinr. was a day longer in coming to hand—e remain here till the 12 March.
In the present state of our affairs or rather my own I must consider the advance of 1500 as a loan by me to you or which when the transaction is closed you can give an acknowledgement as I shall myself be obliged to borrow some part of the money. I will not need I hope to plague you about repayment very much.

icol is certainly going to sell Faldonside. The Nabals asks 40,000 at least 5000 too much yet in the present low rate of money and general thirst for Land there is no saying but he may get a fool to offer him his price or near it. Our judicious neighbour M[...] Anderson considers after the most minute calculation that it would not be extravagant at 3500, I should like to know your views and wishes about this matter as it is more your concern than mine since you will I hope have a much longer date of it. I think I could work off all the interest and much principal during my life and also improve the estate highly. But then it is always a heavy burden & I would not like to undertake it unless I was sure that Jane and you desired such an augmentation of territory. I do not mean to do any thing hasty but as an opportunity may cast up suddenly I should like to know your mind.

I conclude this being 27th. April that you are all snugly settled in Dublin. I am a little afraid of the gaieties for Jane & hope she will be gay moderately that she may be gay long. The frequent habit of late hours is always detrimental to health and sometimes has consequences which last for life. Avis au lecteur. Of course I do not expect you to shut yourselves up at your period of life. Your course of gaiety at Corke reminds me of Jack Johnstones 1 song
Then we'll visit the Callaghans Brallaghans
Nowlans & Dowlans likewise
And bother them all with the beauty
Which streams from my Judys (or Jeanie's) black eyes.

I admire the stile in which Jane and her friend travels.
I hope you like Mrs Studd as well as Jane seems to do.

Mama and Anne are quite well—We dine to day with
Sir Adam. I dare say the last time I shall dine at
Gattonside for long enough for I feel no appetite to
scrape acquaintance with this Bristolian 2 Bainbridge.

I should be less sorry if I thought Adam my excellent
old friend was changing for the better. But I
fear he is acting under erroneous views and will find
in a year or two that he rode more easily at his old
moorings.

We have better accounts of little Johnie of late his cough
is over for the present and the learned cannot settle whether
it has been the hooping cough or no. Sophia talks of
taking him to Germiston. Lockhart comes here for the
Circuit & I expect him tomorrow.

Sir Adam & Lady Fergusson bring most excellent
accounts of Mrs Jobson[s] good health and spirits. Sir
Henry Jardine 1 (he writes himself no less now) hath had
the dignity of Knighthood inflicted on him. Mama and
Anne join in kind love. I expect a long letter from Jane
one of these days soon. She writes too well not to write
with ease to herself and therefore I am resolve[d] her
talent shall not be idle if a little jogging can prevail on
You have never said a word of your horses nor how you have come on with your domestics those necessary plagues of our life. Two or three days since that cub of Sir Adams chose to amuse himself with flinging crackers about the hall here when we were at dinner. I think I gave him a proper jobation.

Here is the first wet day we have had—very wellcome as the earth required it much and the season was backward. I can hear Bogie whistling for joy. I sent in my last a thousand kind thanks to Jane & you for the breastpin safely received by M[r] Terrys conveyance. I am about to forward a packet to Jane through the Admiralty but this being single and on business will reach first. Give her my kind and affectionate love. I will write & desire the Bankers to advise Major Lane when the money is paid in. Also I will advise Messrs Coutts to pay the regulation so soon as you are gazetted.

For the thing may tomorrow be all in your power. But the money Gadzooks must be paid in an hour.

Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

Major Lane may rely on the cash being in Bank by the 7th. May

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR BALLANTYNE,—Walter has completed his purchase
(9-93) and it is necessary to remit the balance of money for his troop namely 1500. I enclose a drat. on Leith Bank for 500 and if you will send me two notes at 4 months for 550. each I will remit you the balance which will make up 1500. I have ample means of discom here. I wish to have the two notes by tomorrow post without fail so as to get them on Friday morning as I go to Jedburgh nextday.

(9-93) The cash is not an expenditure but a loan to the Laird of Lochore who is a good man for ten or twenty times the sum Yours truly

(9-93) WALTER SCOTT

(9-93) ABBOTSFORD, 27 April [1825]

[Stevenson]

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TO CROFTON CROKER, 1 ETC., ETC., ADMIRALTY

(9-94) SIR,—I have been obliged by the courtesy which sent me your very interesting work on Irish Superstitions and no less by the amusement which it has afforded me both from the interest of the stories and the lively manner in which they are told. You are to consider this Sir as a high compliment from one who holds him on the subject of elves ghosts visions &c nearly as strong as William Churne of Staffordshire 2

(9-94) Who every year can mend your cheer

(9-94) With tales both old and new.

(9-94) The extreme similarity of your fictions to ours in Scotland
(9-94) is very striking in this collection. The Cluricaun (which
(9-94) is an admirable subject for a pantomime) is not known
(9-94) here. I suppose the Scottish cheer was not sufficient to
(9-94) tempt him or that singular demon called by Heywood the
(9-94) Buttery spirit which diminished the profits of an unjust
(9-94) landlord by eating up all that he cribbed from his guests.
(9-94) The Beautiful superstition of the Banshee seems in a great

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(9-95) measure peculiar to Ireland though in some highland
(9-95) families there is such a spectre particularly in that of
(9-95) MacLean of Lochbuie. I But I think I could match all
(9-95) your other tales with something similar. I think
(9-95) however that the progress of philosophy has not even yet
(9-95) entirely "pulled the old woman out our hearts" as
(9-95) Addison expresses it. Witches are still held in reasonable
(9-95) detestation although we no longer burn or even score
(9-95) above the breath. As for the water bull they live who will
(9-95) take their oaths to having seen him emerge from a small
(9-95) lake on the boundary of my property here scarce big
(9-95) enough to have held him I should think. Some traits
(9-95) in his description seem to answer the hippopotamus and
(9-95) these are always mentioned both in high land and low land.
(9-95) Strange if one could conceive there existed under a
(9-95) tradition so universal some shadowy reference to these
(9-95) fossil bones of animals which are so often found in the
(9-95) lakes.

(9-95) But to leave antediluvian stories for the freshest news
(9-95) from fairy land I cannot resist the temptation to send
(9-95) you an account of King Oberon's court which was verified
(9-95) before me as a Magistrate with all the solemnities of
(9-95) a court of justice within this fortnight past. A young
(9-95) shepherd a lad of about eighteen years old well brought
(9-95) up and of good capacity and that I may be perfectly
(9-95)accurate by name Alexander Laidlaw in the service of
(9-95)Ebenezer Beattie a most respectable farmer at Oakwood
(9-95)on the estate of my kinsman Hugh Scott of Harden made
(9-95)oath and said—That going to look after some sheep
(9-95)which his master had directed to be put upon turnips

(9-96)and passing in the grey of the morning a small copsewood
(9-96)adjacent to the river Ettricke he was surprized at the
(9-96)sight of four or five little personages about two feet or
(9-96)30 inches in height who were seated under the trees and
(9-96)apparently in deep conversation. At this singular apparition
(9-96)he paused till he had refreshed his noble courage
(9-96)with a prayer and a few recollections of last Sundays
(9-96)sermon and then advanced to the little party. But
(9-96)observing that instead of disappearing they seemed to
(9-96)become yet more magnificently distinct than before and
(9-96)now doubting nothing from their foreign dresses and
(9-96)splendid ornaments that they were the choice ornaments
(9-96)of the fairy court he fairly turns tail and went to raise the
(9-96)water as if the South'ron had made a raid. Others came
(9-96)to the rescue and still the fairy cortege awaited their
(9-96)arrival in still and silent dignity—I wish I could stop here
(9-96)for the devil take all explanations they stop duels and
(9-96)destroy the credit of apparitions neither allow ghosts to
(9-96)be made in an honourable way or to be believed in poor
(9-96)souls when they revisit the glimpses of the moon.

(9-96)I must however explain like other honourable gentlemen
(9-96)elsewhere. You must know that like our neighbours
(9-96)we have a school of arts for our mechanics at Galashiels a
(9-96)small manufacturing town in this vicinity and that the
(9-96)tree of knowledge there as elsewhere produces its usual
(9-96)crop of good and evil. The day before this Avatar of
(9-96)Oberon was a fair day at Selkirk and amongst other
popular diversions was one which in former days I would have called a puppet show and its master a puppet show man. He has put me right however by informing me that he writes himself Artist from Vauxhall and that he exhibits fantocini. Call them what you will it seems it gave great delight to the unwashed artificers of Galashiels. Formerly they would have been contented wonder and applaud but not so were they satisfied in our modern days of investigation for they broke into Punches sanctuary forcibly after he had been laid aside.

1825
SIR WALTER SCOTT

for the evening made forcible seizure of his person and carried off him his spouse & heaven knows what captives besides in their plaid nooks to be examined at leisure. All this they literally did (forcing a door to accomplish their purpose) in the spirit of science alone or but slightly stimulated by that of malt whisky with which last our statesmen weary I suppose of our asserting superiority as a moral people have of late deluged us. Cool reflection came as they retreated by the banks of the Ettricke.—they made the discovery that they could no more make Punch move than Lord Plymouth could make him speak and recollecting I believe that there was such a person as the Sheriff in the world they abandoned their prisoners in hopes as they pretended that they would be found and restored to their proper owner.

As this somewhat tedious story contains the very last news from fairy-land I hope you will give it acceptance and beg you to believe me very much your obliged & thankful Servant

WALTER SCOTT

27 April 1825 ABBOTSFORD MELROSE
TO WALTER SCOTT, KINGS HUSSARS, BARRACKS, DUBLIN

(9-97) MY DEAR WALTER,—Though it put you to the charge of postage it may be as well that you should know the money is ready & that I sent it into M[rr.] James Ballantyne this day with directions to him to remit instantly to Major Lanes accot. with Minet & Stride 21 Austin Fryars and to advise you when [he] has done so. It will be therefore remitted tomorrow (Saturday 30th.) or in case from the Banks closing early on Saturday the remittance cannot be managed,- on Monday 2d. at farthest and will of course be at the Majors credit on the 3d day after such remittance say Monday 2d May or Wednesday 5th as the case may be of which Messrs. Minet & Stride will doubtless give him due notice. I trust there is no chance of our missing stays at the Horse Gds after what passd betwixt His Royal Highnss. & you and your situation in the regiment considerd.

(9-98) I observe from your last Jane is like to have a female commanding officer who I suppose will take the direction of all the ladies belonging to the regiment. Seriously I hope she will be a companionable and Lad[y] like person as I suppose she must be a person of some influence. I suppose you are not sorry with the effects [of] La belle passion 1 on your redoubtable commandant nor excessively sorry that Grim visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front And now instead of mounting barbd steeds To affright the souls of fearful adversaries
or you may read

(To fret the souls of lazy subalterns)

He capers nimbly in a ladys chamber

To the lascivious sootheings of a lute—

If this quotation is rather threadbare I cannot but think it is happily applied.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT

We are all well here and send love to Jane and you. I want to know how you are settled at Dublin and hope Jane will take the trouble to write whenever she has arranged herself comfortably. I will also desire to hear from you how your arrangement proceeds with the Major and tell me to whom the regulation money at Coutts is to be paid—to the agents I suppose. I shall be stationary here till after the Eleventh may when Edinburgh will be my address.

Always your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 29th April [PM. 1825]

TO [GABRIELE ROSSETTI ?] I

I AM favourd with your letter of the 19th May but have not yet received the packet from Mr Murray. When I do so you may command my opinion such as it is though I think you are near an adviser whose sentiments are of
much greater weight. What I should fear is in the view I at present have of your undertaking that although few authors require so much illustration as the work of Dante I doubt whether it is so generally known in Britain as to give extensive popularity to such an undertaking. It cannot however fail to be an elegant and interesting subject of research to yourself and an acceptable present to those who have read the Divina Comedia.

Yours faithfully

WALTER SCOTT

TO WILLIAM SCOTT [YOUNGER], OF RAEBURN

DEAR SIR,—These are to certify that you received my letter directing you to act as Sheriff Depute as far back as the 30th January last which was the date of the said letter and that you have discharged the duty of the office since the said day accordingly I am dear Sir Your most obedt. Servant

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 1st May 1825.

TO WILLIAM MOTHERWELL

SIR,—I am honoured with your letter covering the curious old version of the ballad of Gil Morrice, which seems, according to your copy, to be a corruption of Child Norrice, or Child Nursling, as we would say. As I
presume the ballad to be genuine, and, indeed, see no reason to suspect the contrary, the style being simple and ancient, I think you should print it exactly as you have taken it down, and with a reference to the person by whom it is preserved so special as to enable any one to ascertain its authenticity who may think it worth while.

I have asked, at different times, the late Mr John Home, concerning the ballad on which he was supposed to have founded "Douglas," but his memory was too imperfect when I knew him to admit of his giving me any information. I have heard my mother, who was fond of the ballad, say, that when Douglas was in its height of popularity, GIL MORRICE was, to a certain extent, rewritten, which renovated copy, of course, includes all the new stanzas about "Minerva's loom," and so forth. Yet there are so many fine old verses in the common set, that I cannot agree to have them mixed up even with your set, though more ancient, but would like to see them kept quite separate, like different sets of the same melody. In fact, I think I did wrong myself in endeavouring to make the best possible set of an ancient ballad out of several copies obtained from different quarters, and that, in many respects, if I improved the poetry, I spoiled the simplicity of the old song. There is no wonder this should be the case when one considers that the singers or reciters by whom these ballads were preserved and handed down, must, in general, have had a facility, from memory at least, if not from genius (which they might often possess), of filling up verses which they had forgotten, or altering such as they might think they could improve. Passing
through this process in different parts of the country, the ballads, admitting that they had one common poetical original (which is not to be inferred merely from the similitude of the story), became, in progress of time, totally different productions, so far as the tone and spirit of each is concerned. In such cases, perhaps, it is as well to keep them separate, as giving in their original state a more accurate idea of our ancient poetry, which is the point most important in such collections. There is room for a very curious essay on the relation which the popular poetry of the north of Europe bears to that of the south, and even to that of Asia; and the varieties of some of our ballads might be accounted for by showing that one edition had been derived from the French or Norman, another from the Danish, and so on, so that, though the substance of the dish be the same, the cookery is that of foreign and distant cuisiniers. This reasoning certainly does not apply to mere brief alterations and corruptions, which do not, as it were, change the tone and form of the original.

You will observe that I have no information to give respecting GIL MORRICE, so I might as well, perhaps, have saved you the trouble of this long letter. I am, Sir, Your obliged humble servt., WALTER SCOTT

[Extract]

MY DEAR SIR,—The intervention of the circuit has made me rather long in answering your very kind and acceptable letter. Although I am likely to be a suffer[er] by the transference of Mrs Thos. Scotts residence to
Cheltenham since I must of course look to see her and the dear girls her daughters more seldom than if they had continued inhabitants of Scotland yet they will be so much more comfortably situated under your affectionate protection that I cannot but be happy upon their account. With regard to you my very dear Sir whose health is sometimes in a delicate state I think the quiet society which you have insured is the most natural consolation in the hours of langour & pain which indisposition brings with them. And although I hope the level of your health will become gradually more confirmed as time makes you more familiar with the change of climate and that therefore as an invalid their attention will not be frequently necessary yet enjoyments of your hours of health cannot but be greatly increased by this addition to your domestic society. Indeed though they may be the nieces of us both & we therefore may be held partial judges I never [saw] better bred girls in my life in any class of society or better qualified by good temper cheerfulness and good information to add to the pleasure of domestic society. It gives me the greatest pleasure that they are under your protection as I am sure they will experience all the affectionate treatment which they deserve & Mrs Scott has conducted herself so meritoriously in many trying & difficult circumstances that she has deserved all the comforts which your fraternal roof may afford.

The sword of the Sultan Tippoo—once so formidable will be an addition to my little collection equally valuable in itself and its recollections and as a mark of your kind remembrance and I beg to express my kind thanks to Mr Gillman for so great a favour when sent it had best
be forwarded from London to Castle Street Edinburgh.

I conclude this will find the fair travellers nearly arrived at their journeys end and I intend writing Mrs Scott in a day or two.

I hope one of these days you will come all bodily down to Abbotsford for a month or six weeks at least & regale us once more with such Scots music as no one possesses the skill of but yourself.

Kind love to Mrs Scott Anne & Eliza if with you. I have no fear of Walter doing well. He has talents & I think the desire to employ them to the best advantage. He has besides very good & popular manners so I hope II parviendra. My son Walter is in immediate expectation of promotion. His marriage besides assuring him a very handsome independance seems to promise every sort of domestic happiness I remain my dear Sir Yours with most sincere regard

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 3 May [1825]

On the 11th I leave this place for Edinburgh to my great sorrow. Lady Scott & Anne my only guests at

SIR WALTER SCOTT

present beg kind remembrances and best love to Mrs. Scott & the girls.

TO MRS. SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS
DEAR JANE,—You are not to be worried with a long letter just now first because the post is going out an excuse which is always used on such occasions and particularly in my family and then because I expect a long letter from you about Pat's capital and its gaieties. Take good care of your health among them my love for you know it is very precious to us all, and be gay in moderation that you may be gay long.

Lockhart was here two days since to attend the circuit and brought us news of little Johnie's complete recovery to our great joy in which I am sure Walter and you will sympathise. That child's delicate health is rather an assailable point in our domestic happiness which I thank God has otherwise humanly speaking a very comfortable aspect.

I desired Mr James Ballantyne to write by post to Walter when he remitted Major Lanes money as advised. I presume he did so & the cash (1500) having been sent on Saturday 1st. May is this day at the gallant Majors credit in London. I hope this will immediately lead to your becoming "Mrs Captain" which is always better than even good "Mistress Lieutenant." It is as Hamlet says to the actress being nearer heaven by the altitude of a chopine.1 Let me know if you feel yourself taller on the occasion.

There is little news stirring with us only a few days must carry us back to the fag of Edinburgh as the session of the court begins on 12th so pray after you receive this address to Castle Street.2
Lady Scott and Anne send kind love to Walter. It is odd he has never said a word about his horses. Pray what has he lost upon his march from Corke to Dublin? If he has come through without damage you shall have all the credit of keeping the gear together.

Lady Scott and Anne send kindest Compliments Adieu
my Love God bless you Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 3 May [1825]

I inclose a letter from Mrs Jobson. She was quite well when I heard.

TO THOMAS HOOD

SIR WALTER SCOTT has to make thankful acknowledgment for the copy of Odes to Great People 1 with which he was favoured and more particularly for the amusement he has received from the perusal. He wishes the unknown author good fortune and whatever other good things can best support and encourage his lively vein of inoffensive and humorous satire.

ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 4th May [1825]

TO HIS NEPHEW WALTER SCOTT

[Extract]
ABBOTSFORD, 5th [1825]

MY DEAR WALTER,—I have been an undutiful relation in not writing you some time past. About making up your kit the first thing is to know accurately what it ought to consist of, for young men are strangely imposed on in this particular, sometimes wanting things which are essential, and often buying a quantity of what they have as little use for as a highlander for knee-buckles. It is also to be considered that you are not quite come to your size yet, and that clothes made exactly for your person just now, may not suit so well. It seems to me also to be of consequence, that you should have a few good books on engineering, both civil and military, and I wish you to get advice as to what are likely to be most useful. Get a business-like list of the cloaths, and another of the books and sundries necessary, and add the prices, and let me have them for my consideration.

Walter is anxiously looking out for his troop, which we expect immediately, as the Major retires from bad health, and the hopeful arrangement is, that a certain Capt. Byam gets the Majority, and Walter Captain Byam's troop. Jane seems to take kindly to a military life, and writes in high spirits with all she has seen, and the attentions they have met with. By mixing in general society she will rub off a little of that reserve which is the great fault of her manner.

I conceive your mother and sisters will now have reached your uncle in safety. Their society cannot but be valuable to him in his precarious state of health, but I fear, unless that is considerably amended, the girls may find it
a little gloomy. They are accustomed however to prefer
duty to pleasure, and upon the whole the arrangement
seems the most natural and most respectful, which could
have been made for their comfort and protection.

I wish to hear from you what your own motions are
likely to be—how long you stay at Chatham—and when
your final departure is to be expected. I should be very
desirous that your leisure, which must I suppose be short,

should be employed in learning whatever may be necessary
to forward and increase your stock of useful knowledge.
In your profession, the best-informed man inevitably
gets furthest forward.

How do you get on with Col. Pasley?

Lady Scott, Anne, and I are the only residents here, and
today our solitude is cheered by James Scott with his
pipes, and Maxpopple 1 with his pedigree. I have given
the latter an office of about 300 which Charles Erskine,
poor fellow, held under me, and which seems to have made
poor Max very happy—for look you, sir, it is no easy
matter to find meat and cloth for twelve small children.—
I am, with kindest wishes from Lady Scott and Anne,
always, my dear Walter, your affectionate uncle,

WALTER SCOTT.
[Familiar Letters]

For LIEUTENANT WALTER SCOTT, 15TH HUSSARS,
BARRACKS, DUBLIN

DEAR WALTER,—I subjoin a copy of a letter received
From Sir Herbert Taylor which will be a disappointment to you. It appears that Major Lane's resignation not being for retirement but for promotion is not likely to be accepted. Of course there is no vacancy and as he retains his situation I expect replacement of 1500 paid into his account with Messrs. Minet and Stride as formerly advised. I have no doubt of Major Lane's honor on this occasion but as the matter stands rather loose in point of business I should like to have it settled by replacing the money to my credit with Messrs. Coutts & Co. If Major Lane should prefer retiring I must of course take the risk of carrying through your promotion which I do not doubt to accomplish. As this is an interesting matter I will beg to hear from you as soon as possible on the subject.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 109

Address to Edinburgh.

[Copy in Scott's hand]

HORSE GDS. 5 May

"I have communicated your letter of 27 April to the Commander in Chief who directs me to assure you that whenever a troop shall open for purchase in the 15 Hussars he will be glad to pay every attention in his power to your wishes for the promotion of Lieutenant Scott.

I must observe however that Major Lane's application has come in and that it is not for retirement but for Promotion which he is not very likely to
obtain as he is one of many candidates and the youngest of all. H.R.H. therefore has not authorized me to give him much hope—the Senior Captain of the 15th. is also young as times go Believe me &c &c.

[9-109][Signed] HERBERT TAYLOR "1
[Law]

TO LORD MONTAGU

[10th-11th May, 1825] (2)

MY DEAR LORD,—A great Man and Patron I take to be somewhat like an Indian at the stake—when he falls asleep from sheer lassitude no such ready way to wake him as by a little torment of solicitation. Now not having had the honour to hear from your Lordship though I dare say you had plenty of more important matters to attend to I begin to awaken you with a twinge with the pincers.

In plain terms here is a minister dying at Roberton which is a crown patronage but must be within the Dukes influence if your Lordship thinks it proper to exert and if Borthwickbrae whose House and estate lies in the parish does not ask it which I think he would have a preferable right to do either from the Crown or His Grace.—But supposing him out of the question I would be really very much obliged if my poor protege George Thompson could have some advantage from the light of your countenance if it ever shines forth on these occasions. A pupil who has been long under his charge is now becoming major (though I cannot say he has attained years of discretion) and I suppose they must part which will leave
poor Thompson very poorly provided for. He has had much credit by this charge—for the lad came to him in a very infirm state of mind and by a mixture of kindness and steadiness he has brought him wonderfully round & taught him even to make a plausible enough appearance in society. I suppose the poor creature will be ruined whenever he parts from him. I have now only one string to harp on Maxpaple being out of the way and I can say with truth that in that appointment I considered the embarassing claim arising out of the Convention at Jedburgh more than my cousin-ship for there is an old proverb warning one "against manning himself with his kin." Maxpaple seems to do very well however and bestirs himself like a man of business so I have no cause to complain. He has got a residence near the Borough too which is convenient.

I hope this will find Lady Montagu & the young ladies well and enjoying as good weather as we have had here. The spring was backward but has burst forth at once in full beauty—the hopes of the country seem high and every person you meet looks pleased.

I hope the Duke is well & likes the Banks of Cam

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

I conclude he is still residing Always my dear Lord

WALTER SCOTT

I am just—multum gemens—leaving this for Edinr.
[Buccleuch]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR SIR,—The bearer is Mr Lemare 1 the French
Gentleman I mentiond to you. I have little doubt that his Greek anecdotes will be very interesting & you must be as kind to him as you can. He writes English very well & seems an accomplis hed young man. I am Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 13 May [1825]

favoured by Mons. Lemare

TO HIS SON CHARLES

MY DEAR CHARLES,—I desired Mr. Ballantyne to send you your full allowance 75 which is due at or about this time so put your house in order and remember you will have another remittance of 75 due three months after this so that you can arrange your matters for regular payments

Regardless of the wily tradesman's way Who hushd in grim repose expects his Christmas prey.2

I am glad to find a good report of you from Stowe. It always requires some tact to live with great folks without either seeming to intrude on their intimacy or observe an awkward degree of retenue but a sense of propriety mixd with a desire to please points out the just medium.

I had a letter this morning from Jane by which we learn the 15th have reachd Dublin where I suppose they will remain the best part of a twelvemonth. Walter &
(9-112)spouse have got half a house on Stevenson [sic] Green a
(9-112)brother officer & his wife taking the other half. If there
(9-112)be not proper quarrelling among the domestics I shall
(9-112)wonder but luckily there are two kitchens so the cooks
(9-112)cannot scald each other with their ladles. Walters
(9-112)address will be 15th Hussars Barracks Dublin.

(9-112)Little Walter is working hard at mining sapping and
(9-112)all the pioneering art: he seems from his letter to be in
(9-112)high spirits and happy.

(9-112)Johnie Lockhart has been at Germiston for a few days
(9-112)with Sophia and is much better. I calculate upon his
(9-112)recovery with the greater certainty that I am well assured
(9-112)there is no medical man within reach. Soph is rather too
(9-112)great an encourager of the art of Esculapius.

(9-112)Mamma Anne & I came to town two days since much
(9-112)grieved to leave Abbotsford in such high beauty. Every
(9-112)thing seemed bursting out into flowers & foliage & such a
(9-112)choir of birds were never heard. The only interesting
(9-112)news is that Purdiana (Jenny vizt.) was to be married
(9-112)forthwith to George Fairbairn 2 with the entire approbation
(9-112)of the magnanimous Tom & I am to give them a set
(9-112)of tea things.

(9-112)I have ordered the gun to be made with percussion
(9-112)locks on the best principles. I believe Walter gets one
(9-112)from the same man having destroyed his excellent Manton 3
(9-112)by neglect. I am sorry I gave the gun to him.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 113

(9-113)Mr. Chantrey the celebrated sculptor has been down
(9-113)here fixing the place for the Kings statue which is I
(9-113)believe to be the centre of George Street opposite to
Hanover street which will have a most noble effect as the street sloping down both to Princes Street & Queen Street will show the statue relieved against the sky in approaching it from any direction. It will be about 12 feet high exclusive of the pedestal and pedestal of course.

Chantrey passed a day at Abbotsford and killed a salmon at which he was almost mad with joy. He has given me a noble present. Let me know [remainder of MS. cut]

EDINBURGH 13 May [1825]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—Pray if Sheet L. be not gone to press add upon p. 171 line 9th after the words " cared for —  And hark thee once more " he said in a low whisper " Seek out yonder Hermit of Engaddi and bring him to me forthwith be he saint or savage madman or sane—Let me see him privately "— 3

The work now approaches its end. Pray do you gentlemen proprietors intend the same politeness by me as on former occasions vizt to pay me the copy money for vol. 4th. If Walter makes his purchase of a troop this will be convenient for me—if not I had as lief it goes to account of cash received for future labours & so diminishes my debt with you

Yours truly

W SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD [should be EDINBURGH] 1

15 May [1825]
TO MRS. SCOTT, CARE OF WALTER SCOTT, ESQ., KINGS HUSSARS, BARRACKS, DUBLIN

EDINBURGH 16 May 1825

YOUR kind letter of the 9th. reached me my dearest Jane just as I was beginning to think you a little lazy in your correspondence. It followed me from Abbotsford to town where I arrived the last Tuesday with great reluctance for leaving the country in its beauty is to me very like having a tooth drawn. Your motions being a little irregular owing to your marchings & countermarchings I see that you have not received your letters very regularly but I suppose you have by this time got one from Mrs. Jobson with a few lines from me. I had the pleasure to see Mrs. Jobson yesterday in perfect good health and to assure her of yours.

She and I both unite in being rather glad that the gay season is now near over in Dublin as we are parentally afraid of your over-fatiguing yourself amid the hospitalities of the Irish capital.

Servants are always the plagues of young housekeepers. You should part with either or both without a moment's ceremony the instant they begin to give you trouble. I remember I used to be much hurt at the idea of parting with an old servant but I have found from experience that whenever they conceive themselves indispensable they become abominably tyrannical & that the best way of compelling them to regular good
behaviour is to change whenever they become troublesome either by quarrelling with you or each other. There never was so good a servant but with good wages and kind treatment you will always find as good a successor.

I wrote Walter about his promotion which appears for the present to have miscarried. I hope an opportunity will soon offer of completing the matter.

Chantrey the great Sculptor was with me a day before I left Abbotsford and went off the happiest man in the world having killed two salmon. I do not believe that the applause which he received for any of his fine works of art [sentence incomplete] He has made Lady Scott a present of the fine bust he cut of my poor noodle three years ago and of which you probably have seen casts. It is reckoned (the subject out of the question) a very fine piece of Sculpture in point of execution. Chantrey himself is a right good John Bull blunt & honest & open without any of the nonsensical affectation so common among artists.

I hope your housekeeping in St Stephens Green will go on well—it cannot be very different from people living in different families in the same hotel: and with respect to your servants male & female take my counsel—if you have an aching tooth have it drawn out—if a quarrelsome servant dismiss him or her. An empty house is always better than a bad tenant.

I am sorry to say that your Grandmother Mrs. Stewart has been dangerously ill—indeed what illness could be less than [dangerous] at her advanced age. She has recovered however and is in appearance in her usual state of health but I understand this to be quite infirm so
that I fear you must soon hear of bad news from that quarter.

There is no tidings to send from this metropolis except that they have taken opportunity of our absence to have another great fire to Annes great discontent who says that having heard so much of fires she has a right to see one. I think they are determined that the whole old town of Edinburgh shall be burnd to the ground piece meal. This last very considerable conflagration was on the northern side of the High Street where it joins the north bridge.

You have never told me whether Walter and his horses ever came together or whether he is still in the state of Saul the son of Kish seeking his fathers asses. I suppose they must have reachd him but in poor plight I am afraid after their travels. I see you have been with my poor friend Hartstongue—a little tiresome or so otherwise the best creature in the world. It is a pity he will write books and poems instead of being contented with the good qualities of the heart which he really possesses and leaving those of the head to such as nature has bestowd them upon. But such is the usual ambition of mankind most people being far more desirous of being distinguishd & complimented for good qualities which they have not than for those which they really possess. Vastly grave & deep that observation but not particularly new and rather dull.

If you could find out how much of the postage attachd to my morality you might cut it out with your scissors & send it back to the post office to get a discount. Were this permitted Lord how the Kings post office would flutter with scraps of morality and wisdom—all the good advice
of rum old guardians stupid quizzes of papas & mammas
maiden Aunts & so forth would be sent back while
remittances news of scandal and so forth would be carefully
retailed—by a little attention the Clerk of the department
might compile a new edition of the proverbs of
Solomon out of the neglected wisdom which papas [send]

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

my dearest child most affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

TO HIS SON WALTER, 10 STEPHENS GREEN, DUBLIN

MY DEAR WALTER,—I am glad to see by yours 1 this
morning received that your negotiation is still on foot.
Of course Major Lane must either refund or give in his
unconditional resignation so as to make way for the
vacancy for while it stands in the present way his sudden
death or incapacitating illness from the chance of which no
man is free would lose me $1500 which I cannot afford.
From the tone of Sir Herbert Taylors letter it is evident
Major Lane will get no promotion at present. Even in case of his resigning there is a shade of doubt you will observe shown respecting Byams success but I suppose that gentleman has interest and will exert it at the Horse Guards. I have written again to Sir Herbert saying I understand it is probable that the Major will resign unconditionally.

I am glad to see you are got by this time into a house of your own—fine work there will be at the house keeping for some time but I expect our little Janes prudence and sagacity will soon supply the want of experience.

My motions must partly depend on the dissolution of parliament like those of other great men. If the Catholic Emancipation Bill is lost in the House of Lords—as lost it will most unquestionably be parliament will be dissolved immediately and you will if you like it have a right to have leave for the exercize of your franchise as a voter though I scarce apprehend that Fife will be contested. Now if this event takes place early and if you come as in case of a contest you will be expected to do then I can return with you to Ireland. If you stick fast at Dublin and there is little use in coming merely to eat an election dinner & stay a few days—and if there is no contest in Roxburghshire which I do not expect—then and in that case I propose without trusting myself to the seductions of Abbotsford to set out the instant the Session rises. Mama talks of going to Helensburgh to the sea-bathing with Sophia in which case I propose to bring Anne with me & perhaps Lockhart for Boots to pay postillions & so forth. But we must not litter up your house you know as we can always get into a hotel. If Mama should alter her plan I must leave Anne with her which will be a disappointment.
to the young lady. Under the conditions above
expressd I expect to start about 12 July. As my stay
must necessarily be short I will like to see as much & visit
as little as I can.

You say nothing about Nicols property 1 I think he will
come down to a moderate price if let alone but I want to
know what you yourself wish about it for as I formerly
wrote you it is more your affair than mine. By the way
I understand from Chantrey that there is a near prospect
of a large & fine thoroughfare being made across London
from north to south terminating at the Musaeum on one
extremity and Waterloo Bridge on the other. This
magnificent Bridge has been in a manner useless & its
toll unproductive because there is no access to it but if this
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Johnnie Lockhart is returnd from Germiston yesterday in high health and vigour I trust his vicinity to Dr Ross will not convert him into a patient again. Capt Dolittle talks of looking at Allanbank which Sir James Stewart has placed on the market but I doubt if he has nerve enough to decide on anything. Riddell which I would have had him buy is now paying 4 per cent of return.

The kindest love of all the household attends Jane I wrote to her yesterday so have not much to say Always your affectionate father WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 17 May [PM. 1825]

How quick the post goes now Scarce four days betwixt Edinr. & Dublin.

[Law]

120 LETTERS OF 1825

TO HIS NEPHEW WALTER SCOTT

[Extract]

EDINR., 17th May [1825].

MY DEAR WALTER,—I have your letter, and enclose a cheque for 25 to help out your pay and get the things you mention. Take particular care of the quality of the instruments which you purchase. Better give more to get them warranted good, and from first-rate makers, than pay less for them of an inferior order, as they are not easily replaced in India. You would have a letter from me directing you to get a list of your things required for outfit,
taking care to take good advice on what is really useful.
I also mentioned that you would be the better, I thought,
of some approved works on Engineering, both civil and
military. I believe you will find that Robert Shortreed is
getting on very well in the Engineer line, though in some
respects an interloper, so I have great hopes for you who
are regularly in the service. Omit no opportunity, my
dear boy, of acquiring the knowledge necessary for availing
yourself of opportunities which I have little doubt will
occur to you, and let your thoughts and studies be
turned as much as possible to science, both for civil and
military purposes. I have a notion that you will find
the first very useful. The last you learn as a matter of
course.

I heard from Walter yesterday, I —anxious about his
troop, in which I hope he will succeed, as in the case of
a Benedick, captain sounds better than sub, and besides
Jane has better quarters. They have got a house at
Stephen's Green however, and do not live in barracks
just now.

I had a letter from your Mama from Cheltenham.
Their journey was well made out. She, as well as I, was
rather desirous you would bestow some pains on your hand-
writing, which is however getting firmer and better than it
was. . . —I am always, your affectionate uncle,

WALTER SCOTT.

And so good morrow to you, good Master Lieutenant.
[Familiar Letters]
TO JOHN HUGHES

[18th May 1825]

(9-121) SHOULD you think of visiting the highlands, July and
(9-121) the beginning of August is the best time; as after the
(9-121) 12 Augt the inns are crowded with sportsmen and the
(9-121) weather frequently broken. So should you make such a
(9-121) tour you might calculate to take Abbotsford on your
(9-121) return Southward, and will I hope make us a comfortable
(9-121) visit measuring it by weeks rather than days. My son
(9-121) Charles will then probably be at home and will be happy
(9-121) to assist me in showing due sense of your great kindness
(9-121) to him.

(9-121) I beg to offer my respects to Mrs. Hughes. Lady Scott
(9-121) and I look forward with pleasure to the prospect of making
(9-121) her acquaintance.

(9-121) I had a letter from your kind mother two days [ago].
(9-121) She finds the Welch blood much stir'd by the degradation
(9-121) of Sir Watkin Williams Wynne 1 into the Duke of
(9-121) Northumberland's page—he is a folio page to be sure.
(9-121) But something like precedent might be quoted in [the]
(9-121) assuming manner in which Hotspur conducts himself
(9-121) towards Glendower. I must remind Mrs. Hughes of
(9-121) this.

[Heffer and Wells]

LETTERS OF 1825

TO HIS SON WALTER, 15 HUSSARS, STEPHENS GREEN, DUBLIN

(9-122) MY DEAR WALTER,—I have a letter from Mr. Ballantyne
(9-122) stating that Messrs. Minet and Stride have repaid the
1500 which is so far quite well. But I shall leave it in London untl I hear from you whether I am to consider the negociation as entirely off or whether you still expect the Major to resign without condition. As the money lies without interest in London I am losing upon it here so that the sooner you write whether it is like to be wanted within a week or two the better.

I trust this will find you in all the dignity of housekeepers. We have sharp work here Mamma having got a housekeeper who of course hauls all the old stagers over the coals, sweeps clean as new brooms usually do and raises a dust of course.

This being a letter on business I do not add more than that I wish to hear from you what is to be done about the money and that all here are well & long [to know] what you are about and how the menage goes on.

My kindest love to Jane and tell her I expect a letter very soon. Mama talks of going to the seaside with Sophia I wish they would wait till we start for Ireland.

Always your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 21 May [PM. 1825]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT, CARE OF DAVID MACCULLOCH ESQ., CHEL TENHAM

MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,—I must no longer delay to wish you and my nieces joy upon arriving at a home which I trust will prove more comfortable and more permanent than any which it has been your lot to inhabit lately. I wrote a long letter 1 to Mr David Macculloch from Abbotsford.
(9-123)giving him joy of an event which I myself have thus
(9-123)far reason to regret that it carries you so far out of my ken
(9-123)and diminishes the chance which I have to be useful upon
(9-123)occasion.

(9-123)I inclose a cheque for □ 30,, and you will have the goodness
(9-123)to mark [it] as a years payment of Int. on one of the
(9-123)girls bills to which Interest I add □ 5,, to help on the Doctors
(9-123)musical studies which little remittance will take place half
(9-123)yearly as I expect some day to be greatly the better other
(9-123)proficiency in that accomplishment. I intended to send
(9-123)you this remittance before you moved from Scotland but
(9-123)I was poor for the moment. The real road to ruin is 1st. to
(9-123)have an improveable estate with a taste for building—
(9-123)2dly. to have your son marry a wealthy heiress & call on
(9-123)you for outfitt and marriage presents and if over & above
(9-123)you can manage to have a troop to buy for him in a
(9-123)Crack regiment of Cavalry you will find the bottom of the
(9-123)purse with a vengeance. But there is always balm in
(9-123)Gilead for Clerks of Session whose quarterday is always
(9-123)coming round in its due time.

(9-123)I should be most happy were it in my power to vary your
(9-123)groupes of yellow gentlemen 1 by a happy mixture with
(9-123)some blue ladies and whenever I hear that Lady Montagu
(9-123)or any other proper person are coming to Cheltenham or
(9-123)when you can let me know that such are there I will be
(9-123)happy to give my nieces introductions. But the only
(9-123)person (lady) whom I know to be at Cheltenham just now
(9-123)is not—to say truth—just what I should wish them to be
(9-123)connected with of which I gave Mr. David Macculloch a
(9-123)hint in case she should call on you as a neighbour of ours.

(9-123)I had a letter from Walter a few days since in excellent
health and spirits and entering with laudable zeal into the esprit de corps which induces military men to mention with so much emphasis the important designation of We and Ours. I expect Walter to do great things if it please God to preserve his health. His hand is getting firmer and better and indeed I agree with you that both that & the spelling might still be amended an observation which extends itself to the Oxonian Charles whose latin is said to be good but whose English would thole a mends.1 Walter the larger writes also with a happy resemblance to a partridge scratching in the dust below a hedge. It is very odd all the girls write good hands Anne preeminently so.

Walter has got a good house in Dublin and is living quietly there. He is recommended for purchase and there is a prospect of his getting a troop as I hinted before. But I must needs say it is a hopeful profession where a man buys an annuity on much worse terms than he could get it upon Change binds himself to be a slave to the commands of others and occasionally to spoil his annuity bargain by putting himself in the way of being killd—and after all to be told he is very lucky & has got high promotion. If his Majesty's officers were to wear snuff-colourd clothes with pig-tail wigs & square buckles do you think the mere spirit of patriotism would make commissions sell as highly.

However whether Walter becomes a Captain or remains Good master lieutenant " I intend to go and pay them a visit of a week or ten days at Dublin to see how they carry on the war. I think I shall be tempted to return [if] my time will permit by Cheltenham for the purpose of seeing you all as I cannot expect my Christmas visit where it is taxd with so long a journey in bad travelling
weather. I am writing to Major Huxley as I suppose the river will now be open.

I am very sorry to say I think Johnie Lockhart looks very frail—very beautiful & very clever—but haunted with a cough & frequent high pulse. Our hope is that he will mend as he gets older & Sophia thinks of trying the sea air & bathing.

Pray let me hear that this reaches safe and let me know what folks you have at Cheltenham in case I should know some of them though my fashionable acquaintance is much decreased of late years. I wish to hear also how Elizas health is—in short how you come on. When you are lazy yourself Anne can write me a line. Yours my dear Sister affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 21 May [PM. 1825] (1)

I am just going to wait on Lord Forbes your old friend as Commissioner to the Kirk. Lady Scott & Anne send kind love to you & the girls. I will be happy to see the gentleman who brings the sabre of the redoubted Sultan.

[Harlton]

TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

My DEAR SIR,—I have to return you best thanks for three Vols of your Legend and have looked into them but will not have an opportunity of perusing them regularly till our courts rise as my official duty owing to the illness
of one of my colleagues presses hard on me at this time. I merely hope and wish the publication may answer your wishes but the Public is a capricious mistress in the way she bestows or withholds her favour. Respecting your dedication to my unworthy self I am always rather anxious to escape from such compliments and have so often declined them when I had an opportunity afforded of expressing my wishes—indeed so often that making exceptions might seem a little ungracious to those whose flattering proposals I have declined since therefore you wished to do such a thing I am glad you did it without asking me a permission which I could not have granted without offending other good friends whose wishes of the same kind I have been obliged to evade. I am beginning to look at an old present of yours an Irish road book and a view of Dublin my going to Ireland at all especially on the view of seeing my son settled as a married man are certainly rather extraordinary and unexpected events. I fancy you are all in foam with the Catholic question respecting which we who are so sensitive to everything concerning popery are now completely indifferent. The very Catholics here seem indifferent about their franchises and it is quite wonderful that a question so interesting for one part of the empire should be so uninteresting to another. We are meanwhile congratulating each other on our prospect of fine crops and high prices our stock is already high in the market sheep particularly which [blank in copy] our valley. I find Walter has turned householder in Dublin and lives in Stephens green where he offers me quarters I am always my dear Sir Your truly obliged & faithful WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 26th May, 1825.
TO DANIEL TERRY

[June? 1825]

(9-126) MY DEAR TERRY,—You have long ere this heard from honest James that he accedes to your proposal of becoming one of your sureties. I did not think it right in the first instance either to encourage or deter him from taking this step, but sent him the whole correspondence upon the subject, that he might judge for himself; and I fancy he concluded that his own risk of loss was not by any means in proportion to your fair prospect of advantage.

(9-126) There is an idea among some of your acquaintance, which I partly acquiesce in, that you are in general somewhat of a procrastinator. I believe I have noticed the same thing in myself; but then I consider it the habit of one accustomed to alternations of severe exertion and great indolence; and I have no doubt that it will give place to the necessity of following out a regular, stated, and daily business—where every hour brings its own peculiar duties, and you feel yourself, like the mail-coach, compelled to be in time. I know such routine always cures me of the habit of indolence, which on other occasions I give way to as much as any man. This objection to the success which all agree is in your own power, I have heard coupled with another, which is also founded on close observation of your character, and connected with an excellent point of it;—it is, that you will be too desirous to do things perfectly well to consider the petite economic necessary to a very extensive undertaking. This, however, is easily guarded against.1
I remember Mrs John Kemble telling me how much she had saved by degrading some unfortunate figurantes into paper veils and ruffles. I think it was a round sum, and without going such lengths, I fear severer economy than one would like to practise, is essential to making a theatre profitable. Now, I have mentioned the only two personal circumstances which induce envy to lift her voice against your prospects. I think it right you should know them, for there is something to be considered in both particulars; I would not mention them till the affair was finished, because I would not have you think I was sheltering myself under such apologies. That the perils rising out of them are not formidable in my eyes, I have sufficiently shown, and I think it right to mention them now. I know I need not apologize for my frankness, nor will you regard it either as an undue exercise of the privilege of an adviser, or an abuse of the circumstances in which this matter has placed us.—Yours ever, with best love to Mrs Terry and Wat, W. SCOTT [Lockhart]

MY DEAR Miss WORDSWORTH,—It is with particular pleasure that I look back on the days of our happy excursions both in Scotland and England and so well do the recollections of them survive in my memory that I should have thought it quite impossible that any question on the subject could have puzzled me. I well remember our journey to Cole Orton—the situation of Sir George's mansion and the various plans of improvement which under your brother's guidance and direction were then
going on. I have often had occasion to think over your brother's observations on the subject of building & landscape and I hope should I ever have the great pleasure of seeing him Mrs. W. and you at Abbotsford I might show you some things you would like although I confess the place is rather too fanciful—too much like what Dryden calls some of his extravagant flights a Dalilah of the imagination.

But to your question. If I was to trust entirely to my own recollection I incline to think you and Mr. Wordsworth went one stage or two with me towards Lichfield but not the whole way. My reason is that I recollect some of his observations on the castle architecture of England which arose out of the sale of Lord Hastings place at Ashby de la Zouch. But I am pretty sure that I was alone when I visited another old chateau Tutbury I think where Queen Mary had been confined I and I do not believe we were together at Lichfield. There was some talk of our going together to see Miss Seward but somehow it went off. I have seen a letter of hers giving in her way a very prolix account of my visit to her and I am perfectly confident she would not have omitted so remarkable a circumstance as your brother's visit had it taken place as it would certainly have been much more worth commemorating than anything which she had to say of me & she was not the artist to neglect a favourable opportunity of drawing a sketch.

It is a singular illustration of the uncertainty of human testimony that of three individuals certainly not of the class through whose mind incidents pass most lightly two should have contradictory recollections with respect to...
such a fact and the third should be unable to speak with any confidence or certainty. This I will say however that if your letter had not raised doubts in my mind that perhaps have no other foundation I should if asked by a stranger [have said] that I went alone to Lichfield. I do not think my memory though still strong quite so accurate as it used to be & I believe I never was quite so ready at recalling past events as passages which I have read since I had about four or five years ago a long & severe illness of a very painful description accompanied with cramps in the stomach which brought me to death's door. It pleased God however that I not only recovered but enjoy now as perfect health as at the youngest period of my life. I have resigned my high trotting horse however for an egg-woman's pony and would scarce undertake to walk over Helvellyn as I did in great part with Southey & your brother twenty years ago. This season I think of going to Dublin where my son is with his regiment the 15 Hussars. He was married [some ?] months since to a young lady of some fortune in the County of Fife and I want to see what sort of menage the young folks keep.

I wish your brother & Mrs. Wordsworth and you would think of our blue hills once more they are not so romantic as those which surround you but I think they are not deficient in a peculiar interest of their own. I shall be back in the beginning of August to a certainty & no human beings I should like to see under my own roof once more than your brother & his : I was very unlucky when he was last in Teviotdale.

Lady Scott begs kindest remembrances. She as well
(9-130)as I have got a good deal older since we met but as my
(9-130)old acquaintance the late Pitfour 2 used to say folks must
(9-130)get old or die—there is no alternative.

(9-130)Remember me most warmly to your brother and
(9-130)sister in law & family. I should rejoice indeed to see
(9-130)some of his young folks. Send them on a pilgrimage to
(9-130)me and it will do them no harm. Your brother has of
(9-130)course good advice for his eyes. Mine also annoy me—
(9-130)less with inflammation than with weakness but I comfort
(9-130)myself with the recollection that my mother's were also
(9-130)weak yet she read the bible in the 84th year of her age.
(9-130)I am my dear Miss Wordsworth

[Signature cut away]
[Wordsworth]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 131

TO MRS. WALTER SCOTT

(9-131)MY DEAR JANE,—I write a few hasty lines chiefly to
(9-131)answer yours so far as relates to your coming here.1 My
(9-131)time is not necessarily fixd to any particular day so that
(9-131)my visit could easily be postponed till you came here
(9-131)should you think it advisable and I will answer for
(9-131)conducting you safe back in person to Dublin should you
(9-131)out stay Walters leave—or—if it will suit you better I
(9-131)can bring you with us to Britain & Walter can come &
(9-131)fetch you—that is always in case that you may wish to
(9-131)see Mrs. Jobson & your friends here for a longer space
(9-131)than Walter can obtain leave for.

(9-131)I gave Mrs. Jobson your last letter as usual but I am
(9-131)rather [sorry] I did so as I fear the paragraph about the
(9-131)gig may have alarmd her. I am not easy about it myself
by any means having known too many fatal accidents
occur which neither skill of the driver nor temper of the
horse have been able to avert. Lady Scotts sister in law
in particular lost her health for ever by such an accident.
I must intreat you will be extremely cautious & should
not be sorry to hear that the gigg was in a thousand
pieces so no one was hurt. I have more tolerance for a
four wheeld affair like your own poney chaise.

As for the enormities of the domestics I can only say
that if it be a comfort to have companions in trouble I may
tell you as Burns to the Mouse

Mousie thou art no thy lane.

Our Lady here to reduce some extravagances below stairs
thought fit to engage a housekeeper thinking with reason
that at her age she might spare some of the personal
inspection which is unhappily necessary to keep these
gentry in order. But there have already been two
rebellions against this new Vice-gerent one among the
women one among the men and though they have been
successfully subdued yet I fancy it will cost us some
changes at the term.

What is this the papers have about Walter picking a
lady out of the canal. I think you would have mentiond
it if he had really been playing these Newfoundland dog
feats of gallantry. In truth I should like to know how it
stands ?

Will you tell him I am out of patience with him for his
silence. All kind remembrances attend you both from all
here. We are well & hearty only little Johnie whoops
away still. It is the hooping cough however & any is better than a nameless decline. We are not afraid of him now. Anne sends kindest love Yours most affectionately

WALTER SCOTT
EDINR. 3 June [1825]

Mrs. Jobson & Dr. Gibson spent a very pleasant day here on Wednesday.

[Law]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 133

TO HIS SON WALTER, 10 STEPHENS GREEN, DUBLIN

DEAR WALTER,—I received your letter at Abbotsford whither I had retreated on the 4th. June to spend the time betwixt that day & yesterday which I did as Robinson Crusoe says " to my exceeding refreshment." The country is looking beautiful though the weather has not been warm an easterly wind predominating. The only news is that Tom Purdies daughter (the pretty one Jenny) is to be married on Friday to George Fairbairn a hind at Loch Breast one of a family that have been long servants to my uncle & my Grandfather. So that being a bridal among our ain folks I send the bride this morning a present of a set of tea-things with spoons corresponding. The bridegroom is the lad that used to fiddle to us for want of a better.

I have left Anne and Mamma in the country till Saturday se'nnight when I propose to fly out per mail & fetch them in till the Session rises. In the meantime my Saturdays are well filled up. On next Saturday being the 11th I go on our usual skirmish to Blair Adam where
the good natured Chief Commissioner proposes to lay off an entrance to the grounds & house of Lochor[e] along his own lands which [will] be a great matter for the property though you need not be in a hurry to make the road. Upon Saturday 18th. I mean to go to Abbotsford as already said, on the 25 I will go to Tyningham to see the old peer 1 and learn a few more of his stories.

Yesterday I gave a smart party in the Character of Bachelor Bluff to some of my big wiggd friends & my very old acquaintance Lord Forbes in particular. Our new housekeeper sent up everything very smart.

Little John Hugh is still hooping but I have no doubt now that he will do well. Sophia is to go to Abbotsford or Chiefswood as she may like best in the course of a week when it is hoped the country air will help to set him up completely. Poor little fellow he is a very engaging child.

To continue my account of my projected movements I expect to be able to set off for Glasgow on Saturday 9th. June.1 Next day we will go to the Kirk like good bairns & spend the day with Dr. Lockhart and set off next day by the Steamer for Belfast. So with any luck of a tolerable passage Anne, Lockhart and I will be in St. Stephens Green on the evening of the 12th. or morning of the 13th. July. I hope nothing will occur to derange this arrangement to which I look forward with much hope of gratification. You can let us [know] what is worth looking at upon our route.

Agreeably to your request I have written by first post
(9-134) to remit the 1500 to Major Lanes accompt with Messrs. Minet & Stride and shall be glad to see that matter settled.

(9-134) Amidst the casualties which you mention of the canal you do not mention an incident which has figured in all the papers announcing you by name & surname as having fishd up a certain Miss Bergan out of the said canal & thereby like Hotspur " fishd up pale faced honour by the locks "—perhaps we should read from the lock viz. the lock of the canal. We are dying of curiosity to know whether this be true or no as both your silence & Jane's induce us to doubt the fact.

(9-134) On Saturday we had wellnigh made a neat paragraph ourselves for a stupid blockhead of a postillion took fright in the ford the water being rather heavy and wisely proposed to turn which would unquestionably have swampt us. I kept him to his tackle though and we went on without danger though the water came through the carriage & I was obliged to open both doors. Mama was horridly frightend but Anne joked the whole way which makes me hope she will be a bold traveller. Do you think you will be able to get leave for Killarney? I should like much to see that celebrated scenery.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT

(9-135) My kind love to Jane and pray take the utmost care of the gigg I have a holy horror for these vehicles & more than one accident have happend to young married women in my time which has been cause of distress for a life-time. Speaking of vehicles—I intend to have a light barouche for the journey which with two horses will trundle along like a bowl.
To whom do Messrs. Coutts pay the cash in their hands when you are gazetted—let me know that I may give orders accordingly it would be awkward to have it unsettled while I am rambling about I am always Your affectionate father  

WALTER SCOTT

[PM. June 9, 1825]
[Law]

TO HIS SON CHARLES

MY DEAR CHARLES,—You have been so long of answering my letter as to leave little time to determine on a plan which I thought of for your pleasure and advantage how to employ some part at least of this vacation. Shakespeare says that homebred youths have ever homely wits and besides as you think of something diplomatic the sooner you have a glimpse of foreign parts [the better]. Now suppose you had any intelligent friend Mr Surtees for example willing to take such a tour with you I should have had no objections to your going over to Paris running as far as the verge of Switzerland then descending the Rhine and returning by Brussells & Holland. I would do this the rather that our family will be much dispersed this year as Walter cannot get over and Anne, Lockhart & I have settled to go to Dublin as soon as the Session rises (9th. July). Now if it be too late as I fear it may be for you to think of arranging your foreign excursion you can come down here & be with us during the interval & while we are absent you could make a little tour through the Highlands & see something of your own country or if we can arrange room which I
(9-136)think we may do as I intend to take for the tour a little light barouche which will hold four we can all go jollily together to the land of Eirin. I should not be afraid of the visit incommoding Walter because he has a largish house & I can make the matter of the menage quite easy. Mamma & Sophia promise either to remain quiet at Abbotsford or to go to some sea bathing quarter. Mama dare not trust ferry boats & Irish travelling.

(9-136)Perhaps this may do as well as the foreign trip & next year you will have studied the french & german a little in order that you may make your journey conveniently & usefully. Remember at least to keep up what you have of modern languages for readiness in speaking & composing in them is like to be of the last consequence to you as is English composition. Think my plans over & decide for yourself whether you would like to go abroad this year so soon as necessary arrangements can be made or to scour the Highlands or to storm Walter in his camp at Dublin. Either will I think form an agreeable divertissement after the hard reading.

(9-136)Walter is very well by last advices. There is a story of his fishing a lady out of the canal but in truth it was a brother officer Hamilton Dundas who " pluckd up drownd honour " on that occasion. Suum cuique is our roman justice. We are at present divided—Anne & Mamma being at Abbotsford for ten days but next Saturday being the 18th. I go to fetch them all in upon the tuesday or Wednesday following when we will be together untill our final dispersion in the beginning of July.

(9-136)In case you should want cash for travelling &c I have advised Messrs Coutts to honour your Drat. for 20,, & [remainder of MS. cut out]
TO MRS. CLEPHANE

EDINBURGH 15 June [1825]

MY DEAR MRS CLEPHANE,—Mr and Mrs Harford of Blaize Castle near Bristol one of the finest places I have been told in England, are bound for Staffa, and though I dislike very much giving you trouble, yet as they are pleasant folks, and as Mrs Harford before her marriage, which is a late event, knew and valued Lady Compton, I do not hesitate to give them a passport to your kind attention, and Anna Jane's. Where shall we meet as happily as we did last year when even Wealth itself, that dullest of all concerns, in the shape of its most favoured daughter could not suppress our highland Hilarity. Alas! We must always miss one amiable member of our society in poor Lady Alvanley. I heard from the Miss Ardens two days since. They are well, but still in very poor spirits as is most natural, for the loss of such a parent and mother is never to be forgotten.

We are all here well. Johnie Lockhart just recovering from the Hooping Cough, I trust favourably. A thousand kind loves to Anna Jane. The price of bullocks is now doubled at least. Will not this tempt you from your lonely isle? I go to Dublin to see Walter for 2 weeks next month. Then I must be stationary at home for the season. Adieu my dear Mrs Clephane, I think of you and your family very often though I am so wretched a
letter-writer. I thought of you particularly ten days since when I was at Walter's estate of Lochore which looks full on Kirkness. Always yours most respectfully and affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

[Northampton]

138 LETTERS OF 1825

TO WALTER SCOTT, 10 STEVENS GREEN, DUBLIN

EDINR. 16 June 1825

MY DEAR WALTER,—It may be as well to let you know (though you would infer it from my last letter) that the transference of 1500 must have been made on Monday 13th. the order having been dispatchd on friday 10th. June. Sooner it could not be for your letter found me in the country so a day was lost in my coming here and another thursday has no English post. So all has been done that man can do to secure your object. I will wait with some impatience for this nights gazette. I have written to Coutts to pay the 2000 odds of regulation so soon as the gazette announces you are in possession.

On Saturday 11th. I went to Blair Adam & had a delicious stroll among the woods—the roe deer are lying as thick there as in the highlands and I dare say must be equally so at Lochore so you will have some of the high-game they are endeavouring to destroy them which they find very difficult. It is a pity they do so much mischief to the woods for otherwise they are the most beautiful objects in nature and were they at Abbotsford I could not think have the heart to make war on them. Two little fawns came into the room at tea-time and drank cream. They had the most beautiful dark eyes and little dark muzzles & were scarce so big as Miss Fergussons Italian
greyhound. The Chief Comr. offered them to me—but to keep them tame would have been impossible on account of the dogs & to turn them loose into the woods would have been willfully entailing risque on the plantations which have cost me so much money & trouble. There was a talk of fattening them for the kitchen a proposal which would have driven Mama distracted.

We spent Monday on a visit to Lochore and in planning the road which is so much wanted. The Chief Comr. is an excellent manager & has undertaken to treat with Mr. Wemyss of East Blair through a part of whose property the line lies but just at a corner & where it will be as convenient for his property as for Lochore.

I am glad Jane looks after her own affairs—it is very irksome to be sure but then one must do it or be eaten up by their servants like Actaeon by his hounds. Talking of hounds I have got a second Maida but he is not yet arrived. Nimrod is his name.

I keep my purpose as express'd in my last but as the steam boats do not sail from Glasgow till tuesday & as one day will be enough to spend with that best & dullest of all possible doctors 1 at Germiston we will not start till Monday. I might perhaps persuade mama to come but she is unhappy in steam boats bad beds & all the other inconveniences of travelling. Sir Adam & Lady Ferguson are thinking of stirring towards you. I hope they will allow our visit to be over in the first instance as it would overtax Jane & you—otherwise I should like to see the merry knight in Ireland where I suppose he would prove Ipsi Hybernis Hybernior—more Irish than
the natives.

I have given Charles his choice between France & Ireland & shall have his answer in two or three days.

Will he be de trop if we can pack him up in the little barouche.

Your commentary on Sir Davie's confused hash of regulations which on principle might be shortend to a dozen puts me in mind of old Sir William Erskines speech to him when all was in utter confusion at the retreat from before Dunkerks and Sir William came down to protect the rear — In passing Sir David the tough old veteran exclaimed "Davie ye donnert idiot where's a' your pivot[s] the day."

Tell Jane with my kindest love that Mrs. Jobson is very well & dined here yesterday at a little party I was forced to give to Mr. & Mrs. Harford of Blaize Castle near Bristol. Sophia was my S[?]ndby [?] & I assure you the thing went off well. Mama and Anne are still at Abbotsfd. On Saturday I go there & I suppose we will return together on Wednesday. As to your early hours no man ought to be in bed at seven in summer time— I never am — your four o'clock is rather premature Yours with kindest remembrances to Jane WALTER SCOTT

Postscript. Yours just received dateless— as was your former I suppose it is a family fault I — What I have written will shew that the cash matters are bang up. You will easily believe that for as many cyphers as can be placed behind the figures 15 I would not suffer an engagement of honour entered into by you with my approbation to remain unfulfilld. A comparison of the dates will shew there has...
been no voluntary delay on my part. Indeed what
motive could I have for leaving money without interest
in the hands of a London Banker. But we are corresponding
at a triangle when you write to me & I to London.
I wrote on friday last to Coutts to pay the regn. whenever
you were gazetted so that all is right so far as I can make
it so—I will write to Jane to scold her for her lady-like
fears about our reception. To find you happy will be the
principal part of my wellcome. For the rest a slice of
plain meat of any kind—a seigar & a little poteen are worth
turtle & Burgundy to my taste—As for poor dear stupid
Hartstongue there is only one answer which the clown in
Shakespeares plays 2 says will be a fitting reply to
all questions—Oh Lord Sir ! ! !—

[Bayley]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 141

TO SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT 1

EDINR. 17th June [1825]

MY DEAR SIR GEORGE,—You are so much disposed to
do kind and generous things that I daresay you are
often unreasonably oppressed by intrusion, and now I
come to add my stone, as the Highlanders say, to your
cairn of troubles.

The bearer is a modest and unfriended young man,
Scott 2 by name and country, whose ambition has been
excited by the praises he has received from friends, who
were perhaps no great judges, until he conceived he had a
decided vocation for the palette ; and, with the view of
prosecuting his studies as a painter, he goes to London
to suffer penury, I suppose, and daub canvas, as many
I am interested on his account, from the difficulties of his situation, and the modesty and simplicity of his character; and, although I cannot pretend to judge of the degree, I think he certainly shows much aptness for the art. Perhaps you would be kind enough to give him a few words of advice, which he will greatly need, and if you think his talents are worthy of cultivation, your influence may remove those difficulties which lie in the way of a young and inexperienced stranger. It will add to the many obligations I owe, and enable me still more to subscribe myself, with best respects to Lady Beaumont, dear Sir George, your grateful humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT

I had a letter from Wordsworth and his sister the other day on an odd enough subject. When we went down to the country together in 1805, Miss Wordsworth thinks they went with me to wait on Miss Seward at Lichfield; Wordsworth contends they did not see her; and I, the referee, am unable to settle the point. Such is human evidence!

[Memorials of Coleorton]

TO MRS. SCOTT OF LOCHORE, CARE OF WALTER SCOTT, ESQ., DUBLIN

EDINBURGH 17 June 1825

MY DARLING JANE,—You are doomed to have long
answers even to postscripts but you deserve them were they
worth any thing for you have been a most excellent
correspondent. We will certainly be with you on the
evening of Wednesday 14th. July or the morning of the
next day. I find the steam boat does not sail till tuesday
13th. which makes this change in our motions. Do not
put yourself to any trouble about us. Walter will tell you
that my delight is in plain fare and kind welcome and
as I am sure of the one I venture to command the other.
When you were at Abbotsford we were you know somewhat
in Gala—it was high holiday with us and occasion
called on us to be a little en seigneur. But you have never
seen us quietly when we are very quiet from choice as well
as propriety.

I was at Blair Adam & Lochore the other day. I am
very anxious to secure a good access to your mansion
there. I think I can make you understand what I mean.
You remember the bridge over the brook about half a
mile to the west of your farm house of Chapel—Very well
— A road made & metal'd as it is called communicates
from the bridge with the High road through Lord Morays
lands I there & I have no doubt we can get the use of the
road as well as Mr. Syme—We then cross the bridge &
my proposal would be to carry the road along the left
bank of the brook east-ward to join that road which
communicates with Chapel from the west & which is a very
good one. Some part of the road from the bridge to the
Chapel farm would be through Mr. Symes grounds of
East Blair for the greater part through your own property
& it would be equally useful almost to both estates &
permit the farmers of both to communicate with the high-
road to the Roscobie lime works &c which would be of
great consequence.

You will then have a level access (comparatively) to Lochore House without climbing up the sides of Bennarty merely to come down again, by driving past Chapel and coming round by the east avenue. This will serve present purposes. But you will also secure the power of making when you so please a very beautiful avenue from the south west by entering your own woods just after you pass the march between East Blair & Lochore and winding gradually through them till you gain the level of the mansion house. This may be made a most beautiful thing but there is no hurry in it. On the other hand it would be quite necessary to make an agreement with Mr. Symes agent while they are desirous (as Lord Chief Commissr. seems to think they are) to engage in such a beneficial transaction. If young Walter had been the surveyor instead of Old Walter he would have given you a sketch of the ground to assist your comprehension. You will always have the present approach as an entrance to the place from the North west or Kinross direction. If you approve of what I am recommending I will manage the expence for you for you cannot be expensive in rural oeconomy & improvements while you have so many cormorants to feed.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT

So Walters laurels in the case of the drownd fair one are transferd to the head of Hamilton Dundas. I think the tailor of 20 Stone has a right both in regard to his size & his spirit to pass for something more than the 9th. part of a man. I am glad there are still tailors in the 15th. It was chiefly composed of such worthies when it was raised & calld Elliots Light Horse and when the regiment sufferd severely (at Minden I think) they gave
(9-145) rise to the well known joke that the King had neither
(9-145) lost men nor horses the riders being tailors & the chargers
(9-145) mares.

(9-145) Let me know my Love what I can fetch for you from
(9-145) Scotland. Mrs. Jobson promises me a parcel. She had
(9-145) the goodness to dine with me in my widowed state the
(9-145) day before yesterday & is in high health & spirits. I have
(9-145) the vanity to think myself a great favourite.

(9-145) I have made an arrangement that permits me to go
(9-145) to the country (Abbotsford of course) tomorrow after
(9-145) twelve o'clock & stay there till Wednesday which will be
(9-145) delightful in this hot weather.

(9-145) I wrote Walter fully about his money matters &
(9-145) although I was positively certain of what I then stated
(9-145) yet I looked into the Bankers Shop today & saw the letter
(9-145) advising that √ 1500 was paid to Minet & Stride for Major
(9-145) Lanes use. I have written to him & expect the Gazette
(9-145) will make you a Captains lady—a real Captains lady very
(9-145) soon 2 Adi[e]u dearest Jane and God bless you

(9-145) WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

146       LETTERS       OF       1825

TO LORD MONTAGU, 17 ST. JAMES'S PLACE, LONDON,
OF DITTON PARK, WINDSOR, BERKS.

(9-146) MY DEAR LORD,—Another Minister deceased—He of
(9-146) Wilton 1 —and I your old accustomed beggar again a suitor
(9-146) in behalf of Mr. Geo: Thompson whose situation makes
(9-146) me now more anxious than formerly for his pupil has come
(9-146) of age though scarce to the years of discretion & has
entered into possession of his property so there is an end of a comfortable source of income to my poor protege. I have some hope I may be more fortunate in my present application than formerly being in the Roxburghshire district and where it does not occur to me there is any land holder in the parish of consequence who has high claims on the Buccleuch interests. My son has a church presentation which will open in the course of nature at no very distant period & I am sure if he thought it would aid the views of his old tutor he would be happy to attend to the Dukes wishes when that term arrives if the support of his Graces interest should make that matter desireable. Truth is I cannot help thinking that Church hunting is very like Will Honeycombes pursuit of wealthy widows—he used to get on his boots the instant he heard the relict was left desolate but somehow always found them engaged. I hope for your own sake my dear Lord you will be able to gratify me on this occasion. Thompson has been preaching remarkably well & I have no doubt will give satisfaction to the people—and you will be at rest from solicitations which except in a very peculiar case I should be most unwilling to make. But the debt due to one who has brought up your family is a very sacred one and justifies perhaps a little importunity—at least Your goodness will I am sure excuse it.

I am anxious to know your Lordships motions this summer the rather that my own are more erratic than usual for I meditate a jaunt to Dublin to see how Walter & his cara sposa are carrying on their menage. I should like ill to be absent when the Duke & your Lordship are like to be at Bowhill for I would hope for my day as usual. I am in treaty for a vote for Walter in this county.
Adam & Eve have deserted their paradise of Tweedside
Alack & well a day. They went with a train of seventeen
carts up Yarrow alarming the dale as an English foray
might have done in days bye past. Tom thought the
French were come—some the day of judgement—and
those who lived out of sight of the road held the long
continued rumbling which attended their march to be
nothing less than the precursor of an earthquake. The
load of the carts too was as comically miscellaneous as
the knights own talents. There were all sorts of poultry
foreign & native—all sort[s] of dogs for game & for
ornament—Two China sows and a boar their husband
—in short a specimen of Noahs ark moving on a high
road.

I beg to be most respectfully & kindly rememberd to
Lady Montagu the Buccleuch ladies & the Miss
Montagues and believe me ever my dear Lord Your
Lordships obliged & faithful

WALTER SCOTF

P.S. I am told a son of Mr. Campbell Minister at
Ancrum is making interest for Wilton. I hope it may be
considerd that he is a very young man just made a
preacher and that George Thompson has filld a pulpit
for ten years at least and is upwards of thirty years
old.1

ABBOTSFORD 20th. June [1825]—But pray address Edinr.

where I will be in the course of two days. This is what
our herds call a Start and Owerloup.1
TO J. G. LOCKHART, EDINR.

(9-148) My DEAR LOCKHART,—I send you the inclosed which looks very well. I am clearly of opinion you should get Mr Trail 2 to resign as soon as possible and let Lumsden have Caithness. He being out of the way & you having the Stafford interest with a non repugnantia as we are led to suppose on the part of Peele & Lord Mellville you get Sutherland which requires no residence—a great matter—leaving Chiefswood &c all as before & costing you only a pleasant airing now & then. To be sure there is delay for Ferriar will not give in upon less than two thirds of his pension but I fear the poor old boy will not long be in any ones way. I will do nothing till we speak together. All well here & Johnie in high feather Yours truly

(9-148) WALTER SCOTT

(9-148) ABBOTSFORD Tuesday [PM. 21st June 1825]

[Law]

TO ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD

(9-148) MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,—If you give a dog a bone he will follow you through half a dozen streets, and so it is with obligations bestowed on the human race, they are no sooner conferred than they are made the pretence of further teasing. But your ladyships great kindness encourages this species of persecution, and your flattering
enquiries about Lockhart's probable success as to Sutherland makes it incumbent on me to mention any little progress that has [been] made with respect to that sheriffdom.

I have some reason to think that the principal obstacle in Lockhart's way was some engagement, expressed or implied, in which ministers were engaged to give the first sheriffdom vacant to a particular individual. The sheriffdom of Caithness is now about to open by Mr. Trail's resignation, who, indeed, most kindly offered to make that resignation either earlier or later as it might suit Lockhart's views, for whom he has a great regard.

Now we are advised by those who understand such diplomacy that it is better that Mr. Trail resigns at once, so that this same favourite and preferred expectant (who by the way is one of the ugliest and stupidest fellows at the bar) may get his preferment and be out of the way, in which case, although our great friends are too diplomatic to say anything positive, they give intimation that Lockhart, as seconded by Lord Stafford and your ladyships good wishes, will have every chance of preference. I own I should be much better pleased with his having Sutherland rather than Caithness for his own sake, and being of a good presence and certainly clever enough, he would become the halls of Dunrobin 1 better than a thing disagreeable to the eye and very tiresome to the ear. But the whole arrangement about Sutherland must lie over until James Ferriar retires from the clerks table to make way for James Fergusson, who vacates a commissariat to make way for Charles Ross, who leaves Sutherland to give place, I would fain hope, to Lockhart—upon the old principle of the cat to the rat, the rat to the halter, the halter to the butcher, the butcher to the ox, and so forth. Now there
an impediment to all these parties setting off on the race of preferment with their hands fast clenched on each other's skirts, for Mr. Peel will not give Ferriar a superannuation pension equivalent to two thirds of his salary, but wishes to limit him to one half, and the stout old highlandman declares he will die sooner than abate his demand. All this will probably be settled in the course of the next vacation. I thought it right that your ladyship and my lord marquis should be master of all that I know of this business at the risk of writing a very dull letter. My informer seems to have a superstitious fear of all this valuable information transpiring, so it is only designed for your ladyship's private ear. Indeed there are so many more amusing subjects of conversation at Cleveland House or the Villa that the arrangements of northern sheriffs has little chance to be selected.

I dined in company with Marechal MacDonald 1 yesterday, and was much interested in his conversation, which was very agreeable and impressive. His appearance was far from military, much like some of these north country clergymen who come down to figure at the General Assembly; but he has a fine eye, and what is usually impressive, grey hair, with dark eye brows. The whole expression is plain and sagacious, and he seems very frank and communicative. He talked a long while to me, notwithstanding the miserable French in which I was obliged to attempt a reply, for he understands no English. He is bound for South Uist, and to South Uist he will go. I have a notion the place is horribly desolate, without grandeur of any kind, even that of sterility. I question whether it will be improved by a parcel of poor smoke-dried relatives who will rush on him to get what they can. I advised Hector Buchanan MacDonald 2 to carry him to
his own fine place on Loch Lomond and persuade him that was South Uist. I'll venture to say the visit will tire him of the Hebrides and of Scotch cousins for the remainder of his life.

I beg my most respectful compliments to the marquis, and am ever, my dear Lady Stafford, your honour[d] and obliged humble servant, WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH, 23 June [1825]

I think of going to Dublin in the beginning of next month to see my son Walter, who is there with his regiment.

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[June? 1825]

DEAR JAMES,—With a view to your regulation I have lookd into my matters and besides £ 500 to face my journey etc in I should like provision to be made of from £ 2000 to £ 2500 to make clearance of balances with my agents & other things of which I will leave you a distinct note. After this all the proceeds of Boney may I think go against the book and with the stories of Crusaders print & paper of Do will make a deep smash in the acceptances. They are not you are aware expenditures on the contrary my large shares of stock have been purchased several fields acquired and my sons Commission now gazetted amounting to £ 3500 comes from the same source.

I should wish to find the sum of £ 150 (£ 100 in English
Bank Notes or gold) lying here for me at my return and
3-Iso that you would remit to Messrs Coutts any day next
week the sum of $350 begging the favour of them to send
me a letter of credit for the same sum on any banker in
Dublin Or you may get me such a letter from a Banker
here which will save trouble. If the Coutts send it
they will please advise me by a letter addresed to me at

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No 10 Stevens Green Dublin. This completes the $500
for my personal expences etc.

I also wish you could pay my law agent John Gibson
Junior 10 Charlotte Street the sum of $607, 11, 4 1/2
ballance due on the inclosed accompt—it has stood long
over part of it. I also inclose a small accot. of $16 due
to a poor widow which please [settle].

Other things may lie over till we meet. I wish you
would dine with me on Friday and come at four precisely
with the books I will be then ready to give you all
necessary stuff for my absence Yours etc WALTER SCOTT

You can send me an answer tomorrow morning by
times or come to breakfast if so early an hour as nine &
the company of a parcel of boys should chance to suit you.

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES SKENE

MY DEAR SKENE,—I was favoured with your kind letter,
which I have delayed answering untill I should have
arranged my motions for the Irish trip. I shall set out
on my journey with Lockhart and Anne in the steamboat
(9-152) for Ireland on Tuesday, 13th July, and shall go right for
(9-152) Belfast and Dublin, making it always a principle to attain
(9-152) the furthest point of my journey as soon as possible. I
(9-152) have considerable doubt whether I shall return by the
(9-152) same route, or through England, to show Anne, who has
(9-152) been little from home, something of the sister-country.
(9-152) If I come via Belfast or Donahadee you may depend upon
(9-152) it a principal object will be to visit Mrs. Skene and you in
(9-152) your Highland retirement, but if England shall carry it,
(9-152) then I must reserve that great pleasure till another season.
(9-152) In the meantime I think it highly probable that Sophia
(9-152) and Lady Scott may look in upon you as they go to
(9-152) Helensburgh for sea-bathing and will be in your
(9-152) neighbourhood.

1825  SIR WALTER SCOTT  153

(9-153) The bathing is on account of little Johnnie Lockhart to
(9-153) whom it is recommended as strengthening. All public
(9-153) business (of that kind which is unpaid for) is suffering
(9-153) for want of your patriotic care, so I hope you will return
(9-153) early next winter to take care ne quid detrimenti respublica
(9-153) capiat.

(9-153) We have had Marechal MacDonald here. We had a
(9-153) capital account of Glengarry visiting the interior of a
(9-153) convent in the ancient Highland garb, and the effect of
(9-153) such an apparition on the nuns, who fled in all directions.
(9-153)—My kindest respects attend Mrs. Skene, and I am always
(9-153) most truly yours,  WALTER SCOTT

(9-153) EDINR. 24 June [PM. 1825]
[Skene-Tytler and Skene's Memories]

TO LORD MONTAGU
MY DEAR LORD,—I only write to say that your letter is perfectly satisfactory for me—as indeed I would have been most unreasonable if it were otherwise. I have no wish to serve Mr Thompson either at the risque of his doing his patrons discredit or making a bad pastor. I firmly believe however he will make a very good one—at least he has the essential qualities.

I rejoice to hear that the Duke has made a successful debut. Nothing encourages youth so much as the sense that they can succeed and I know my young friend for whom Fortune has done so much will feel the delight of acquiring for himself those accomplishments over which fortune has no power but which must be won by industry & intelligence and may then be worn as honorable trophies. I think the choice of his studies admirable.

If he had diverged to Weimar I should have wished to give him a letter to Goethe one of the most extraordinary men of his age whom advanced age has not I understand deprived of his energy or his interest in passing events. He speaks French perfectly. But this may be on another occasion if poor old eighty & upward survives so long.

I mentiond I was going to Ireland in July. As I must visit Lockharts brother I shall have a peep at Bothwell Castle if it is only for half an hour. It is a place of many recollections to me for I cannot but think how changed I am from the same Walter Scott who was so passionately ambitious of fame when I wrote the song of Young Lochinvar at Bothwell. And if I could recall the same feelings where was I to find an audience so kind and partial & whose applause was at the same time so well worth having as Lady Dalkeith & Lady Douglas. When
one thinks of these things there is no silencing ones regret
but by Corporal Nym's philosophy things must be as they
may—One generation goeth and another cometh.

I shall be back in Roxburghshire long before your
Lordships proposed visit to Scotland. Perhaps I may
return through England but this is very uncertain. I have
thoughts of going as far as Killarney unless Pat should
happen to [be] in a pugnacious humour in which case it
may be as well to remain under shadow of the 15th in
which Walter has just got a troop so is now captain by
right and not of courtesy and a very great man I suppose
in consequence. My son Charles is come back from
Oxford & I am pleased with his improvement in general
manners as well as in learning. He gives an account of
Christ Church which makes me as well pleased the Duke
is at Cambridge which at first I rather regretted.

I hope Lady Isabella's recovery will be as favourable as
her freinds could desire & am with best Compliments to

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 155

Lady Montagu & all the ladies always most truly your
obliged & faithul WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 28th June [1825]

I spent Saturday & Sunday at Tyningham and never
saw Lord Haddington more himself excepting the
giddiness which he complains of. His spirits memory and
judgement were not more remarkable twenty years since.
Yet he lives almost alone from one months end to the
other.

TO WILLIAM STEWART ROSE
MY DEAR ROSE,—I think it is about the time when good men arrange their country parties and enquire after the motions of their friends. How sets the Vane (I will not say the weather cock) of your inclinations—due north I trust with a resting towards Abbotsford when the moorfowl season sets in. I mention the moorfowl not only on account of your further delectation but because I am going for a week or two to Ireland in the beginning of July and shall scarce if I visit Killarney as I purpose get back before the first week of August. My principal cause of visiting the Emerald Isle is that I wish to see how Walter and his wife keep their menage they are quartered at present at Dublin. The papers seem to bestow on him the credit due to another officer of saving a young lady from drowning the other day. We can only hope he would have done his best had he been in the way and he certainly has thewes and sinews enough for such a task. Pray let the author of the Wilderness of Monkeys know I expected he would send me a copy of the work specially as I think he has got some of my tales and being generally read and admired I might as well quote the best thumb'd page of our friend Joe Millar as again attempt to tell what is generally known so I ought in all justice to have a copy of the record. Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie are here for a day and talk of having seen you at Morritts and that both of you were very well. I think I must see Johanes Mauritanius as I return through England that is if I do take that route. Anne and Lockhart are to be my travelling companions. Lady Scott Sophia and little Johnie Hugh as he calls himself go to Helensburgh I believe to sea bathing quarters. Perhaps we might manage somewhere or somehow to pick you up.
on our return northward. After August I shall be stationary as usual and the Chapel 1 awaits you. Adieu dear Rose all at Chiefwood & Abbotsford [send] love and hope you will not sadden autumn by your absence. Address Edinr. as I came here only for a day. Yours with most sincere regard and affection WALTER SCOTT ABBOTSFORD 20th June 1825

How does Orlando come on? Chantrey killed two salmon when here a month ago.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

MY DEAR RICHARDSON,—On receiving your letter 2 I exclaimed to myself "Gadzooks I have just such a thing in my eye"—But on going to James Nairne to enquire about Newhall I found you had been nibbling but would not rise to the fly. In point of size and extent it is exactly what you want—You have a capital road and are in complete solitude with a perfect command of excellent society within a few miles—The Caddon is such a stream as the Glencorse water & supplies good fishing excepting in the very dry season and then you are within three miles of Ashiestiel, the best trout fishing possible. Your poney carries you there in half an hour and you return in two hours with your creelfull. You have Galashiels for an excellent market town within four miles, and Abbotsford at the right distance of a morning drive. For the value you have 3 per cent immediately and next to a certainty of 4 or I would even say 4 1/2 per cent and I declare to you that if I wanted to [in]vest money I would buy the place on
that accompt only. There is a better sort of farm house which may completely supply the place of your supposed old manse. There are a number of old trees about the house and admirable facilities for making beautiful copse plantations and standing timber both—and crede experto—there is no country amusement which is so delightful as planting and few rural improvements more certainly profitable. Trees are like children, interesting to Strangers when grown up, but to parents and planters from the nursery. Plant an acre of copse-wood in 1825 for which is ample—allow thinnings to be set against expense of keeping pruning repairing fences &c and in 1845 you cut a crop worth four ton of bark at 10 per acre being rather below the usual rate. You have ever afterwards the same return of every 18 or 20 years and you have the value of the wood against all attending expenses. If you choose to incur the same expense every year it is clear you will after twenty years cut the same sum of annually. I only give a hint of what may be done in this way by a man that is not pinched for the ready—Meanwhile the place is bare certainly but not " in the mind's eye Horatio ". Three years enable your plantations to assume that boskey appearance fashioning out their future form even to the vulgar and earthly vision itself. In short the place has great capabilities & conveniencies and I remember twenty years ago wishing very much to get hold of it. But that I may not write upon such vague speculation I intend to go up there on Monday and will write on Tuesday whether my present recollections are accurate or not—One thing I consider as of consequence which is the excellent and quiet character of our common people very different in this respect from manufacturing districts.
It is impossible you can have every thing you wish in settling yourself but I really think Newhall may in the course of a short time be made all you would wish. You cannot carry Hampstead with you.

If you had wished a leasehold I think I might have had it in my power to have suited you in case Nicol Milne and I should chance to agree about his property of Faldonside; but this is very dubious owing to his unreasonable demands. The house is a new one & you might have a lease for any term you chose with all walks chasse &c. in common—But there is no denying that property is a more tempting thing in spite of all that sages can say on the subject. Mrs Scott's fortune is completely at her own disposal & our marriage contract provided for the chance of buying land in Roxburghshire. Besides as she has about 20,000 besides her estate of Lochore we might make a good purchase with my experience without selling her own estate which is rising in value daily. Mrs Scott has a very extensive interest in the unfortunate Waterloo Bridge from which she scarce draws 50 a year though the advances of her father amounted to 10,000 I am told this dead concern is likely to recover by means of a great street from the Museum directing on said bridge.1 This would be a good object for the Captain for such he is gazetted this week in the 15th Hussars. He is a lucky dog but still more in the domestic qualities and excellent principles of his little wife—To return from whence I came I beg you to suspend our final order about Newhall till I have written to you on the subject from Abbotsford with an account of my visitation of the premises. There are other bidders but Nairne has promised to wait a few days.2 There are
several people who will close instantly on your final rejection. My factor Will Laidlaw who now my things are all in order complains of having too little to do would be delighted to superintend things for you without expense or at a mere trifle & this is something as he is both skillful & perfectly honest. Kind compliments to Mrs Richardson. I hope I will have her on my side Yours in haste though the letter is long

WALTER SCOTT
EDINBURGH 30th June [1825]

TO JOHN GIBSON, JUNIOR, W.S.

MY DEAR SIR,—The charge of Mr. Baillie if not too little is certainly not too much—the horse is quite able to carry the saddle.

I have desired Mr. Ballantyne so soon as he has settled with Mr. Constable for a very large sum due to me to pay you which will pay my balance—Mr. Bayley's accompt and the accompt due by my son Walter to you.

Surely I never received any interest and I reckon in truth that Constable was regularly paying it to Major Sharpe until the article caught my eye in your accompt.

Mrs. Burns address is Beaverhall near Edinr. but I will write to her to call on you when it will be most convenient for you [Unsigned]
(9-160)EDINBURGH 1st July [1825]

(9-160)Assuredly Walter would have been shocked if you had
(9-160)[not] treated him as a professional client.

[Walpole]

TO MRS. JOBSON OF LOCHORE, 5 PITT STREET, PORTO BELLO

(9-160)MY DEAR MRS JOBSON,—From the enclosed which I
(9-160)receivd yesterday you will see that the young Captain is
(9-160)delighted with his promotion. I propose to wait on you
(9-160)on thursday or friday as I can escape from the Parlt.
(9-160)House to receive all your commands for Dublin
(9-160)Meantime I am most respectfully yours

(9-160)WALTER SCOTT

(9-160)CASTLE STREET 1st July [1825]

(9-160)Lest you should puzzle yourself who Mrs Anne Page is,
(9-160)it is a pet-name which I used to give Jane.

[Bayley]

TO CAPTAIN SCOTT, 15TH HUSSARS, 10 STEVENS GREEN,
DUBLIN

(9-160)MY DEAREST WALTER,—I had the great pleasure of
(9-160)your letter of date 27th.1 and believe me I am at least

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT l6l

(9-161)much delighted with your being a real bona fide
(9-161)Captain as if I had been made a captain myself. With
(9-161)respect to money matters I have the pleasure to tell
you the advance has been rendered quite easy to me
by the favour of my bold & very gullable friend
the Public who through their prime Minister Mr
Constable have been far more liberal than I had any
title to expect. Your income will be advanced without
any interest being paid on your part during my life for
the advance of $1500 and it will depend upon circumstances
whether you are ever called upon after the event
which must necessarily take place within a certain
period even to replace any part of the principal sum.
We will talk of this at meeting but you will be pleased to
know in general that I have been able to make arrangements
which render the advance no earthly inconvenience.
While I see you the affectionate considerate and steady
fellow you have always been what have I to do with
money that can be more agreeable to me than to assist
your reasonable views. A little hospitality at Abbotsford
and my country improvements are my sole expences.

Major Lane was so good as to spare me any anxiety
about the delay of gazetting for in an answer to a letter
of mine saying that all was right he was so attentive as
to add that the promotion was to go in the regiment as
he had learnt at Horse Guards.

I should like much to see the ever memorable field of
the Boyne and I think the best way will be to sleep at
Drogheda on the night of Wednesday 14th June 1 for
Anne will probably be very sick on her passage and may
require some more rest at Belfast than I would be disposed
to spare her otherwise. So that to join at Droghedagh
will be an easy matter. You have but to leave a letter at
Post office poste restante stating whether we may expect
you & at what hour. Or if you drop me a couple of lines
in course of post I may have your instructions here for
the post now arrives on the third day. I will have the
greatest pleasure in dining with the mess of the regiment
and certainly design for Wicklow & Killarney. These
with Edgeworthstown comprize my sole plans & with
what time I hope to pass at No 10 Stevens Green fill up
my hopes of pleasure from the expedition. Anne is quite
crazy with joy. She was never over the threshold before.

Tell Jane Mrs Jobson is excellently well. She came
in from Porto Bello where she is for country quarters to
make us a visit the other day & has promised to have all
her commissions ready for the 9th which is our day of
starting for Captain Do Littles—On Monday Germ[il]ston
and on Tuesday we start in the Steam Kettle.

Pray take care of letters & papers which may come for
me. And if you write a line in answer to this Address to
me at revd. Dr Lockharts Germiston near Glasgow as
you have but little time to come and go upon.

I have got a Barouchette for the expedition shabby
enough which is of little consequence so it be but sound
and convenient as it seems to be.

Twenty loves to sweet Mrs Anne Page. Do not let her
plague herself about her household concerns on our
account Yours affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR 1st July [PM. 1825]

I go to Abbotsford tomorrow after the court to return on
friday night.
TO MRS. HUGHES

[EDINBURGH, July 2, 1825]

MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,—This will find you I suppose 
retired from your rambles either into Amen-Corner or 
your more pleasant country residence. It is high time

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I should thank you for a hundred instances of kindness 
both to Charles and myself. He is returned full of his 
obligations to you for your maternal attentions and I 
sincerely hope and believe that they are not thrown away. 
He is grown a good deal and I think improved in manner. 
He is at present in great embarassment about his motions 
& indeed it is 'embaras des richesses for he has more than 
one tour of pleasure offered to him. He may go to the 
Highlands and shoot red deer with Glengarry—or he may 
so to the sea side with Lady Scott Sophia & little Johnie 
and study the topography of the field of Largs. Or lastly 
he may go if he likes it with Lockhart Anne & me to 
Ireland where I intend to be Walters guest for a fortnight 
and see Killarney & the scenery of Wicklow. He is a real 
Captain now—no travelling name—and it must be a fine 
thing to be one judging from the pleasure it seems to give. 
He breaks off a letter to me written the very moment he 
was gazette[d]1 that he may go down to the barracks to 
plead his privilege against mounting a subaltern's guard 
that evening.

The anecdotes from Mr. Bowdler's note book 2 are 

extremely curious. The letters between Grafton & Monmouth
have been published but I never saw so curious &
detailed an acount of the villainy of Sunderland in cutting
off the interest of the unfortunate Monmouth with the
King. You will observe that Sir John Dalrymple alludes
to it in a note in his Annals but in a manner which
expresses doubt of the authenticity of the tradition. If
Mr. Bowdler was a man of veracity which there can be
no reason to doubt I should suppose that such doubts are
greatly removed. Indeed it consists very well with the
most plausible account of what Monmouth meant when
he offered to purchase a pardon by revealing a secret of
the highest importance—this was doubtless the correspondence
between Sunderland & the P[rince] of Orange

and perhaps some instigation of his own enterprize from
the same perfidious quarter. It was a great shame to
King William to take into his counsels that shameless
traitor. The other anecdote is also curious.1 I cannot
help thinking that Cromwell was right 2 —his power was
almost too great to keep yet it was still more perilous to
resign it. A man may stand safer on the most giddy
precipice than he can descend from it: such are the laws
to which ambition subjects her votaries.

I am pleased with the spirit of the Welch in asserting
the superiority of their great Chief to the high Northumbrian
Duke his relation.3 But it has been an old use if our
Shakespeare can be credited of the Percy to treat the
Cymmri as upon an unequal footing and our modern
Britons may be pretty sure that the two brothers were on
better [terms] than Hotspur & Glendower.

Pray tell your son I am much gratified by the views of
Provence. No. 5 safely received and as beautiful as the
former. It is really a charming quality to be able to steal a country's beauties in this way for the amusement of another.

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

As for your Devil's bridges your Menai pass and such pontifical matters I have been long done with riding over seven inch bridges upon a high-trotting horse like Mad Tom although I once thought there were few not slaters or sailors by profession who could have boasted more steadiness of brain where such feats were in question.

I am just setting off for Abbotsford—to return on Wednesday which would be a feeling much like pulling a tooth only that I am going to see my young folks in Ireland. I do not intend to stay above a month in the Green Isle but I must see my friends at Edgeworthstown and I must see Wicklow and if possible Killarney. I am not so fond of seeing sights as formerly yet one has heard so much of these pieces of scenery that it would be sin and shame to omit seeing them when so near. My son has been so lucky moyennant beaucoup d'argent as to get a troop & is a real Captain of horse—— with no hand that is idle. For one holds the sword and [the other] the bridle.

It is a great step to get over and the duties of the higher command interfere less with the comforts of a mounted man than those of the Subaltern. The Captain has better accommodation—not so many night guards and various advantages of many kinds. But I must bid you good-bye with kindest wishes to the excellent Doctor I hope his health continues pretty well and beg kindest
remembrances to your son. Our weather seems to be
settling propitiously for our various purposes of
 locomotion. Believe me ever dear Madame Your honourd &
respectful humble Servt

WALTER SCOTT

My address in Ireland will be No 10 Stevens Green
Dublin. If I can execute any commands for you it will
give me much pleasure.

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[ABBOTSFORD, 3rd July 1825]

MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,—Much it is said happens
between cup and lip 1 but I trust nothing will occur to
prevent my very speedily paying my respects to you and
your much respected family at Edgeworthstown that
being after the pleasure of seeing my son and daughter,
one of the greatest satisfactions which I expect in Ireland.
Anne comes with me and is as blithe as bird on tree at
the idea of such a party for though Sophia had seen a
great deal of the world before she came to Anne's years
it was the fate of the younger sister always to be left in
the nest and she expects the pleasure of the present short
flight with proportional delight. My objects in Ireland
besides Dublin and Edgeworthstown are Wicklow and
Killarney. How to attain them I cannot fix till I am in
Ireland not knowing distances and routes or being certain of your motions.

Walter is just gazetted Captain and breaks off a letter to me on the occasion of seeing his promotion in the papers, to say he must hasten down to the Barracks to remonstrate against mounting a Subalterns guard. This rapid assumption of his new privilege puts me in mind of the officer mentioned by Swift who used to rail against the assumption and the oppression practised by the Commanding Officers of regiments but being asked what he thought of it when he was himself promoted confessed that he felt the spirit of Colonelcy coming fast upon him. Walters prospects of getting a little leave to go to be our guide at Killarney must be a check on our engagements. He writes me he has been securing what little privileges he can claim in that way by giving close attendance. But if you will write me a note to No. 10 Stephen's Green Dublin where I expect to be on the 14 current it will enable me to regulate my motions.

I wish much to see my cousin, Peggie Dallas, by marriage Lady Foulis but on applying to her brother I could only learn she had given up her residence in Dublin and was with some friend—he knew not whom—at a town called Kells which I see is in the County of Kilkenny. I must see her if I can to talk over auld lang syne about which she can say more to me than most. My best respects attend Harriet and your brother, and all the less known, but not less respected members of your kind family. I hope to greet them all soon in green Erin—though for the matter of that Abbotsford is just now as green as George-a-green's jacket. . . .

It will do well enough I see—we start on Tuesday by steam from Glasgow or Greenock to Belfast. Walter
proposes meeting me at Drogheda to shew me the field of the Boyne. I suppose Anne will be deadly sick so I must travel slow on Wednesday.

[Butler]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

MY DEAR RICHARDSON,—Agreeably to my last 1 I went up to Newhall this day excellent road and not five miles from this place. In point of annual return it cannot fairly be estimated according to current terms lower than from 150 to 160 supposing it out of lease and is very improvable. To pay 5000 or even five thousand guineas for this annual return is not amiss in the present age and you will not buy land at a much cheaper rate in Scotland. I think 5000 guineas will be accepted in lieu of 5500 asked—As to its capabilities they are much greater than you would apprehend from the present condition of the subject unplanted & unimproved and disfigured by large cross dikes of stone which cut through height and hollow in every direction save the right one. But it comprehends a beautiful and varied outline of hill and holm along a charming stream varied by a number of banks and acclivities where Nature cries to a purchaser come plant me as loudly as Sancho's dish of cow heels cried Come eat me. It is enclosed with large swelling hills on all sides and looks a little world of itself—as sequestered a spot as can be found and yet a quarter of an hours ride places you in a London or Edinburgh Mail & baiting distance you may carry on your business as well as at Hampstead so regular is the intercourse with London. The present lease endures for three years after the present season but
I have little doubt that 100 would purchase it up or that a moderate sacrifice would command any pieces of ground you might wish to plant in the meantime. There is a park belonging to Torwoodlee of about 30 acres. The obtaining this or a few acres of it might be a considerable advantage. I daresay this could be managed but it is not indispensable. There is another bank of no value belonging to Pringle of Whitebank which should be planted to close in the gaze of the long vale but indemnity could be given to Whitebank off the moorground at another place or I have little doubt that to oblige a good neighbour he would plant the ground himself. If you make this purchase you must consider yourself as buying a bare doll the dressing of which your children will tell you is the best part of the fun but I can safely assure you the expence & trouble will not be thrown away since were Newhall properly fitted up for a shooting or fishing lodge it would have a very ready Currency either for lease or sale if you tired of it. I will own I may be a little sanguine about my scheme but I have the counsel & backing of an admirable judge George Craig Writer Galashiels for whose judgement sagacity and even for whose taste I have much respect. I took him with me as knowing the country & the place well and he anxiously recommends the purchase as safe and reasonable. For myself I am afraid of saying too much for I am conscious that the first view of the premises will disappoint Mrs Richardson or perhaps even yourself. But Time and I against any two saith Don Diego. Let my planting but rise a little and if you can shew me a sweeter thing between Leader Haugh and Yarrow I will eat the farm house (which is a decent cottage in a sweet enough situation) and pick my teeth with one of the stout ash trees which go round it.
I own also I may have some selfish motives from the pleasurable hope of more frequent meeting. But yet I say it again that laying romantic scenery of forest rock & cascade out of the question I think you will find fewer spots more capable of being rendered exactly what you wish at a moderate expense which expense will add proportionably to the value of the place. Being all large proprietors around you, you can be envied by no one—I have told Nairne you will write him your mind & the post is going off. If you offer 5000 guineas I think you are pretty sure. If you are off tell him so " and for my love I pray you scorn me not " Yours in haste

WALTER SCOTT

If you write to me address care of the Revd. Doctor Lockhart Germiston House near Glasgow. Or to Stephen's Green, Dublin. I start for Dublin Tuesday 12th current.

Monday 4 July [1825] ABBOTSFORD

TO LADY ABERCORN

MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,—I sit down to write one of these nothings which your Ladyship is content to receive as letters. I am sure if I were to write twenty times as often my whole combined tediousness were I to bestow it on you with the profuse liberality of Dogberry himself could not [but] ill discharge the debt of kindness
which I owe you. But you are an indulgent creditor
who kindly takes his debtors note of hand when he has
no other means of security to offer though pretty sure that
what he accepts has no real or substantial value. However
you have extended the golden sceptre to me on
condition of my writing & so however dull a correspondent
write I must or be very ungrateful.

I hope you have ere now had the parcel from Coutts
which will explain to your Ladyship though the explanation
be a sorry one how I have been lately employd. I
was longer of finishing what I was about from the various
engagements arising out of my son's marriage &. also
from some fear of gorging the public to the extent of
nausea with this sort of food. You will observe I am about
to find myself employment of a different kind. I am quite
serious in the purpose announced & have great hope to
make the subject very popular although I am pretty
certain to incur the censure of bigots of both sides of the
question—if I do I shall only conclude I have come the
nearer to the truth. If my parcel has not reached your
Ladyship this will be a sort of enigma but must for the
present remain such.

I am at present on a start [?] to Abbotsford which I
must leave on the 6th to attend the court on the three last
days of the session. I then start for Ireland with my
son-in-law John Lockhart & my daughter Anne who
from circumstances has seen less of the world than she
ought to have done—far less than her sister at her years.
My inclinations will lead me of course to Dublin where
I shall find my son & daughter. A brother officer also
married has joined him in taking a house on Stevens
Green much too large for their two selves & they have divided it between them so that they have their establishment[s] independent of each other. So much for Scotch economy. Walter's proportion is large enough to afford us all species of accommodation & so I shall hold the new character of my son's guest. He is now gazetted Captain & exceedingly rejoiced with his preferment which I understand contributes much to his comfort as well as to his advancement in rank. He broke off a most joyous letter to me on the occasion by stating he had run down to the barracks to plead the privilege of rank which exempted him from mounting guard at the castle for the evening & I on my side was infinitely diverted with his haste to assume without loss of time all the immunities due to his preferment. The only objects I feel interested about in Ireland are the celebrated scenery of Wicklow & Killarney but whether I shall get the length of either will depend on Walter getting leave of absence. Time has been that I should have had other & yet more interesting objects to visit but Time steals friends & objects of interest & we must be thankful that it leaves friendships worth enjoying & the power of taking the part in them which they deserve.

While I am absent Lady Scott & Sophia propose to go to some sea-bathing village in hopes the Ocean may have a strengthening effect on little Johnie Lockhart who is so remarkably interesting & has so much intelligence that one always fears there is a disproportion between the intellect & the fragile though beautiful little form which it animates. The little fellow is just now very well however having got successfully over the whooping cough one of those awkward stepping stones
by which we must cross on our entrance to life—and to speak truth rather a slippery one. Charles the remaining member of my family goes I believe on a tour through the highlands with two Oxonian friends. Next year I think he will visit the continent in which case he will have the personal honour of becoming known to your Ladyship if you chance then to be on this side of the Alps for I fear even the long vacation will be too short for his reaching Italy.

These are all my domestic news—of others I have but little to say. The agricultural prosperity of the country seems to be returning with a spring tide & our farm stock has risen almost to war prices. The only reason of this which appears sufficient is the increase of the use of butchers meat amongst the manufacturers an indulgence which they learnt when prices were low & (as they are fully employed) cannot now forego when they have risen. The change is so great that I sold sheep within this 18 months at 17/- per head & glad to get so much for which I would now have easily gotten 31/ or 32 shillings.

The only marvellous lion in Edinr. has been Marechal MacDonald the Duc de Tarente. I dined with him one day at my friend Hector McDonalds being the only person not McDonald who was present. He conversed with me a good deal but speaking French with difficulty & he having no English I could not profit so much by his frankness as I would otherwise have done. He staid only two or three days in Edinburgh setting off full speed for South Uist (one of the bleakest of the Hebridean islands) the land of his ancestors. His descent is well known & he will find cousins enough but I fear
he will be disgusted with the poor & wretched appearance of his relatives who are all low in the world. Yet they are an ancient race whose proper patronymick is MacEachin i.e. the sons of Hector & as good gentlemen as the king only not quite so rich. His father made some figure in the eventful year 1745-6 for having been bred at Douay for the Catholic priesthood he understood the various languages of Latin English French & Gaelic & came over with the Chevalier as a sort of interpreter. The Highlanders & indeed the Scots in general have the advantage from accurate acquaintance with their own descent that if they are called from a low situation into a higher one the idea of being a gentleman is not new to them nor are they very apt to play the part of Monsr. Jourdain. The possibility of such an event has always been present with them & they resume the privileges of their caste when the occasion serves as the Breton noble in Sterne's pretty story reassumes his sword. I have but room to subscribe myself your faithful & affectionate friend WALTER SCOTT

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

ABBOTSFORD, 5th July 1825

MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,—My letter of 2d or 3d and yours of 29th June 2 have crossed each other and I might dispense with writing an answer to yours especially as it will cost more postage than it is worth. But I like to be as precise as possible in my appointments having incurred much disgrace for neglecting them in my youth and all the world knows that a prudent old age with no passions
(9-174) to disturb its tranquillity makes an easy amends at least if
not an ample one for the erratic courses of a wayward youth.

(9-174) My friend Hartstonge may, like Wisdom, uplift his voice
in the streets of Dublin. But there is not the least purpose
on my part to enter into any society there. I must dine
with my sons mess I suppose one day, and with said
Hartstonge another if he asks me. But as I do not intend
to be above a week at Dublin in all, the remaining days
will be few enough to spend with my son and daughter
in a quiet way.

(9-174) My purpose is certainly for Killarney and I am happy
to learn from your letter that I can make my route by
Edgeworthstown. I wish to Heaven you would make
some arrangements to go to Killarney with us. I Walter
and his cara sposa will also make it out. Indeed I have
long tired of seeing fine places alone and though I could
dispense with the company of Lady Jocunda I find my
excursions go on much better nowadays with good company
by way of sauce—once I loved my beef steak best
without pickles and my romantic scenery was most
enjoyed in solitary blessedness.

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(9-175) Not hearing from you about the dog I was afraid he
might be rather a troublesome present and gave him away
to Chantrey the sculptor who fell in high fancy with
him. But I will keep as fine a puppy for you next spring
that is if you really wish to have one for I never bring up
more than one or two puppies for fear of weakening the
dam. In fact that designed for Edgeworthstown was
put out to nurse. But I will keep a fine puppy for you
next spring.
To speak of a puppy of a different litter—I know well that Walter is deeply impressed with that sort of mauvaise honte which makes people seem uncivil when they are only bashful and awkward. He has a holy Dread of anything which he considers as highly gifted with talent and has not yet learned the simple fact that clever folks are in reality the least to be found in the shape of criticals. I fancy you have Janes answer, for the last time I heard from her she was sitting down with much apprehension and I daresay after a most careful mending of pens and folding of paper to write a note to Miss Maria Edgeworth. You are not aware of the terrors of your own reputation. But you are an old acquaintance of Janes for I found almost all your works in her little boudoir at Lochore reasonably well thumbed. Walters regimental leave of absence is difficult to be obtained and keeps him short by the halter; and untill I learn how that stands I can form no definitive plan. He has hopes but no certainty, of getting with us to Killarney but field-days and reviews are things which interfere much with the plans of young officers. This is the reason that there is such rapid promotion in these light corps considering the times—A young man of fortune enters smitten with the delight of ploughing the earth with a sabre and sweeping heaven With a plume and in a few months he finds himself gene by the severity of the discipline exit Dandy and there is a step in the regiment.

I have little to add except kindest love to Mrs. Edgeworth Harriet and all friends—known and unknown. We must manage to see Mr. W. Edgeworth. I regret to say our limited stay gives us no hope of seeing my charming young friend Mrs. Fox Lane or making her husbands
acquaintance. Lady Scott begs kind love Always yours
with equal respect and sincerity, WALTER SCOTT

[Butler]

TO LORD MONTAGU

MY DEAR LORD,—The sight of my hand (like the solemn visage of Scott of Sinton) makes you tremble for a repetition of my clerical suit. But though I cannot relieve you so effectually as did said Sinton when he told your Lordship his candidate was departed this life (intelligence which I fear you received with too little sympathy) yet the purport of my letter was only to inclose one to Lady Louisa Stuart.

Since I am writing however I will take the opportunity of petitioning for a bushell or two of acorns this season either from Boughton or Ditton. I set out this next season all your goodness formerly supplied me with and finer plants were never put into earth Always with kind Compliments to the Ladies Most truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 7th July [1825]

On the 12th I start for Dublin to see my son.

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,—I write immediately to thank you for your kind letter 1 and to put you right especially

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT
about Walters alleged feat of heroics. Whether he ever procures any genuine plumage (or foliage as my old friend Balmuto used to call it) or no it imports much that he should parade in no borrowed feathers. He was not the fortunate person who saved the poor woman but a brother officer Hamilton Dundas son of Dundas of Duddingstone whom the newspapers chose to convert into my son from similarity of dress and some personal resemblance. Nay it was not even Dundas who achieved this feat for though he plunged in gallantly and was very near drowned it required the aid of a private a tailor of twenty stone in weight who was the final rescue both of the officer & the Lady. Thus it happened in this as in many cases that Fame sounded her trumpet in behalf of the wrong party besides acting according to her wont in heaping all the honour of the action on the officer and altogether omitting the merit of the private. Two other popular articles of creed are shaken by this same drowning affair, 1st Such a tailor must have been more than the fractional part of a man—2ndly Fat men have not all the same alacrity at sinking with the facetious Sir John. Walter was vexed enough about the mistake and contradicted [it] in all the newspapers but once set a false report afloat and it is echoed back and again like thunder among hills rolls into a number of remote recesses and penetrates where the contradiction which comes halting after it never reaches. If Walter had been present he was likely enough to have performed the feat for he is a bold and skillful swimmer and sufficiently collected in danger of any kind to make the danger as small as may be—We all believed in the story when it appeared and every body said it was so like him that our
amour propre is a little consoled for what I may quietly
tell your Ladyship was a considerable mortification—
I hope please God to see my son in a few days as I propose
going for Ireland on the 12th to spend a week or two with
my young folks at Dublin and take a peep at Killarney
if time and circumstance will admit. My youngest
daughter Anne and John Lockhart go with me—the latter
to save me all the plagues incident to travelling by acting
as what gentlemen call Boots. Sophia stays to take care of
her little delicate baby and of Lady Scott and my son
Charles whom by the way I must one day introduce to
your Ladyships notice proposes making a tour in the
highlands during our absence so we are a family unusually
dispersed—Charles is very different from Walter—has a
turn for literature as the other has for the exact sciences
which apply to the art of war and although a modest boy
he is not indisposed to profit by those advantages which
my connection with literature may afford him. Walter
on the contrary conscious that the Gods have not made
him poetical is much distressed by the attentions which
he sometimes meets with under the impression that the
Lions whelp is to be honoured after the Lion himself and
he wants the experience of such an often-hunted and
experienced lion as myself to get gracefully and
composedly out of the toils. This has been a besetting
grievance with the young soldier ever since he fought
deadly battle[s] at the High school with the boys who called
him "The Lady of the Lake" and I scarce think he has
yet learned to reconcile himself to the reflected dignity
of his literary descent although he should praise the bridge
in old phrase that has carried him over for I do not know
by what other roads I was to seek out for him a lairdship
and a troop of horse. I have my own internal qualms
about Dublin where I am told the Lion-hunters are already preparing stake and net. However as Marshal Macdonald will be there at the same time it will be hard if I cannot sculk unheeded. The worst is that the blue folks who are persecuted in this way are positively the people whom one cares least to see and who can tell least of what one wishes to know. I am however famed for bearing my faculties meekly and this is only a private groan of apprehension in a friendly ear—

For if I should as Lion come in strife Into such place 'twere pity of my life so says Snug the best and discreetest of Lions.

I am heartily glad that you think well of the volumes I had sent your Ladyship. I say heartily glad because I had sinkings of the heart about them both while writing and when they were finished. I never read them a second time till printed and it does strike [me] there was a flatness and a labour about some passages which savoured of the Bishop of Granada's appoplexy. But if you did not discover them I would fain hope they are not so discernible as I had feared. Since although I have the vanity, now a friend of long standing, to claim some portion of your partiality, I am not afraid that it would baffle your penetration or disarm your sincerity. If I find any news from Ireland worth sending I will volunteer it but I am not now as I was forty years since convinced that in changing countries I shall find much that is new— I neither expect to kill myself with laughing at Pats jests and blunders nor to be beat on the head with Pats Shilella nor to jump out of the boat and drown myself
with sheer delight as my road book says folks are apt to do at the Lake of Killarney.

I will put this sheet of nonsense as Win Jenkins says under Lord Montagu's own kiver—I am delighted to hear the Miss Morritts are well both for the young ladies sakes and their uncles who has been drawn I think to hang up his happiness on frail supports—once more Dear Lady Louisa believe me your truly obliged honoured and grateful WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 7th July 1825—

TO ROBERT CHAMBERS 1 BOOKSELLER, INDIA PLACE, EDINBURGH

DEAR MR CHAMBERS,—I have blotted out the note and Kidds 2 story. The last is indecent & might offend the living relations of the man. Many thanks for the fee [?]. I am just going to the country & have no time to write more. Gavin Wilson 3 was different from Claudero. He was an ingenious artist and a humourist a great freemason & author of a volume of poems still to be met with which I dare say Constable can show you. Yours &c.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT

was an ingenious artist and a humourist a great freemason & author of a volume of poems still to be met with which I dare say Constable can show you. Yours &c.

[PM. 8th July 1825] W. S.
[Edin. Pub. Lib.]

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

CASTLE STREET, EDINBURGH,
MY DEAR MRS. CLEPHANE,—I have been studying every way how to procure myself the pleasure of spending a day or two at Torloisk, but it is with great pain that I find myself obliged on the present occasion to relinquish an idea which I entertained with much pleasure. My date of absence is strictly limited I fear, and I must, in the first place get as fast as I can to Dublin and then back as I now conceive through England. The situation of my sister-in-law at Cheltenham makes this an imperative necessity for she has a daughter who has been very ill and looks to me for the comfort I fear a sad one, of a visit on my return—Next season, if we be all spared, I hope to make a little excursion with the isles and highlands only in view, and Torloisk will certainly be my first object.

This is the last night of my remaining here and you cannot conceive the plague of petty details official and non-official which shorten my letters. As I am on the eve of departure I am obliged to hand over your letter and the enclosure this morning received to John Gibson—I am sure he will attend to it, and let me know when I return if there is any way in which I can help to put matters to rights by intercession or remonstrance. I have no idea that you having paid your taxes and producing your discharges, can be called upon for a second Payment. I would advise your returning answer stating the date of your discharges and payments, and that you should send them to Mr. Gibson I mean the receipts and mention they are in his hand. I would look after it myself, but my absence makes it impossible. Be short and general in your answer but send one. I would
add more, but am half dead with the laborious trifles
which our people little used to move have reserved to the
last moment to plague me with.

I think Charles is on a Solitary stroll to the highlands,
and bent to get to Torloisk, if possible. As he has had a
cold I do not know if he will make out his valourous
intentions, but of course, Torloisk is a great object. He
was an amusing boy, and has grown up a promising youth.
I need not recommend him to your kindness, who were
always too partial to me and mine. Adieu, recommend
me in your prayers as a person intending to travel by sea and
land, much more deserving the prayers of the church,
if I can be a judge, than any one actually embarked.
Love to dear Anna Jane. The whoops and hallos are
altogether intolerable, for be it known we all start at
once—a Jewish dispersion. Yours, dear Madam, with
all the respect and attention my botherd brains can
command. W. SCOTT

[Northampton and Abbotsford Copies]

TO ISAACK BAYLEY, WRITER, 12 PITT STREET [EDINR.]

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to enclose for your kind acceptance
[] 176., which please to carry to Walters credit in
any accompts you may have with him. It is the amount
of the very moderate recompence for your trouble on his
accompt on a late happy occasion. We both remain your
debtor for much kindness of which we shall be always to
show our sense when circumstances render it proper I am
Dear Sir Your obliged humble Servant

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 8th July [1825]
(9-183) Please acknowledge to the receipt of the enclosed to Mr James Ballantyne which will be his voucher on account with me.

[Bayley]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

[Copy]

(9-183) DEAR CONSTABLE,—Ballantyne will give you a bill of mine for 500 at six months, for which I forgot to ask your permission yesterday. The purpose is a small loan to my friend Terry now deep embarked in a theatrical speculation: as I have always called him my friend, I do not like to fail him at a pinch, when his fortune may be made or marred. The undertaking is said to be very promising, it is the purchase of the Adelphi by him & Yates. I am I believe pretty well secured by insurance etc. I am always Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

(9-183) EDINR. 9 July 1825

(9-183) We will call this to further Accot. of B. You may speak quite openly to Thomson about the letters. In point of delicacy I am quite willing to move by his opinion, but all must understand I propose neither satire nor panegyric.

[Stevenson]
TO PATRICK KERR, Lieutenant, R.N., BUSH, FISHERROW, NEAR EDINBURGH, N.B.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter reached me just in the moment that I was setting off for this city on a visit to my son and daughter in law which of course occasions some delay in my replying to it.

I assure you that you do not overestimate my wish to serve you though perhaps as is very natural you may put more reliance on my credit and means of serving you than I have reason to know from experience ought to be placed in them. My only claims on Lord Melville are those of early friendship and with a statesman these must in general give way to political considerations of different kinds. Besides my own connections of various sorts sometimes oblige me to be troublesome to him in matters in which I am interested either personally which is rarely the case or through near relatives and all this diminishes the chance of my being attended to in a case like yours.

At the same time you may rely upon it that when I meet Lord Melville (knowing by experience that letters go for little or nothing) I will represent your case to him and shall be truly happy if his engagements and inclination combine to render me successful in the application. I expect he will be down in Scotland about the time I return from Ireland and hope to see him at Abbotsford.

Meantime I am with respects to Mrs Kerr Dear Sir Your faithful humble Servant

WALTER SCOTT

10 STEPHENS GREEN DUBLIN 15 July [1825]

[Mackinnon]
14 July

MY DEAR MRS. JOBSON,—According to my promise I beg to inform you that we got here yesterday 1 to dinner after a very disagreeable passage as we were on deck the whole night with much rain and a very cold wind.

Wednesday and Thursday were spent in travelling here through a country where the soil is extremely rich and the peasants beggarly in dress and appearance beyond description. We had a very kind reception from our young folks and I have every reason to make a most satisfactory report respecting them. Jane is looking very well and in good spirits and has got a little matronly air about her from her new duties as mistress of a family which becomes her extremely well. Their society is small but very judiciously selected comprehending several of the most respectable families in Dublin. They have a part of a very handsome house at a cheaper rate than they could have got much inferior accommodation in a lodging by themselves; and they seem to live very genteely & comfortably without any appearance of expense or extravagance.

You will say perhaps I have had but little time to see all this but, besides exercising a papa's right to ask questions one sees I think the marks of a well- or of an ill ordered family in a very short time. Jane has had I believe (as falls to the lot of all young house keepers) some trouble to get her domestics into this state of good order but patience and steadiness bring every thing about.
We cannot hope that these young folks will pass through life without a share of distresses and calamities nor is it for us to presume to guess from what quarter adversity or sorrow may come upon them. But from all I can see as both are remarkably gifted with good sense and good temper as well as with good principles of religion and morality, as they seem to agree perfectly in their views and wishes I am confident in my hopes that with whatever species of distress they may be visited they will have the consolation of their mutual affection to enable them to endure it.

Jane tells me she has written you a long letter lately and hopes for [an] answer soon. I was closely questioned about your health looks and so forth and had the pleasure to give the best account of all. I have seen one or two old friends since I came here and have heard much in praise of Janes good sense and propriety of conduct. Walters promotion I find contributes a great deal to his wifes personal comfort as he can be more at home as a Captain than as a subaltern. In his absence she has her books & music and other modes of amusement all around her besides one or two pleasant friends when she chuses society. In fact I came with the anxious hope to find them well & comfortable and to say truth the reality exceeds my warmest expectation. This subject is so interesting to [us] both that I need make no apology for enlarging upon it and you may be assured dear Madam that though I may be mistaken in my observations I communicate them to you without the least exaggeration just as they strike myself.

Do not trouble yourself to answer this unless it be to let me know that I can execute any commission for you
in this city or country. We propose a little excursion or
two next week and I shall certainly steal Jane from home
for a few days if Walters military duties do not permit
him to attend—You may depend on my taking the
utmost care of her. I have kept this letter a day
longer than that on which it was written in case any
ting should occur worth telling you but I have nothing
to add. We are of course overwhelmed by the proverbial
hospitality of Ireland but till Monday we shall prefer
our own little circle to any invitations. We will make a
few visits next week & go down to see the beautiful
scenery in the County of Wicklow about thursday. I am
dear Mrs Jobson with much respect your most obedient
Servant

WALTER SCOTT

10 STEVEN SQUARE DUBLIN 15 July [1825]

TO SIR ADAM FERGUSSON, KNIGHT KEEPER, ETC., ETC.,
ETC., TINWALD HOUSE, NEAR DUMFRIES, N.B.

MY DEAR ADAM,—Here we are in Pat-land and almost
killd with kindness. The emphatic personal pronoun We
comprehends on this occasion Lockhart Anne and my
own self. I write chiefly to tell you what I am sure Lady
Fergusson and you will be pleased to hear—that I find
Walter and Jane living most respectfully and moderately
in a little circle of friends of good fashion by whom the
young folks seem to be held in much regard. Janes
shyness is much worn off she does the honours with a
very modest little matronly Air and it is good fun to see
her chaperone Lady Anne who is more of a dasher than
herself. They are very fond of each other and draw kindly
as the Coachman says in the play. They have got a great large house divided betwixt them & a brother officer and his lady and furnishd out with a great deal of antiquated finery all of which stands our young friends about 150., a year cheap enough for the extensive accommodation. The Irish have been most flatteringly kind in their reception. I have been made D.LL.1 and A double S. by Trinity College almost worried by crowds & acclamations. In short I begin to think there is something about me which I never suspected before and give Pat great merit for having discoverd it.

Walter Jane Anne and Lockhart beg a thousand kind remembrances. The two former are in hope of seeing you here where they can give you excellent quarters & Janes cuisine is by no means to be sneezed at. She is a very managing little person and overhauls all her accompts with laudable accuracy. Walters late promotion is subject of much congratulation here.

Always with kindest love to your good lady Most truly yours WALTER SCOTT

18 July [1825] 10 STEVEN’S GREEN

Thermometer up at the heat of old Nebuchadnezars fiery furnace.

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

10 ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN,

DUBLIN, July 18th, 1825
MY DEAR FRIEND,—I did not trouble you with an immediate answer to your kind letters which I found lying here for me because I should have forfeited my character as a man of business by sending you a very diplomatical and consequently unintelligible account of our motions. There are wheels within wheels visits which must be paid regimental leave which may not be obtained in short a sort of negotiation which I certainly could not have anticipated any more than the kindness of those who have chosen to make my motions of some consequence or would persuade me at least that they are so. At last we have been able to fix our plans. We have dinner engagements in Dublin till Friday 22d July—On that day we go down to Wicklow with a friend and patron of Walter Mr. Crampton the Surgeon Genl to the Army—next day we are to see scenery in Wicklow visit Mr. Attorney Genl in whom unexpectedly I find an old acquaintance and return about Monday at furthest. And here begins my diplomatic difficulty for Sir Colin Campbell has intimated to me that the Lord Lieutenant wishes to see me and as a king's man back and edge [I] must show proper respect to the representative of Majesty. I intimated however to my friend Sir Colin that, saving the pleasure of his Grace I wished to be at Edgeworthstown about Friday 29th.2 We would reach you " time enough to go to bed with a candle " or about eight or nine o'clock. I speak for security for ladies are rarely early starters, and though I can make Anne and Jane be as exact to time as the guard of a mail
coach yet Jane has a Scotch Mrs. Petitoe 1 who way manage the whole of us should she be of the party. The result therefore is that Lockhart, Anne, and I, with Jane for certain and Walter by possibility will descend on you time and place above mentioned unless you please to say which I am sure you will do frankly that we will overcrowd you.

Anne is dancing with joy at the idea of Harriet going along with us and as an old Quarter Master of dragoons I have taken it upon me to arrange our mode of travelling. We have for our own necessary transportation two low light carriages which defy injury each capable of carrying four insides of the most respectable dimensions with two dicky's one for a male and female domestic and one for the gentlemen cavaliers when they chuse to smoke segars.

Now our whole party being five insides exclusive of the two Dicky-ites it follows that we have three seats to dispose of and as Miss Harriet and you can only occupy one each you will make the most delightful addition to the spirit of the party without adding anything of consequence to its weight. The inns I have seen here are all better than we have at home and a cloak and a hay-loft are neither new nor unpleasant resources to either Walter Lockhart or myself, and we will only want the same number of Knockcrogheries 2 which would be indispensable for our own march. Having been here three days I am of course au fait of all particulars affecting the state of the country and prepared with a stock of infallible remedies for the grievances [of Ireland, but I will reserve them for a personal triumph. Dublin is splendid beyond my utmost expectations. I can go round its walls and number its palaces until I am grilled almost into a fever. They tell me the city is desolate, of which I can see no
appearance, but the deprivation caused by the retreat of the most noble and most opulent inhabitants must be felt in a manner a stranger cannot conceive. As Trinculo says when the bottle was lost in the pool, "there is not only dishonour in it but an infinite loss." It is a loss however which time will make good if I may judge from what I have heard old people say of Edinr after 1707 which removed the crown from our Israel an event which had I lived in that day I would have resigned my life to have prevented but which being done before my day I am sensible was a wise turn. So says the advising Ape whose tail was cut off 120 years since, to the ape whose tail has not had time to cicatrize since its abscission. Perhaps it is like the Priest to the Gascon upon the scaffold.

Courage friend for to night is your period of sorrow and things will go better believe me to-morrow.

Walter and Spouse thof unknown Lockhart and Anne send all love and respects to the known and unknown of Edgeworthstown particularly Mrs. Edgeworth and your brother. I have a hint from Sir Colin Campbell that Walter will have his leave but we must manage not to commit him by getting it in any way disagreeable to his commanding officer as these gentlemen are apt to be punctilious.—Yours, my dearest Miss Edgeworth, with sincere pleasure at the hope of again meeting one for whom I have so much respect and regard,
TO JAMES BALLANTYNE, PRINTER, HERRIOT ROW,
EDINBURGH, N.B.

(9-192)DEAR JAMES,—I got your parcel of letters but not a line
(9-192)from you so suppose all is well.

(9-192)I observe the Note to Cockburn [], 425., is due and
(9-192)doubtless provided for. I will not have occasion for
(9-192)much of the credit here for excepting post-horses & these
(9-192)are cheap the hospitality of the Irish will not permit you
(9-192)to put hand in pouch and Walter has half of a Lordlike
(9-192)mansion here furnishd with many remnants of decayd
(9-192)grandeur which he rents for [] 150 a year & which holds
(9-192)us all most comfortably in the largest square I suppose
(9-192)in the world.

(9-192)I have been down looking at the scenery in Wicklow
(9-192)which is very fine. I climbd up into the stony bed from
(9-192)which Saint Kevin precipitated the fair Kathleen into
(9-192)the lake. I could not help laughing while on the face of
(9-192)the precipice to think what Constable would have [felt]
(9-192)to see the future historian of Boney resting like a solan
(9-192)goose on the face of a craig with only one foot fixd on a
(9-192)gulph of thirty feet deep below me. Certainly the sight
(9-192)would have put him to his pater noster.

(9-192)I go to Edgeworthstown on Friday 1 thence to Killarney
(9-192)Which will consume best part of next week and on or
(9-192)Before Monday 8th I will set out for my return by Holyhead
(9-192)& through England of which I will duly apprize you.

(9-192)Meanwhile be kind enough to remit to Coutts [] 100 on
(9-192)my accompt as I can repay it from the money which will
(9-192)remain at Smiths. Beg them to acknowlege the receipt
(9-192)by a letter addresd to me care of David Macculloch Esq
TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

10 STEPHENS GREEN DUBLIN 27 July [PM. 1825]

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I am just returned from Wicklow delighted with all I have seen. The mere wood water and wilderness have not so much the charm of novelty for a north as for a South Briton. But these are intermingled with an appearance of fertility which never accompanies them in our land and with a brilliancy of verdure which justifies your favourite epithet of the green Isle. The ruins at the Seven Churches are singularly curious—the oldest places perhaps where the Christian faith was taught and which still remain standing. I fear they will not stand long unless measures are taken to preserve them. I was seized with a return of a spirit of enterprise once the most familiar of my attributes, and scrambled up into St. Kevin's bed. My Kathleen on the occasion was
an old soldiers wife of the bloody Connaughts as she called them. She was much offended at some one who told her afterwards that I was a poet—for she was sure she said I was no poet but a noble generous gentleman FOR I had given her half a crown.2

At the risque of saying Monseigneur vient once too often, I drop you this line merely to say that we begin our journey nominally at seven o'clock on Friday as performer advice and hope to be at Edgeworthstown Knockcrogherrys being bespoken by your dinner hour. The Surgeon Genl talks of coming with us for a day. We can easily give him room with us and undoubtedly he knows better than we whether he is like to incommode you for lodging room. In every other respect he must be an addition. My womankind hold out gallantly upon forced marches long walks and so forth. I never feared for Anne and my new daughter seems quite alert at everything but talking much. A good listener is no bad thing however, and she always laughs in the right place.

Yesterday I had the honour to lunch with the ViceRoys own self, and, " Kings chaff being better than other folks corn " his Excellencys lunch served me for my dinner and I had a long chat with Jane in the evening about all her little matters of business and her plans which I thought very prudent. They are living comfortably but without extravagance of any kind. But this is hors de propos.

Walters leave is not yet arranged but I trust to attain it. I wish we had a good route from Edgeworthstown to Killarney.2 I matter not going out of the way to see what is worth seeing. I am informed Cashel is well worth a
(9-194)visit and can be brought within our route. The great
(9-194)matter is not to attempt more than we can accomplish, and
(9-194)to see things well and leisurely. Perhaps you may be
(9-194)able to procure us some light on the subject. [I am, with
(9-194)the pleasant expectation of seeing you all in the course of
(9-194)three or four days very much your respectful and obliged
(9-194)friend,

WALTER SCOTT] 3

[Butler]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 195

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT, ROKEBY PARK

(9-195)EDGEWORTHSTOWN 31 July (1) 1825

(9-195)YOUR kind letter my dear Morritt finds me sweltering
(9-195)under the hottest weather I ever experienced for the sake
(9-195)of seeing sights of itself you know the most feverish
(9-195)occupation in the world. Luckily we are free of Dublin and
(9-195)there is nothing around us but green fields and fine trees
(9-195)“barring the high roads" which make those who tread
(9-195)on them the most complete pie-poudreux ever seen that
(9-195)is if the old definition of pie-poudres be authentic &
(9-195)if not you may seek another dusty simile for yourself—
(9-195)it cannot exceed the reality. I have with me Lockhart
(9-195)and Anne Walter & his cara Sposa for all whom the
(9-195)hospitality of Edgeworthstown has found ample space
(9-195)and verge enough. Indeed it is impossible to conceive
(9-195)the extent of this virtue in all classes and I do not think
(9-195)even our Scottish hospitality can match that of Ireland
(9-195)—every thing seems to give way to the desire to accommodate
(9-195)a stranger and I ver[i]ly believe the story of the
(9-195)Irish harper who condemned his harp to the flames for
(9-195)want of fire wood to cook a guests supper. Their personal
(9-195)kindness to me has been so great that were it not from the
(9-195)chilling recollection that novelty is easily substituted for
merit I should think like the booby in Steele's play that

I had been kept back 2 and that there was something more

(9-196) about me than I ever was led to suspect. As I am LL.D. of Trinity College and am qualified as a Catholic Seer by having mounted up into the bed of Saint Kevin at the celebrated Seven Churches of Glendalough I am entitled to prescribe ex cathedra for all the diseases of Ireland as being free both of the Protestant and Catholic parties. But the truth is that Patt while the doctors were consulting has been gradually and securely recovering of himself. He is very lo[ath] to admit this indeed there being a strain of hypochondria in his complaints which will not permit him to believe he's getting better. Nay he gets even angry when a physician more blunt than polite endeavours to convince him that he is better than he supposes himself and that much of his present distress consists partly out of the recollection of former indisposition partly out of the severe practice of modern empirics.

In sober sadness to talk of the misery of Ireland at this time is to speak of the illness of a malade imaginaire. Well she is not but she is rapidly becoming so. There are all the outward and visible tokens of convalescence. Every thing is mending—the houses that arise are better a hundredfold than the cabbins which are falling—the peasants of the younger class are dressd a great deal better than with the rags which clothe the persons of the more ancient Teagues which realize the wardrope of Jenny Sutton of whom Morris 1 sweetly sings

One single pin at night let loose The robes which veild her beauty.
I am sure I have seen with apprehension a single button perform the same feat and when this mad scarecrow hath girded up his loins to run hastily by the side of the chaise I have feared it would give way and that then as King Lear's fool says we should be all shamed. But this which seems even to have [been] generally the attire of the sons of the Green isle probably since the time of King Malachie & the collar of gold is now fast disappearing and the habit of the more youthful Pats and Pattesses is decent and comely. Item they all look well colourd and wellfed and well contented. And as I see in most places great exertions making to reclaim bogs upon a large scale and generally to improve ground I must needs hold that they are in constant employment. With all this there is much that remains to be amended & which time & the increase of capital only can amend. The price of labour is far too low and this naturally reduces the labouring poor beyond their just level in society. The behaviour of the gentry to the labourers is systematically harsh and this arrogance is received with a servile deference which argues any thing excepting affection. This however is also in the course of amending. I have heard a great deal of [the] far famed Catholic question from both sides and I think I see its bearings better than I did but these are for your ear when we meet as meet we will if no accident prevent it. I return from Ireland through Holyhead as I wish to show Anne something of England and you may believe that we will take Rokeby in our way. Tomorrow I go to Killamey which will occupy most part of the week. About Saturday I shall be back at Dublin to take leave of friends & then for England ho! I will stop a day at Cheltenham to see my poor sister in law and then avoiding London seek a
pleasant route to Rokeby. Fate will only allow us to rest there for a day or two because I have some desire to see Canning who is to be on the lakes about that time et puis my leave will be exhausted.

Anne & Lockhart send kindest love to you & the ladies.

I am truly rejoiced that Mr Morritt is better. Indeed I had learnt that agreeable intelligence from Lady Louisa Stuart. I found Walter and his wife living happily and rationally, affectionately and prudently. With no shew about her there is great good sense and quietness about all Janes domestic arrangements & she plays the leaguer lady very prettily. I will write when I come to Britain and direct [you] of my own motions & learn yours.

WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

TO THOMAS MOORE, SOMERTON, NEAR TEMPLETON (I think.)

August 5 [1825]

MY DEAR SIR,—If anything could have added to the pleasure I must necessarily feel at the warm reception which the Irish nation have honoured me with, or if any thing could abate my own sense that I am noways worth the coil that has been made about me, it must be the assurance that you partake and approve of the feelings of your kind-hearted country folks.

In Ireland I have met with everything that was kind, and have seen much which is never to be forgotten. What I have seen has, in general, given me great pleasure; for
it appears to me that the adverse circumstances which have so long withered the prosperity of this rich and powerful country are losing their force, and that a gradual but steady spirit of progressive improvement is effectually, though tacitly, counteracting their bad effects. The next twenty-five years will probably be the most important in their results that Ireland ever knew. So prophesies a sharp-sighted Sennachie from the land of mist and snow, aware that, though his opinion may be unfounded, he cannot please your ear better than by presaging the prosperity of Ireland.

And so, to descend from such high matters, I hope you will consider me as having left my card for you by this visit, although I have not been happy enough to find you at home. You are bound by the ordinary forms of society to return the call, and come to see Scotland. Bring wife and bairns. We have plenty of room, and plenty of oat-meal, and, entre nous, a bottle or two of good claret to which I think you have as little objection as I have. We will talk of poor Byron, who was dear to us both, and regret that such a rose should have fallen from the chaplet of his country so untimely. I very often think of him almost with tears. Surely you, who have the means, should do something for his literary life at least. You might easily avoid tearing open old wounds. Then, returning to our proposed meeting, you know folks call me a Jacobite, and you a Jacobin; so it is quite clear that we agree to a T. Having uttered this vile pun, which is only pardonable because the subject of politics deserves no better, it is high time to conclude.

I return through England, yet, I am afraid, with little chance of seeing you, which I should wish to do, were it
but for half an hour. I have come thus far on my way to Killarney, where Hallam is lying with a broken leg. So much for middle-aged gentlemen climbing precipices. I, who have been regularly inducted into the bed of St Kevin at the Seven Churches, trust I shall bear charmed limbs upon this occasion.—I am very much, dear sir, your obliged and faithful

[Lockhart] WALTER SCOTT.

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW, KAESIDE, MELROSE

MY DEAR WILLIE,—I conclude you are now returned, with wife and bairns, to Kaeside, and not the worse of your tour. I have been the better of mine; and Killarney being the extreme point, I am just about to commence my return to Dublin, where I only intend to remain two or three days at farthest. I should like to find a line from you, addressed "Care of David Macculloch, Esq., Cheltenham," letting me know how matters go on at Abbotsford—if you want money (as I suppose you do), and so forth.

I have every reason to make a good report of Ireland, having been received with distinction, which is flattering, and with warm-hearted kindness, which is much better. I am happy to say the country is rapidly improving every year, so argues the spirit that is afloat, and indicates that British capital is finding its way into a country where it can be employed to much advantage. The idea of security is gaining ground even in those districts which are, or rather were, the most unsettled, and plenty has brought its usual companion content, in her hand. But the
public peace is secured chiefly by large bodies of an armed
police, called by the civil term of constables, but very
unlike the Dogberries of Old England, being, in fact, soldiers
on foot and horse, well armed and mounted, and dressed
exactly like our yeomen. It is not pleasant to see this,

but it is absolutely necessary for some time at least; and
from [what] I can hear, the men are under strict discipline,
and behave well. They are commanded by the Magistracy,
and are very alert.

The soil is in most places extremely rich, but cultivation
is not as yet well understood. That accursed system of
making peats interferes with everything; and I have
passed through whole counties where a very noble harvest,
ripe for the sickle, was waiting for the next shower of rain;
while all the population who should cut were up to the
middle in the bogs. Not a single field of turnips have I
seen, owing probably to the same reason.

Her political disputes are of far less consequence here
than we think in Britain; but, on the whole, it would be
highly desirable that the Catholic Bill should pass. It
would satisfy most of the higher classes of that persuasion,
who seem much inclined to form a sort of Low Church,
differing in ceremonies more than essential points from
that of the English Church. I mean they would do
this tacitly and gradually. The lower class will probably
continue for a long time bigoted Papists; but education
becoming general, it is to be supposed that popery, in its
violent tenets, will decline even amongst them. By the
way, education is already far more general than in
England. I saw in the same village four hundred
Catholic children attending school, and about two
hundred Protestants attending another. The peculiar doctrines of neither church were permitted to be taught; and there were Protestants amongst the Papist children, and Papists among the Protestant.

The general condition of the peasantry requires much improvement—their cabins are wretched, and their dress such a labyrinth of rags, that I have often feared some button would give way, and shame us all. But this is mending, and the younger people are all more decently dressed, and the new huts which are arising are greatly better than the old pigsties. In short, all is on the move.

and the mend. But as I must be on the move myself, I must defer the rest of my discoveries till we meet. We have in our party, Anne, Lockhart, Walter and his wife, and two Miss Edgeworths, so we are a jolly party. Will you shew this to Lady Scott? I wrote to her two days since.—Always truly yours, WALTER SCOTT

KILLARNEY, 8th Aug [PM. 10 August 1825]

TO MRS. JOBSON, SHANDWICK PLACE, EDINBURGH, OR 5 PITT STREET, PORTOBELLO

DEAR MRS JOBSON,—I promised to write you a few lines before I left Ireland were it but to say that I left our young people happy and comfortable. We made two tours in company one to the county of Wicklow where we staid two or three days with the Attorney Genl Mr Plunket making excursions to the objects worthy of notice.
and another of a fortnight which took us through great part of Ireland and especially to the celebrated Lakes of Killarney. We had good weather and traveled generally speaking through a most beautiful and plentiful country in the full pride of harvest. All is perfectly quiet and like to continue so, so that you may be quite easy my dear Madam on account of Walters occupation leading him into danger. The country is completely filled at every point with an armed police on horseback and foot regimented and in uniform like regular soldiers so that there is little danger of the renewal of former violences as escape or resistance must be very difficult. We passed where the country was much disturbed two years ago without the least cause for apprehension.

Jane made an excellent traveller and as I was careful to avoid fatigue she seemed to enjoy very much the beautiful & interesting scenes which we visited. Two night we were obliged to travel later than I would have chosen with ladies in the party from not finding good sleeping accommodations and I do not think Jane liked the night stages much although she did not complain.

I am very happy to say that the young people have adopted a way of living and domestic arrangement which is at the same time quiet and respectable and they are liked by their acquaintances which are all families of worth & respectability. Jane sums up her bills and looks after her accounts like one who had kept house ten years. I must make them a present of a pair of carriage horses which will make it more easy to her to pay visits without materially adding to their expense as the King keeps three horses for a Captain so that he would only have to
pay for one.

We return through England and take the steam-boat for Holyhead. I have great pleasure in having accomplished the little trip as it has satisfied [me] that in all human expectation our children may be considered as taking the best & surest road to happiness from their mutual affection, the moderation of their views and habits and I have great pleasure in communicating to you the assurance which I myself entertain. I am with much regard your most faithful & respectful Servant

WALTER SCOTT
DUBLIN 16 Augt. [1825]

TO S. NOLAN ELRINGTON, (1) 6 JAMES STREET, BAGGOT STREET

SIR,—I cannot leave Ireland without returning you my best thanks for the information which you have so obligingly conveyed to me respecting objects of curiosity occurring in the course of my late tour and of which I have so far as possible endeavoured to avail myself though controul’d in a great measure by circumstances which compell’d me to leave unseen some objects of great interest. I have the honour to be Sir your obliged humble Servt

WALTER SCOTT
16 Augt [1825] 10 STEVENS GREEN

[South Kensington Museum]
TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

[Extract]

(9-204)[HOLYHEAD], [17th](1) August 1825.

(9-204)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,—I am thus far on my return to
(9-204)Scotland, having left Ireland under a warm sense of the
(9-204)kindness of the inhabitants, who gave us a very cordial
(9-204)reception. I found my young folks in great comfort, living
(9-204)modestly and rationally, and keeping very good society.
(9-204)They went with us a long tour to the Lakes of Killarney,
(9-204)going by Limerick and returning by Cork, so that we saw
(9-204)a very great part of Ireland, a country which wants
(9-204)nothing but internal quiet to render it almost the richest
(9-204)portion of the Empire. This it is now likely to obtain,
(9-204)under the constabulary, who are by no means the Dogberries
(9-204)to whom the charge of the police is committed in
(9-204)London and Edinburgh, but troops of mounted and
(9-204)dismounted soldiers, armed and dressed like our yeomanry,
(9-204)and quartered all over the country. We passed much of
(9-204)the country which was about two years ago much
(9-204)disturbed, and found all tranquil, and a most plentiful
(9-204)harvest waited only the hands to cut and house it, about
(9-204)which, to our Scotch eyes, the natives seemed unaccountably
(9-204)slow. The worst is that we have left ourselves too
(9-204)little time to fulfil our proposed visit to Cheltenham, to

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(9-205)which I had looked forward with so much pleasure, for
(9-205)my affairs call me hastily back to Scotland. My wife is
(9-205)grumbling, and I must see a gentleman 1 on the road on
(9-205)business, if I can. Besides, I think my dear Eliza would
(9-205)not be the better of our being with you, unless she was
(9-205)perfectly recovered. ... So on the whole, I think it
(9-205)best and wisest to give up the idea of seeing you and the
(9-205)girls, in hopes that next year will make us meet under
(9-205)better auspices.

[without signature]
[Familiar Letters]

TO HUGH SCOTT, DRAYCOTE HALL, DERBY

(9-205)MY DEAR COUSIN,—I intended to have stormd your
(9-205)castle on my return from Ireland and had directed my
(9-205)letters to be addressd to your charge in the full hope of
(9-205)being able to do so but I am obliged to alter my intention
(9-205)for the present in consequence of some particular business
(9-205)which hurries me home. We have made a delightful
(9-205)tour enjoying the finest possible weather and finding my
(9-205)young folks in excellent health and settled both
(9-205)comfortably and quietly. Will you make my best compliments
(9-205)to Mrs Scott and tell [her] how much I reg[r]et that I
(9-205)cannot on this occasion fullfil my purpose And believe
(9-205)me with much regard Dear Hugh Yours faithfully

(9-205)WALTER SCOTT

(9-205)CHESTER 18 August [1825]

(9-205)My letters may be returnd to Penrith " to remain till
(9-205)calld for." I must return that way.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

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TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(9-206)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,—I am thus far on my way homeward
(9-206) & shall be at Abbotsford on Saturday or at furthest
(9-206) Sunday next 1 we have had delightful weather and upon
(9-206) the whole a most interesting expedition. But when I get
(9-206) home I shall be anxious to go to work instantly for to say
(9-206) truth I am tired of being idle and therefore I wish you to
(9-206) forward such books as you think will help me in my new
(9-206) task. It will be also necessary to settle the form of the
(9-206) work of which you can judge better than I— I can only
(9-206) say I would sacrifice so far as I am concern’d much profit to
(9-206) the certainty of getting at once into the hands of the
(9-206) public who in that case will judge for themselves not
(9-206) from the representations or misrepresentations of critics
(9-206) for I am pretty sure I shall offend the highfliers both of
(9-206) Whigs & Tories and must expect treatment accordingly
(9-206) for which I do not care a d—— n so they let me have fair
(9-206) play with the public.

(9-206) You talked of my revising the works you are to republish
(9-206) which I will do with care. I stay here to spend a
couple of days with Mr Canning who I find in high Spirits
(9-206) and much better health than I expected I shall then go
to Morritts 2 for a day and thereafter return to Abbotsford

1825          SIR WALTER SCOTT          207

(9-207) so as to be home on friday or Saturday as I said before
(9-207) Yours truly          WALTER SCOTT

(9-207) STORRES ON W[N]DERMERE Sunday [21 August 1825]
[Stevenson]

TO MRS. SCOTT OF LOCHORE

[STORRS, 22 August 1825]

(9-207) MY DEAREST JANE,— It is almost a week since your
(9-207) visitors have left Dublin and I think Walter and you
(9-207) may be desirous to know how we got on. Our passage
(9-207) was excellent and we pass'd with all manner of success
(9-207) through England regretting most things we had left
(9-207) behind us in Ireland excepting the Strugglers.1 It was
(9-207) quite refreshing to travel without the everlasting chorus
(9-207) of Good luck to your Honour—may the Lord preserve &
(9-207) be kind to a poor miserable creature—I think I still hear
(9-207) their song in my ears.

(9-207) We arrived at this celebrated lake on Saturday 2 and
(9-207) spent the day with Professor Wilson at Elleray. Yesterday
(9-207) we came after church to this beautiful villa where
(9-207) Canning and his party are living in clover the guests of
(9-207) Colonel Bolton a man of great wealth & respectability.
(9-207) You may believe our old luck of claret & venison not to

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(9-208) mention Champagne does not fail us in such a berth.
(9-208) When you see the Attorney Genl. or Blake you may assure
(9-208) them of Mr Cannings good health which [will] have a
(9-208) knowing effect on your own part—it is allways knowing
(9-208) to have the last news of a Minister of State. But then
(9-208) people must not fall into the error of talking of such
(9-208) folks too long or too often—no occasion for such maxims
(9-208) to Jane who is not given to sounding trumpets.

(9-208) Here is this beautiful lake lying before me as still as a
(9-208) mirror reflecting all the hills and trees as distinctly as if
(9-208) they were drawn on its surface with a pencil. I wish you
(9-208) were with us love for we expect a grand show upon the
(9-208) Lake. Wilson has orderd out the whole flotilla and
(9-208) being a sort of High Admiral of Windermere we shall
(9-208) have very gay doings. I am told the last regatta consisted
(9-208) of seventy boats of various descriptions.1 We shall want a
little breeze of wind to manoeuvre with but that were you
here is the last thing you would wish for.

Tomorrow I go down to Keswick to see Southey who
is unwell. Wordsworth I saw yesterday much the worse
for wear—he looks so old that I begin to think I must
be getting old myself—a secret which I am by no means
fond of prying into. On Wednesday we go over to
Patterdale down the Lake of Ullswater & so to Lowther
Castle where I found myself obliged to pass a day. Next
day to Morritts at Rokeby and from thence home where
we will arrive on Saturday or Sunday. We have tarried
so long that I am apt to doubt we will be received with
a good scolding.

I hope to hear from you soon directed to Abbotsford.
You can be at no loss for subjects of correspondence for I
am quite en pais de connaissance when you talk of the
regiment and of our Dublin friends. I long to know whether
Mrs Thackwell proves a strict disciplinarian amongst
the ladies of the 15th. and the other tidings.

My Love to Walter. I do not say how sensible I am of
all your affectionate kindness during the last pleasant
weeks because [that] you will easily suppose. I hope
circumstances will permit us to pass much of our time
together as far as Walters military duties will permit.

Finding Lord Frederick Bentinck 1 here—an old &
intelligent soldier—I asked him the question about the
Aid de Camp business. H[е] askd if my son were
immediately expecting regimental promotion & when I
replied that I could not expect it for some years he said
in that case he considerd his taking the situation as highly
adviseable since he could hold it for a little time and afterwards join and serve with the corps long enough to secure his share in any promotion which might occur. He also said that to have been the Aid de camp of a Lord Lieutenant always gave right to be included in a brevet and might help any interest that should be made to get Walter hereafter named one of the Kings Aids de camp which is a rapid way of getting on. If Walter is named one of the regular Aids de camp there are also appointments additional pay forage & other advantages. But I suppose his situation would be extra. I mentiond to Lord Frederick Walters taste for regimental duty to which he replied that when the regiment was dispersed as it must be in spring there could be no duty of that sort. On the whole he considerd the thing as not to be rashly neglected or passd over. You & Walter will judge of all this better than I can. I have some fears of your being ill accomodated & uncomfortable in these little country towns if Walter & his troop are sent there in summer. I am calld to breakfast. Anne sends kindes[t] love Adieu my dearest Child direct Abbotsford

WALTER SCOTT
[Law]

TO J. B. S. MORRITT

MY DEAR MORRITT,—I am disappointed at finding no note from you at Penrith and conclude my letter from Holyhead or thereabout 1 has not found you at home or has otherwise miscarried. It is of the less consequence as we could only have staid at Rokeby today and tomorrow which would have been but a shabby visit and our wishes as well as our duties begin to point homewards
after so long an absence from Scotland. I had half a mind to have taken the height of Stanmore on a venture but as it would be 40 miles going & as much returning out of our road and as every chance is against your being at home I must take this way of sending kind wishes and reserve my personal greetings till another time. The loss is you will not have my Irish news in their racy freshness. They are of a pleasant description as I think of the country is settling fast notwithstanding the exertions of factious men to set matters in a blaze. Men of property begin to feel that the publick eye is upon them and are lightening the burthens of the lower orders giving them more wages and apparently consider them as entitled to something better than dogs allowance—a crust & a kennel.

On the other hand the lower classes are restrained in the excesses to which wretchedness and evil counsellors are driving them by a very strict police which reminds me more of the Gensdarmerie of France than any other institution. These are taken from under the authority of the local magistrates who seem to have jobbd the matter sadly and are commanded by special inspectors & regulators named by government and connected with corresponding with the administration directly. This would seem a violent & unconstitutional proceeding in Britain but in Ireland it works well. We passd in absolute safety through the parts of the country where 1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 211

18 months since a mail coach could not travel without the escort of a corporal & five soldiers & was sometimes robbd and the passengers murderd notwithstanding. I own one felt a little queer at a pass called Shanes Inn near Millstreet where they cut an unfortunate inspector of the Mail coach[es] who had come out in defiance of the insurgents to pieces with scythes especially as we knew
(9-211) the very same Paddies who were joking & laughing with us had been all in the affair. One of them described the man that was murderd as he that hangd the men at Carlow meaning he for whose murder they had been hung. A savage old mine host of an Orange-man described the battle of Skibbereen subsequent to the murder in 1823 if I mistake not in which his sons and he and other two protestants of the loyal town or village of Millstreet had been active on the Kings side. He spoke before the whole kitchen household of the papist dogs as if killing them had been the natest thing in the world. They are certainly a very odd people and but for that ugly humour of murdering which is in full decline they would be the most amusing & easy to live with in the world.

(9-211) Anne sends love to the young ladies in which Lockhart and I sincerely join. I saw Canning at Storrs 1 for two days. He seemd much faggd by public business but was picking up by dint of quiet and exercise. I came, here yesterday with the purpose of leaving this morning for Rokeby and breakfasting at Appleby but neither yesterday nor this mornings post bringing any news from you I shall remain in these hospitable halls for this day and be off tomorrow by six oclock & sup at Abbotsford. Adieu dearest Morritt it is a great satisfaction for me to entertain the strong confidence that it is no cause of health which prevents our meeting Yours ever

(9-212) WALTER SCOTT

(9-212) LOWTHER CASTLE 25 Augt. [1825]

(9-212) I have got all my other letters from Penrith post office
(9-212) so I think yours can hardly have miscarried.

[Law]

TO HECTOR MACDONALD BUCHANAN, ROSS PRIORY, DUMBARTON

(9-212) MY DEAREST HECTOR,—A thousand thanks for your paternal care of Charles who I hope has improved the opportunity your kindness has afforded him. I am sure he is so far deserving of your goodness that he is very gratefully sensible of it.

(9-212) I have made so long a turn in Ireland that I must stick here for the remainder of our vacation otherwise I would have obeyd with pleasure your summons to Ross. Besides Ham 1 threatens a visit which will be rather a smothering kind of a concourse. A sort of apprehension has seized me that he will take the gout on my hands he has a happy tendency that way whenever the fit is like to be most vexatious to other folks. If I am doomd to endure his cursing & his wifes praying for a fortnights fit by all that is worth swearing by I will fire the house and roast them like pratties.

(9-212) My kindest love attends Mrs Buchanan Missie Flora & Jemima. I found Walter carrying on the war in Ireland steadily & correctly and delighted with his troop and his horse—the fifteen acres seem to be the Arena in which he is to shine to greatest advantage being held a good drill.

(9-212) I hope they will make no positive regulations about our business in the new act but leave us to accomodate
ourselves to the business in our own way. Were the Court to make a regulation expressly dispensing with the attendance of one Clerk from each division we should soon have our numbers curtailed. I think we may manage the matter so as to give us the full benefit of such a regulation without its being expressed. Compliments to Brother & sister Mackenzie Always affectionately yours

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 25 [27th] Augt. [PM. 1825]

I came home last night. Saw Canning for two days at Windermere & was glad to find him much better than I had expected.

[Lady Leith-Buchanan]

TO SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT

[Extract]

ABBOTSFORD 28th August [1825]

MY DEAR SIR GEORGE,—I found your kind letter here yesterday, when I returned to my Lares after a long and most agreeable excursion, during which I saw the greater part of Ireland, which, despite all past and present feuds, is certainly one day destined to be the fairest portion of the Empire. I was happy to find it in a progressive state of improvement. They have got a very strict and efficient police, dressed and armed and disciplined like soldiers, and directed, not by the caprice of the local
magistrates, who misused their official powers as much as Falstaff did the king's press, but by superintendents, and inspectors, whose situations depend on their good conduct, and who are highly responsible for the least irregularity on the part of themselves or their subordinates. This system, like that of the gens d'arme in France, which it strongly resembles, is certainly not comely to the eye in a free country, but it is found to work well, and it is better that for a time the country should be under this restraint than subjected to the violence of carders, thrashers, and all the other gangs who stop mail-coaches, cut throats, and burn houses. Meantime, a sense of security is gradually giving confidence to capitalists, who are directing their attention to a soil and country which can so richly repay their outlay. The old cabins begin to disappear, the huge bogs are getting into cultivation, and the young people are ambitious of being better dressed than scarecrows. In them the spirit of improvement is fairly afloat, and will not, I venture to prophesy, be the less efficient that it proceeds, in Scottish phrase, hooly and fairly.

I was deeply grieved indeed to receive, from one so well qualified to judge, the very melancholy account of poor Wilkie. It is impossible for any man to have more admiration of his talents than I have, and yet even that was inferior to the regard inspired by the virtuous simplicity of his character. And must such a bowl be broken at the very fountain? He was with me two or three days last summer, making a sketch of me to be introduced into the Holyrood picture, and I observed with regret he was in very low spirits, which I imputed to the illness of his mother. It is singular that poor Bird, who had considerable
powers, should have broken down under a similar
task—the parting, I think, of the King and Louis xviii.
I am convinced that mere men of the world have not the
slightest conception of the tax paid by artists, poets, and
musicians for the power of giving them pleasure.

An anxious stomach well
May be endured, so may the throbbing head;
But such a dim delirium, such a dream
Involves them, such a dastardly despair
Unmans their soul, as maddening Pentheus felt
When, baited round Cithaeron's cruel sides,
He saw two suns, and double Thebes appear.

I hope in God ease and quiet will do much for Wilkie,
and I am sure that as no man possesses more justly the
general esteem and affection, the tone of his mind may
be restored by the general sympathy of his friends. That
he should have your friendship is most fortunate, since,
if any one can encourage and strengthen his flagging
spirits, it must be he who first encouraged his early efforts
towards eminence. I returned by the Lakes, and saw
both Southey and Wordsworth. I was sorry to see the
former in rather indifferent health. A poisonous insect
had stung him in Holland, and though the wound was
healed, he was in some apprehension of erysipelas. Wordsworth’s

eyes were troubling him a little, otherwise he
was as well as he deserves to be—that is, as well as
possible. We kept company for two days, during which
time his conversation, as much distinguished by manly
sense and candour as by talent and principle, was like a
fountain in the desert. We did not omit to talk of
Coleorton, and of the improvements which were meditated
while I was there in 1806, and which I hope one day to see in their perfection. Anch’ io son’ pittore, in the sense of plantations and buildings, for I have made a kind of bravura of a house here, a little fantastic, I own, but convenient, . . . well surrounded with infant woods. By the way, it is ungracious to complain of Nature for not bestowing more determined and marked beauty on Coleorton without doors, since she gave its lord the power of transferring to its interior all that art can copy from Nature. It would have been a prodigal excess of bounty to have given you more. I wish Lady Beaumont and you would come and see this place, such as it is. We could lodge you comfortably, and the neighbourhood would amuse you for a few days. Many thanks for your kindness to Scott, for which the poor lad in a letter expresses himself duly grateful. I know nothing of his qualifications to become an artist, but think highly of him as a simple-minded, honourable, and patient youth.

Lady Scott joins in best respects to Lady Beaumont; and I am, dear sir, your much obliged and faithful

WALTER SCOTT

TO J. B. S. MORRITT, ROKEBY PARK

YOUR letter my dear Morritt gave me most sincere pleasure on your account and also on my own as it reconciled me to myself for my stupidity in misdirecting my letters to Charlotte and you from Wales. I was sincerely vexed when I found out my bevue but am now well pleased that it happened since we might otherwise have arrived at Rokeby at a time when we must necessarily
(9-217) have been a little in the way. I wish you joy most sincerely of your nephews settling in life in a manner so agreeably to your wishes and views. Bella gerant alii — he will have seen enough of the world abroad to qualify him fully to estimate & discharge the duties of an English country gentleman and with your example before him & your advice to resort [to] he cannot with the talents he possesses fail to fill honorably that most honourable & important rank in society. You will probably in due time think of parliament for him where there is a fine sphere for young men of talents at present all the old political posthorses being as Sir Pertinax says dry.

(9-217) I was extremely sorry to find Canning at Windermere looking very poorly and out of spirits but in a long ride with him the old man seemd to come alive again. I fear he works himself too hard under the great error of trying to do too much with his own hand and to see every thing with his own eyes whereas the greatest general and the first statesman must in many cases be content to use the eyes and fingers of others and hold themselves contented with the exercize of the greatest selection in the choice of their implements. His is a valuable life to us just now.

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(9-218) I passd a couple of days at Lowther to make up in some degree to Anne for her disappointment in not getting to Rokeby. I was seduced there by Lady Frederic Benrinck whom I had long known as a very agreeable person and who was very kind to Anne. This wore out my proposed leisure & from Lowther we reachd Abbotsford in one day and now the old bore feeds in the old frank.

(9-218) I had the great pleasure of leaving Walter and his little
wife well happy and as they seem perfectly to understand each other, likely to continue so. His ardour for military affairs continues unabated and his great scene of activity is the fifteen acres so the Irish denominate the exercizing ground consisting of about 50 acres in the Phoenix park which induced an Attorney writing a challenge to a brother of the trade to name as a place of meeting the fifteen acres adding with professional accuracy "be they more or less." Here about 3000 men the garrison of Dublin are to be seen exercizing ever and anon in order that Pat may be aware how the report of some 2400 muskets assisted by the discharge of twenty field pieces & the tramp of 500 or 600 horse sound in comparison to the thunder of Mr O Connells evidence. This is Walters chosen place of pleasure and there he works constantly with the great approbation of his superiors. I have had an intimation that he may perhaps have the offer of being Aid de camp to the Lord Lieutenant but being independant in point of income he seems to be rather disposed at present to continue a regimental officer although in the event of the 15th Hussars leaving Dublin as must take place next year if not sooner he must be a little puzzld to find comfortable quarters for the little lady in many of the out-quarters to which he may be sent. Thus your plan and mine in something like the same circumstance lead us to different places with our young people but Walter has neither the same extensive prospect of duties at home which are like to open to your nephew nor the literary acquisitions necessary to distinguish himself in a civil career while he has in a remarkable degree the peculiar qualities which seem to suit the military profession.
All this travelling & wooing is like to prevent our meeting this season. I hope to make up for it the next. Lady Scott Anne & Sophia join Lockhart & me in best wishes to the happy two who are to be soon one. My best respects attend the Miss Morritts & I ever am most truly yours  

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 1st September [1825]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR CONSTABLE,—I am here once more stationary & received your letter yesterday. I want to get to work again as soon as possible for idleness does not suit me. I cannot however call myself idle since I am reading and making notes. I shall be very desirous to have the books as soon as possible.

J. Ballantyne is also very hungry for business and I beg of you to lend him a shove just now which we may pay back another day in some equivalent piece of kindness. I will be glad to have the prefatory Memoirs etc with a note of the order in which they are to be publishd. They will occupy my leisure very well just now before I set seriously to the Memoirs I should therefore wish to have them without delay per Blucher.

I have no doubt that your talent & experience will hit on the best possible mode of publishing the Memoirs. I am in my own secret soul a little afraid of quartos but you know the matter best and so far as I am concernd

I resign myself to your better judgement, well aware that
you will consider the credit of the work & author as more important than any immediate pecuniary advantages.

I am sorry you find obstacles to executing your admirable plan of the Miscellany. I will be happy to talk the subject over with you and for that and many other reasons besides those of good fellowship I embrace your kind offer of coming here and will be most happy to receive you on Wednesday which day I only name because Monday might be too early for you & Tuesday is the Forest Club. If Mrs Constable can accompany you Lady Scott will be delighted to see her & claims I think a promise of the kind.

Milliken of Dublin was to send a considerable package of books for me under the charge of your house. Are there any tidings of it yet? I want much the Memoires of Segur—not those respecting the Russian campaign which I have, but the memoirs of Segur the father who was Master of Ceremonies to Buonaparte. His personal access to the Emperor must have given him many opportunities to see & record. I want also to see a book called Today in Ireland much spoken of in that country. There is also an old picture an original I think of James VI coming to your charge in a box I wish you would open it and see whether it would be worth while to have it a little repaired & framed.

Our post hours here are altered & the days post reaches me betwixt four & five p.m. this for information. I will bespeak Lockhart to meet you on Tuesday Yours truly ABBOTSFORD Friday [9th Sept. 1825] WALTER SCOTT
There is to be a publication of Mathurin's Miscellanies
Vid. poetry & novels for the benefit of his family which
I am to put in order & to which I will give a critical
preface. All the booksellers concerned have most
doriously agreed to this & I took you in my own hand.
What I think of is a small edition such as of the Edgeworth
or Waverley novels and I think a good list of subscribers
might be had. Mr Plunket the Attorney general has
promised to look after the boy. You can talk to Rees
about this to whom I mentioned it in Dublin. I fancy all
the publishers concerned would like to have their names
on the imprint.

[Stevenson]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

MY DEAR RICHARDSON,—Nothing will give us more
pleasure than to receive you here on the 22nd current or
about that day & I hope Mr Bell will come with you.
I have many things to thank him for and should wish to
do it under this roof. Rain I think you will have enough
of. I wish we could promise ourselves blinks of fine
weather now the flood-gates are open but it would be
most unreasonable to complain—

I had a delightful tour in Ireland and am quite enchanted
with the fertility of the country & kindness of the
people. They will soon take the start both of England
& Scotland in point of improvement for the obstacles to

progress are slowly & gradually disappearing & the Irish
are no more the Irish of 1797 than the Scotch are the
TO DANIEL TERRY

[Extract]

17th September 1825

MY DEAR TERRY,— ... I left Ireland with a mind much enlarged by the information which I collected concerning that fine country, and the comfortable conviction that it is every day becoming a more valuable part of the empire. I had also the domestic satisfaction to leave my son and daughter well and happy, attached to each other, living with prudence, and at the same time in good society and with the best-informed people. There is a haunted house in the fine square they inhabit, one of the most striking mansions you ever saw. If I had time I would write you out the story, for it would make an admirable incident in a romantic drama or pantomime, but on consideration there are too many living people of high birth and circumstances implicated in the tragedy. It was the tale of an Irish Don Juan.

Pray do you ever look into the book-shops now? Pray keep in mind the drama. I have always a 10 to spend on good bargains of that sort. There is a song-book I would much like to see again called the Roundelay, I with a frontispiece of Mrs. Bellamy (I think) and the motto—
“Marinetta claimed the merry, merry Roundelay.”

1825                         SIR WALTER SCOTT                         223

The collection is curious, and contains some good songs now out of fashion. It was published about 30 or 40 years since. You are so capital a grubber that I have little doubt you will light upon it sooner or later...

[Familiar Letters]                        [without signature]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

My Dear Constable,—I have your letter and am obliged by the information which it contains. The 3d. volume of miscellaneous works is finishd all but one or two extracts on which Gordon is busy. They will come by Saturdays Mail or Mondays Blucher. It was very stupid in me to make the misdirection 1 you notice. By the bye in the lives of the Novelists I have struck out Swift which is merely an abridgement of what was said in the proceeding volume. I would insert in its stead the life of De Foe to be found in the Novelist which is not among the number sent to me. Poor J. Ballantyne drew up the narrative but I wrote the critical remarks which I propose to enlarge a little. You can send me the copy.

I think you had better make your first stage to London this way & mean time I will cause Gordon make a list of the French books which I have which are a very numerous collection. Two or three desiderata I will point out. I have finishd about the half of the first volume in a rough sort of way. It is introductory merely for I think a short and distinct sketch of the revolution is a[n]
(9-223)indispensable.

(9-223)Pray let one of your clerks receive the contents of the
(9-223)inclosed from Mr. Marshal Register Office & pay them
(9-223)in to the Leith Bank on my accompt as I operate on it at
(9-223)Galashiels. I will want it on Monday.

(9-223)I am much obliged by your supporting our presses at

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(9-224)this slack time. You will not find your own matters the
(9-224)worse

(9-224)Ye ken that Maggie winna sleep
(9-224)For that or siller—

(9-224)I want Made. de Genlis Memoirs—also Made. de Staels
(9-224)personal memoirs—in the original, translations are such
(9-224)butcherly work.1

(9-224)The Moniteurs would be greatly too bulky for my
(9-224)presses & I think will be an important accession to the
(9-224)Advocates Library Yours truly           W SCOTT

(9-224)ABOTSFORD 22 Septr. [PM. 1825]

(9-224)Pray come this way if you can without inconvenience.
(9-224)If the volume of the Lives be too short I will add another
(9-224)Mrs. Charlotte Smiths but I think with Defoe it will be
(9-224)about 500 pages. I will send the whole to Ballantyne
(9-224)& you can compute the matter.

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE
DEAR JAMES,—I send you the copy for Charlotte Smith.

I do not know how the volume will run out. If it is like

1825                     SIR WALTER SCOTT                     225

(to be thin we might include a life of De Foe of which poor
John laid the foundation though I think there was a
superstructure of mine but I have not seen it since it was
written. I sent the omitted proof but have receivd not
of those you threatened. Yours truly       W SCOTT

[September 1825]
[Stevenson]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY,
DRUMLANRICK CASTLE

MY DEAR LORD DUKE,—Many thanks for your generous
offer of a brace of greyhounds. But times are so much
changed with me of late years that I have given up
coursing almost entirely and I must therefore decline
what will be a present better bestowd on some of your
Graces younger and more active freinds.

I trust we are to have a glimpse of Lord Montagu and
you in this quarter. I have much to tell you about my
late Irish tour which was inexpressibly amusing. Fancy
this—We were stopd in our carriage by the annunciation
that they were going to blow up a piece of rock just by
the roadside. Some dozen of car[s] were stationary at
the same place. All of a sudden we were all put in
motion by the order of the overseer and the postillions
kept galloping on in the middle of the cars. You would
have thought as I did that the blast had faild & that they
were hurrying us on in order to prepare another. No such
thing—the reason of our being set in motion was that the
match having burn'd so slowly hitherto it was thought
possible we might get pass'd before the powder exploded.
You may be sure this beautiful process of argument was
not explain'd to me till afterwards. We nick'd our time so
exactly that the blast went off when we were within
twelve yards of it fortunately without damage. If the horses
had been able to have gone but a little faster we should
have arrived exactly in time to be knock'd on the head.

All this & much more your Grace shall hear if you can
spare us a day to learn the last news of the Isle of Saints:
it will not be indifferent to Your Grace that I found my
son well and happy in his wife & his troop—he has been
made one of Lord Lieutenants Aid de Camp. Respects
to Lord Montagu and all friends Always your Graces
truly obliged & faithful WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 28 September [1825]
[Buccleuch]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I inclose Murrays letter.1 I own
I like not Bardolphins security & weighing certainties
against uncertainties & strong probabilities against
possibilities I incline at present to pause on the whole
affair. I will look in at breakfast either tomorrow or more
probably next day as it will give time to your hearing
from Wright. I have also to consult you about the
inclosed though I thought myself unhandsomely used by
poor Russell yet that is no reason for not helping his
widow Yours ever W. SCOTT
TO THOMAS MOORE 1

[About autumn 1825]

MY DEAR MOORE,—Nothing has vexed me more than the loss of three or four of Byrons letters which I am still inclined to hope are only mislaid. I have sought for them every where without effect but my papers are in a sad state of insurrection and it absolutely turns my head when I sit to ransack such a miscellaneous mass indicating forgotten or at least child friendships blighted schemes disconcerted hopes and all the vexations of a passed life. Unless Byrons letters have been stolen which I think unlikely having only trusted one person with the key of these drawers of chaos I hope I may still lay my hand on them.

What I can tell of Byron shall be told although unless I could have noted down his conversation it cannot be much. [Unsigned]

Care of J. Moore [Murray] Esq 50 Albemarle Street

TO HIS SON WALTER

[September-October 1825]

MY DEAR WALTER,—I am afraid Jane and you have forgot your late guests or are so glad to get rid of them as not to think of inquiring any more about them. Surely
with ten pair of fingers between you you might find ten
minutes to let us know what you are doing even though
you should chuse them just when the post is going off.
I wrote to Jane very shortly [after] we arrived in England
and Anne tells me she has written since.

We know so much of Dublin and of Ireland now that
you can be under no trouble to find subjects for a letter
as you can tell us about the Blakes Plunkets and all our
late and kind friends. I hope the stone lion of the
Whalleys has not been shaking the Square with its
howlings since our departure.

We have been constant at Abbotsford since our return
and it may be my vanity but I think it as convenient and
comfortable a dwelling as we saw in our travels. The
weather is now breaking but not without fine intervals
of fine sunshine.

Old Nicol 1 still talks to every one of selling his land to
me but the proposition must come directly from himself
and at a different price from that which he held out
otherwise I will not touch collar.

Our harvest has been most abundant and every thing
seems to promise quiet and prosperity. I hope Pat
keeps in good order he is a capital fellow and I think
another score of years will lead him to a very different
point of estimation among the British subjects.

Let me know if you have heard any more of the Aid de
camp business and what you have determined about it
whether there is any news of your regiment moving in
spring and so forth. Also whether Rebecca has cast
any more real aspersions upon Mrs. M'A.'s Abigail. Charles
is here pelting away daily at Black-cock and partridges
with indifferent success worse I think than last year.
He has got a new fowling piece from Jedburgh. Pray
did you bespeak one from Forrest for there is one there
supposed to be for you unless he had got two orders from
different people for one gun?

Mamma and Anne are quite well. They are with me
on a visit to Sir Alexr. Don and his new lady 2 who is a
very pleasant woman and plays on the harp delightfully.
The Lockharts are of the party. Sophia is looking better
than I have seen her this many a day and positively is
getting fat again. The same may be said of little Johnie.
I found both mother and child greatly improved on my
return which shows a little absence may do good now
and then.

Tell my little Jane I am tiring for a letter from her.
Mrs. Jobson is I believe with Sir Adam and Lady F. in
Dumfriesshire. I hear the merry knight is already looking
back to his old quarters and heartily tired of his new.
Young Lyon has given up thoughts of building at present
in which I think he acts wisely. A young man of twenty
one can scarcely know what sort of a house is like to suit
him and Sir Adam might have found the task of building
a mansion for another person a very troublesome one and
thankless after it was done.

If Nick and I were to agree perhaps Sir Adm. would
like to take new Faldonside as you I think would prefer
the upper for a shooting box. But I fear the glories of
Gattonside would prevent their being comfortable in a
The house so much smaller though it is a good one. The Colonel has not yet appeared—but has written that he is going to Lincoln or to York—he is not sure which—and to return by the lakes. He has been both at Oxford and Cambridge but has been made a Doctor at neither university. I believe his mode of traveling is to get into the first coach where he sees a place vacant and after he has had his umbrella and portmanteau accommodated and himself comfortably fixed asks which way they are going. He would be an admirable subject for the bakers who ply at the Gloster coffee house and White horse cellar—a sort of natural prey to these vociferating animals.

Remember [me] most kindly to all my friends in the Kings Hussars—young Rose especially—and to all our other friends civil and military. All join in love to you and your sposetta (an elegant diminutive of sposa) and I beg you will write immediately. When you want a troop your correspondence is much more regular. Yours affectionately notwithstanding WALTER SCOTT NEWTON DON Saturday

TO WILLIAM STEWART WATSON, ARTIST

DEAR MR. WATSON,—Your packet reached me in perfect safety, and the contents gave us great pleasure, both on account of the strong resemblances of the Miniatures and the stile of execution. I am particularly pleased with my wife's picture, as her features and expression are not easily hit, and I think you have been very successful. I have no doubt that, by continuing...
to bestow much pains (for that is everything in all difficult arts), you will soon place yourself high in your profession.

My Wife is greatly obliged by the two screens so beautifully pencilled, and begs me to make her best acknowledgement. I am not less obliged by your attention to my blazonry, which is in no sort of hurry; if you look at it at a perfectly idle moment it is quite enough. Hoggle nam Bo {in modern Gaelic, " Thogail nam bo," to the lifting of the cows) will I dare [say] cast up among the Me farlanes in due time.2—I am, dear Mr. Watson your obliged humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, 4 October 1825.

I will be much obliged to you to look in upon the Glass-painter now and then.

[1871 Exhibition Catalogue]

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—I rejoice you have got home safe. I inclose 1400 to accompt of Constables two acceptances of 700 each with Courts.

The st. Volume of Bony is finishd except revising & adding authorities. I suppose you have quite settled with Constable in which case I will get it transcribed by Gordon here and send in the copy to you. The first volume is entirely preliminary a sketch of the Revolution. I believe the work will run to five volumes—in truth she'll
be nae cheaper.

If you can conveniently settle the amount of the within peoples accompt it will oblige me I do not know the exact amount as I thought I had left it with you.

Lockhart has good hope of the book he has looked it over

W SCOTT

7 October [PM. 1825]

My Bramahs wax low.

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—I am glad things are getting right & sorry for the great blunder in the proofs which I return corrected. I find gravel in the bladder hyasymus in the brain and vexation at the heart will bother any one. I drew on you yesterday for 50 I should have my rents coming in which ought to keep me off you from this quarter in Town I have 300 of my own. If I want a couple more I will apply.

I send the leaves of original Manuscript for W[oodstoc]k also some new copy. The friend who lent six hundred should be repaid when convenient you can send a Cheque to my order Believe me yours truly

WALTER SCOTT
I return Mr Hogarths letter and will act accordingly.

Tuesday [October 1825] 1

I observe the proof sheets sent have not been corrected by my reviser.

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

DEAR CONSTABLE,—I suppose this will find you deep in all your plans. Lockhart goes to London for a few days & will take care of this. I take the opportunity to say that I want much to have "L'Histoire Militaire de la Campagne de Russie 1812 par le Colonel Boutourlin Aide de Camp de S.M. L'Empereur de Russie Paris 1824." It will be time enough two or three weeks hence. I will be glad to hear from you when you have a minutes leisure. Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Sunday [9 Oct 1825]

TO HIS SON WALTER

MY DEAR WALTER,—I had duly your letter with an accompt of your late proceedings and congratulate you on your escape after breaking your sword in single combat with a post. I must conclude Monsr. Du Bois behaved handsomely and took no advantage of an accident which might have been fatal if you had had to do with a more active antagonist.
Winter is now coming seriously upon us. I really thought it was going to forget us the weather was so exquisite down [to] a late period. Charles left us last week for Oxford and Lockhart is gone to London on some special business which is not however to detain him long. I suppose he will take up his abode at the Blue postesses.

I am very glad you are fixd for a while in Lord Wellesleys family. He is so very well bred a person that I think it must be very pleasant to make part of his society. As for the riding horse and the tandem I have so little mettle left that I would rather hear that Jane had a couple of decent horses to your chariot to " carry her through the dub and the lairie." The household appointment at least secures you from the comforts of an out quarter where you might live and diet with as little comfort as our friend the Dandy at Shanes Inn or what do they call the place. I saw Waldie brother of Mrs. Griffith whose obliging attentions frightend us from Mallow. He upbraided me for not visiting Kilcoman and other remarkables in that neighbourhood but I did not think it necessary to tell the real reason of our retreat.

We have a large houseful just now Lord & Lady Gifford Lord Chief Baron 1 & Lady Shepherd besides two friends of Lord Sidmouht. If it were good weather all is well enough but ones friends are not so easily entertaind on such a sulky day as this. There is the solicitor 2 too by the bye. However this will be so far [good] that they will find a frank among them.

I cannot say Mama has been very well this season she
had a severe attack of something like a determination of blood to the head—from knowing her constitution this alarmed me extremely. She had some blood taken from [her] (almost by force by the way) and it was in a bad & inflamed state. After all however the ground of her complaint proved bilious and she was relieved in the usual way by calomel. She was very unwell for about a week.

We had the Russells with us for ten days. Jane talks as well as ever she did in her life and moves as well though a little awkward in going up stairs when alone she feels a little weakness in the spine. Their brother is coming home and there is a letter from him dated from Teflis in Georgia he will be here in this month. It must be with curious & bewildering sensations that a man of fifty and upwards returns to the country which he last [saw] at fifteen. All objects on which the mind has dwelt are so much magnified by imagination that generally there is great disappointment. The mountains seem like molehills the houses like ruinous huts the rivers like kennels and what is worse than all the rest old friends left in the bloom of youth have ceased to be as strong as Sampson without becoming as wise as Solomon and have become in a few words doited old bodies. You know this was not unlikely to have been your own lot and you should be thankful it is ordered otherwise. Mr. Milliken is a treacherous man though a member of the household. He has not sent me my box of books. At least I have not received it nor the picture neither. I beg you will with the least possible delay inquire into this matter. Fifty pounds worth of books is too much to lose.
Anne is very well and sends kind love. I advise her
to set her cap at Cousin Colonel but she seems to think
he must be an ugly old Quihi 1 altho she pretends her
reason is not to poach on the Miss Pringles’ manor. It is
funny enough to see the court Mrs. Pringle pays to the two
sisters whom she used to sufficiently [ignore ?] when time
was. Give my dear Jane all love for me and ask her
what has happend to her little fingers that she does not
write me a line. Anne had a long letter the other day and
I will begin to take the pet. There is now to be no
dissolution till next year. But I have settled that it is
best on all hands that you should make such a stay in
Ireland as will entitle you to make us a comfortable visit
of two or three months. Travelling is always both
troublesome & expensive and one likes to have pennyworths
for money and fatigue.

Nicol Milne was tumultuous about selling after I came
Back but as he stuck to his old sum of 40,000 I begd him
civilly to sell where he pleased I could not afford to
purchase at such a price. I think the outside of the rent
is a 1000 counting every thing so he asks forty years
purchase. If the Nabal would come to 35000 we might
consider it for the convenience is very great though even
that price would be excessive.2 I am dear Walter your
affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 11 October [1825]

LETTERS OF 1825

Let me know about your Castle and Malahide existence.1
I fear Jane will be lonely in Stevens Green.
Do not forget to enquire at Milliken sans faute.
TO JOANNA BAILLIE

[ABBOTSFORD, October 12, 1825]

IT did not require your kind token of undeserved remembrance my dear friend to remind me that I was guilty of very criminal negligence in our epistolary correspondence. How this sin comes to possess me I really do not know but it arises out of any source but that of ingratitude to my friends or thoughtless forgetfulness of my duty to them, but on the contrary I think always most of those to whom I do owe letters for when my conscience is satisfied on that subject their perturbed spirits remain at rest and at least do not haunt me as the injured spirits do the surviving murderers.—I hope I have made up matters with Miss Holford for I had the honour of a letter from that lady favoured by a Russian whose name I will not pretend to write but which began with something like Sil. He was a very accomplished and well informed man and I had much pleasure in offering as much civility as he could be induced to accept as much on Miss Holfords account as his own.

I well intended to have written from Ireland. But alas hell as some stern old divine says is paved with good intentions. There was such a whirl of visiting and taking and boating and wandering and shouting and laughing and carousing so much to be seen and so little time to see it so much to be heard and only two ears to listen to twenty voices that upon the whole I grew desperate and
(9-237) gave up all thoughts of doing what was right and proper
(9-237) upon post-days and so all my epistolary good intentions
(9-237) are gone to Macadamize I suppose the " burning marle "
(9-237) of the infernal regions. I have not the pen of our friend
(9-237) Maria Edgeworth who writes all the while she laughs
(9-237) talks eats drinks and I believe though I do not pretend
(9-237) to be so far in the secret all the time she sleeps to[o]. She
(9-237) has good luck in having a pen which walks at once so
(9-237) unweariedly and so well. I do not however like her last
(9-237) book on education considerd as a general work. She
(9-237) should have limited the title to education in Natural
(9-237) philosophy or some such term for there is no great use
(9-237) in teaching children in general to roof houses build bridges
(9-237) which after all a carpenter or a mason does a great deal
(9-237) better for 2/6 a day. In a waste country like some parts
(9-237) of America it may do very well, or perhaps for a sailor
(9-237) or a traveller, certainly for a civil engineer. But in the
(9-237) ordinary professions of the better informd orders I have
(9-237) always observed that a small taste for mechanics lands in
(9-237) encouraging a sort of trifling self conceit founded on

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(9-238) knowing that which is not worth being known by one who
(9-238) has other matters to employ his mind on and in short
(9-238) forms a trumpery gim-crack kind of a character who is a
(9-238) mechanic among gentlemen and most probable a gentleman
(9-238) among mechanics. I dont think I will dare to tell
(9-238) all this to Miss Edgeworth though because I have a notion
(9-238) that she followd out some ideas of her father in that book
(9-238) which her filial piety would revolt at. I And yet what
(9-238) good did Mr Edgeworths knowledge of mechanicks do
(9-238) to him or to the world except that he made a Carriage
(9-238) go [on two wheels] which would go much better on four.
(9-238) You must understand I mean only to challenge the system
(9-238) as making mechanics too much and too general a subject
of education and converting scholars into makers of toys.

Men like Watt whose genius tends strongly to invent and execute those wonderful combinations which extend in such an incalculable degree the human force and command over the physical world do not come within ordinary rules. But your ordinary Harry should be kept to his grammar and your Lucy of most common occurrence will be best employed on her sampler instead of wasting wood and cutting their fingers which I am convinced they did though their historian says nothing of it.

Well but I did not mean to say anything about Lucy and Harry whose dialogues are very interesting after all but about Ireland which I could prophesy for as well as [if] I were Thomas the Rhymer. Its natural advantages are so great that despite all the disadvantages which have hitherto retarded her [sic] progress She will I believe be queen of the trefoil of Kingdoms. I never saw a richer country or to speak my mind a finer people. The worst of them is the bitter and envenom'd dislike which they have to each other their factions have been so long envenom'd and having so little ground to fight their battle in that they are like people fighting with daggers in a hogshead. This however is getting better for as the government temporises between the parties and does not throw as formerly its whole weight into the protestant scale there is more appearance of things settling into concord and good order. The protestants of the old school or determined Orangemen are a very fine race but dangerous for the quiet of a country. They reminded me of the Spaniard in Mexico and seemd still to walk among the Catholics with all the pride of the Conquerors of the Boyne and the Captors of Limerick. Their own belief is
completely fixd that there are enough of men in Down and Antrim to conquer all Ireland again and when one considers the habitual authority they have exercised their energetic and military character and the singular way in which they are banded and united together they may be right enough for what I know for they have all one mind and one way of pursuing it. But the Catholic is holding up his head now in a different way from what they did in former days though still with a touch of the savage about them. It is after all a helpless sort of superstition which with its saints days and the influence of its ignorant bigotted priesthood destroys ambition and industrious exertion. It is rare to see the Catholic rise above the line he is born in, the protestant part of the country is as highly improved as any part of England. Education is much more frequent in Ireland than England. In Kerry one of the wildest counties you find peasants who speak latin. It is not the art of reading however but the use which is made of it that is to mend. It is much to be wished that the priests themselves were better educated, but the college at Maynooth has been a failure. The students all men of the lower orders are educated there in all the bigotry of the Catholic religion unmitigated by any of the knowledge of the world which they used to acquire in Italy France or Spain from which they returned very often highly accomplishd and companionable men. I do not believe either party care a bit for what is calld emancipation only that the Catholics desire it because the protestants are not willing they should have it and the protestants desire to withhold it because the want of it mortifies the Catholic[s]. The best informd Catholics said it had no interest for the common people whose distresses had nothing to do with Catholic emancipation.
but that they the higher order of Catholics are interested in it as a point of honour the withholding of which prevented their throwing their strength into the hands of government. But on the whole I think Government have given the Catholics so much that withholding this is just giving them something to grumble about without its operating to diminish in a single instance the extent of popery.

Then we had beautiful lakes " those vast inland seas," as Spenser terms them and hills which they call mountains and dargles and dingles and most superb ruins of castles and abbies and live nuns in strict retreat not permitted to speak but who read their breviaries with one eye and looked at their visitors with the other. Then we had Miss Edgeworth and the kind-natured clever Harriet who moved and thought and acted for everybody's comforts rather than her own. We had Lockhart to say clever things and Walter with his whiskers to overawe obstinate postillions and impudent beggars and Jane to bless herself that the folks had neither houses clothes nor furniture and Anne to make fun from morning to night " And merry folks were we ".

John Richardson has been looking at a wild domain within five miles of us and left us in the earnest determination to buy it having caught a basket of trouts in the space of two hours in the stream he is to call his own. It is a good purchase I think. He had promised to see me on his return and carry you up a bottle of whisky which if you will but take enough of will operate as a peace offering should and make you forget all my epistolary failures. I beg kind respects to dear Mrs Agnes and to
Mrs Baillie, Lady Scott and Anne send best respects.  
I have but room to say that I am always yours.

WALTER SCOTT
[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

— I slide a note under Anne's cover to say that I have rather been disappointed about Walter as I had hoped to get him down to some engineer of eminence where he could see civil engineering in some at least of its branches. I fear he must now trust to doing what he can for himself under advice of Colonel Pasley for after all I am not a competent adviser in a subject on which I am very ignorant. I only know that dedicating some time to these studies is likely to produce rich fruit in India. I must therefore trust a good deal to his own sense in improving the interval which he is to spend in Britain to improve himself in useful knowledge. Of course it will be his wish and duty [to] spend some time with you but your own good sense and his must determine time and space. We shall also wish to see him here to bid him poor fellow a long farewell. I have little doubt that he will make the best use of the confidence which leaves his time much at his own command and I will write to him to correspond with you about the time he should be at Cheltenham. I am grieved our poor dear Eliza is not yet quite stout again but I trust she is getting round. Love to her & to Anne. Always your affectionate Brother

ABBOTSFORD 12 October [1825]  WALTER SCOTT

Best Compliments to Mr. Macculloch.  
[Huntington]
TO HIS NEPHEW WALTER

(9-242)12th October [1825]

(9-242)Dear Walter,—I have been expecting to hear from you some time past, but you seem to stand upon regularity of correspondence, and like a ghost are determined not to speak till you are spoken to. But you should remember that you have more to tell me than I can have to say to you. You are aware that the way in which I wish you to pass as much as possible of the time you are to remain in Scotland is to make yourself generally acquainted with some of the most useful branches of civil engineering; but I am ill qualified to direct how this is to be done, and should wish you to advise with some competent person. I know my friend Mr. Watt,1 son of the celebrated Mr. Watt of Soho, would give his best advice, but I do not know where he now is. But you have Colonel Pasley to advise with, and all I can say is, that I will pay with pleasure any expense which may attend your endeavouring to gain this sort of information, as I am sure it may determine your future.

(9-242)Your mother will of course expect a visit, and so shall we. But you must regulate these both as to date and duration so as to interfere as little as possible with your studies, for you are now to sow the seed of which I hope you will one day reap a good harvest.

(9-242)Let me know what you think can be best done to attain this object, and remember I trust to you as a young man of prudence and sense, who knows the value of time and has shown himself desirous to collect the means of information.
Every hour is precious to you just now. Let me know also what things you have bought, and I will make remittances for the payment. Lady Scott sends best love. Anne was with me in Ireland and made a capital traveller. She sends kind compliments.—Believe me, dear Walter, yours with much affection,

WALTER SCOTT

[Familiar Letters]

TO WILLIAM STEWART ROSE, CHELTENHAM

MY DEAR ROSE,—I have just received your letter and but that it is a proof of your continued & inexhaustible kindness I should have been sorry that Goosequill had the trouble of writing out the ballad as I know it well am possessed of the book you mention now very rare & knew the Editor intimately. He was a grim old antiquary of the real Scottish caste, all for parchment, snuff, & an occasional deep glass of Whisky toddy. This wight was benempt David Herd an accoutant 2 by profession, by taste a collector of old songs and ballads. The story of the Flowers of the Forest is well known. The only good stanzas beginning, " There was a lilting, at our ewes milking," were written by Miss Elliot aunt of the late Lord Minto in imitation of an old song now forgotten— I have spoken to her about it—she said the first verse was
original and that there were others but she only remember'd
one line

I ride single on my saddle

Since the flowers of the forest are all wed away

Dr. Somerville 1 still alive was in the house of Minto tutor
of the late Lord Minto when the imitation was written.
Apparently some indifferent poetaster patched up the ballad
by adding the stanzas " from Spey to the border " which
are a few years later than Miss Elliot's beautiful song.

It does not end there, for Mrs Cockburn my old friend &
my mother's relative wrote another fine set of verses to the
same tunes. She was born Miss Rutherford of Fairnălie
& when there was a great deal of distress & misfortune
come upon the Forest by seven Lairds becoming ruined in
one year she composed the fine verses beginning

I have seen the smiling of Fortune beguiling.

David Herd I think publishes them altogether. He could
not, or would not, tell me who wrote what may be called the
historical part of the ballad but I believe it must have been
himself for old Graysteel, a name which I gave him & which
he loved to be called by, was a bit of a poet. His collection
was a curious one for the time & I have had on my hands
a large collection of songs and ballads from which he
selected it. I took one or two for the Border Minstrelsy &
you will see it quoted off as Herd's manuscript 3 in that
work where I think you will find so far as the flowers of the
forest are concerned the saddle put on the right horse or
rather the right mare : I never thought it ancient though

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Bentrovato. I can tell you many funny tales of Graysteel but as they chanced over a bottle of wine or a tumbler of toddy (which he rather affected) or a Welch rabbit & a tankard of ale which he liked best of all, they require the atmosphere of a cigar & the amalgam of a sum'mat comfortable. He was a fine figure with a real Scotch face of the harsh but manly & intelligent cast & a profusion of grey hair—a determined misogynist, & always stipulated for the absence of my womankind when he came to see me & for the presence of Constable the bookseller.

How could you stay from the North this whole season. No wonder you are afraid of the Devil. However if it has done you good we will forgive you. Here has been a visitor of Lockharts a sprig of the rod of Aaron, young d'Israel. In point of talents he reminded us of his father for sayth Mungo's garland "Crapaud pickanini Crapaud himself which means a young coxcomb is like the old one who got him. He said he was known to you & gave me an account of your having lost a Canto of Orlando in Manuscript which I hope is not accurate.

Sincerely Walters filiation gives me much pleasure : it was done by Lord Wellesley kindly & without solicitation & goes I believe for something in the service. But besides this Lord Wellesley has excellent good breeding & to be at his table varies the Tom & Dick stile of a military mess. Moreover it dispenses with out-quarter commands where the accomodation is wretched & Still hunting that is not perpetual hunting, but hunting of stills the predominant amusement. I learned to know
(9-245) your nephew at Dublin who is extremely good humoured
(9-245) & tout a fait le gentil hussard.

(9-246) I will subscribe for Dante 1 with all pleasure on
(9-246) condition you do not insist on [my] reading him. On that
(9-246) subject I am much in the situation of Baron Moncrieff
(9-246) Stuart as sweetly sung by Rob Sinclair of yore

(9-246) Ross shall be our putent
(9-246) And .... shall kiss Miss Fanny—
(9-246) Aha Moncrieff & so will we—
(9-246) To tell you the truth I canna.

(9-246) All here are well & desire love. I hear Calantha is loose
(9-246) again. My authority is the Chew lad aforesaid. Young
(9-246) Pringle of Haining has brought a bear to teach us manners
(9-246) & a wolf to instruct us in moderation. 2 Here is a sheet of
(9-246) nonsense to put under the Chevaliers cover for it is not
(9-246) worth postage. Yours fraternally WALTER SCOTT

(9-246) I hope the Gander is in good health. Glengarrys
(9-246) helmet is true enough. But why speculate on what can
(9-246) come either in or on such an extraordinary head.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO CAPTAIN BASIL HALL

[Copy]

(9-246) ABBOTSFORD, 13th October 1825

(9-246) MY DEAR CAPTAIN HALL,— I received with much
(9-246) pleasure your kind proposal to visit Tweedside. It
arrived later than it should have done. I lose no time in saying that you and Mrs. Hall cannot come but as welcome guests any day next week which may best suit you. If you have time to drop a line, we will make our dinner hour suit your arrival, but you cannot come amiss to us. I am infinitely obliged to you for Capt. Maitland's plain, manly, and interesting narrative. It is very interesting and clears Bonaparte of much egotism imputed to him. I am making a copy which, however, I will make no use of except as extracts; and am very much indebted to Captain Maitland for the privilege.

Constable proposed a thing to me which was of so much delicacy that I scarce know how to set about it, and thought of nursing it till you and I meet. It relates to that most interesting and affecting journal kept by my regretted and amiable friend Mrs. Harvey during poor De Lancy's illness. He thought with great truth that it would add very great interest as an addition to the letters which I wrote from Paris soon after Waterloo, and certainly I would consider it as one of the most valuable and important documents which could be published as illustrative of the woes of war. But whether this could be done without injury to the feelings of survivors is a question not for me to decide, and indeed I feel unaffected pain in even submitting it to your friendly ear who, I know, will put no harsh construction upon my motive, which can be no other than such as would do honour to the amiable and lamented authoress. I never read any thing which affected my own feelings more
strongly or which, I am sure, would have a deeper interest on those of the public. Still the work is of a domestic nature and its publication, however honourable to all concerned, might perhaps give pain where. God knows, I should be sorry any proposal of mine should awaken the distresses which time may have in some degree abated. You are the only person who can judge of this with any certainty or who at least can easily gain the means of ascertaining it, and as Constable seemed to think there was a possibility that, after the lapse of so much time, it might be required as a matter of history and as a record of the amiable character of your accomplished sister, and seemed to suppose there was some possibility of such a favour being granted, you will consider me as putting the question on his suggestion. It could be printed as the journal of a lady during the last illness of a general officer of distinction, during her attendance upon his last illness, or something to that purpose. Perhaps it may be my own high estimation of the contents of the heart-rending diary which makes me suppose a possibility that, after such a lapse of years, the publication may possibly (as that which cannot but do the highest honour to the memory of the amiable authoress) not be judged altogether inadmissible. You may and will, of course, act in this matter with your natural feelings of propriety, and consider or ascertain whether that which cannot but do honour to the memory of those who are gone can be made public with the sacred regard due to the feelings of survivors. Lady Scott begs to add the pleasure she must have in seeing Mrs. Hall and you at Abbotsford; and in speedy expectation of that honour,—I am always, dear Sir, most truly yours,
It is not necessary to write as you will be sure to find us on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. We dine at half-past five o'clock. I need not say Mr. James Hall will be a most welcome addition to your party; you will find his monster just where he left him on the hall chimney-piece. Come to dinner if you can; if not, welcome at any hour.

[Major Scott and Rosebery]
to sacrifice, nominally at least, a considerable portion of his respectability in society in hopes of being admitted as an exception to a rule which is at present pretty general. This might open the door to love of money but it would effectually shut it against ambition.

To leave Scotland Lockhart must make very great sacrifices for his views here though moderate are certain—his situation in public estimation and in private society as high as those of any one at our bar & his road to the public open if he chooses to assist his income by literary resources. But of the extent and value of these sacrifices he must be himself a judge & a more unprejudiced one probably than I am.

I am very glad he meets your wishes by going up to town as this though it should have no further consequences cannot but serve to show a grateful sense of the confidence and kindness of the parties concerned and yours in particular.

I beg kind compliments to Mr D'Israeli & am Dear Sir with best wishes for the success of your great national plan Yours very truly WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD Sunday [9th October 1825] (1)

[John Murray]

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TO J. G. LOCKHART, [c/o] W. WRIGHT, BARRISTER AT LAW, STONE BUILDINGS, LINCOLNS INN, LONDON

ABBOTSFORD 15 October [PM. 1825]

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I received a letter from Mr.
Murray 1 being distinctly to the same purpose of that which you wrote to Sophia on Thursday viz. proposing 1000 a year for Editorship of the Review which he calculates may with writing articles be easily raised to 1500., Also contributions to the intended paper to be insured 1500. The first of these is quite certain—the paper may not answer their object but yet I think with the care necessary to stamp an independent manly and national character on the publication it may be also rendered effectual. Another thing I certainly believe—namely that personal violence and abuse is now stale and tiresome and though its novelty took at first yet I have a notion people are disgusted with it and that a controversialist had better shoot balls than pelt with rotten eggs. A general tone of manly candour and civility gives much vigour to occasional severity. I conclude you will see Ellis as you proposed and be made acquainted with the interior machinery proposed to carry on their grand engine. You may be sure I have no desire to know more of the unbekanten obern 1 than that Murray is their sword and D'Israeli their shield; but your own information should be complete of course.

Two things I am anxious about—both are in your power—the one is your health for which you should keep a poney and ride not once a week but regularly. The other is your society. You will have great temptation to drop into the gown and slipper garb of life and live with funny easy companions whose company like Lucio's is fairer than it is honest and who you can slip on or off at pleasure. But noscitur a socio is a maxim very generally adopted in London society—many eyes will be on you and some of them malignant and if you fraternize too
much with our friend Theodore. You must be content to be set down as altogether one like himself and not fit therefore for very good society. You will not I know misconstrue what I say at this anxious moment when I recommend great circumspection concerning this point for the outset at least. It will save you much mortification and even distress hereafter—nay will have no inconsiderable influence on the success of your undertaking which will never do if considered merely as a second part of John Bull.

I have written to Murray stating that I cannot object to your changing scene upon the very advantageous prospects which he holds out and particularly the Editorship of the Review. But I mentioned to him both on your account Sophia's and your present and future family I held it my duty to suggest the propriety of matters being legally arranged before you left London.

I shewed him that your sacrifice of views here would be completed the instant the transaction was known and that your new prospects must therefore be put beyond question. I added that you might have delicacy in entering into these details of business but that we should be perfectly [content] with such arrangements as might be made under the eye of our mutual friend Mr. Wright.

There is nothing about the seat in parliament in Murray's letter —it would be no doubt very desirable if you would bind your brows and speak like a man and give Abercromby and Tom Kennedy a little dry rubbing which God knows would be no hard task. But it would be useless to sit there as a mere dummie. Indeed I am a little afraid the late hours and hard work of the House
might add too much to your other heavy duties.

On the subject of finance I should think if these views are realized you would get on well enough. The Editorship of the Review is a sure card the other lasts for three years and supposing it fails I think there is little doubt that something else will cast up for as the failure would set your time at liberty it must be hard if you could not make 1000 or 1200 besides carrying on the Review: and out of such an income with other odds and ends to help it you might live at the rate of 2000 a year or less and lay by the balance which even if the Newspaper should not turn out as expected (of which I cannot help having doubts) will make a tolerable nest-egg.

Wrights plans of the law are not to be neglected. Yet I pickd up one unfavourable opinion from Lord Gifford the other day. Coleridge was mentiond and

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his situation in the review. Lord Gifford said it might be better for him to lose it as it would prevent his progress in his profession in which he had fair prospects. I said we had an instance of law and literature being successfully pursued by the same person Jeffrey. He said he did not think that would do in England—the prejudices of attornies would be too strong—and there the conversation stopd.

I think it will not be amiss that I trouble Mr. Wright with two or three lines to serve as a sort of authority to him to enter upon the subject of a legal settlement in case Murray should purpose speaking to him. I conclude this letter at Chiefswood being desirous to see Sophia in case she had any thing to suggest. Johnie is quite well.
TO MRS. W. SCOTT, 10 STEVENS GREEN, BUBLIN 1

(9-255) MY DEAR JANE,—I write soon to say that I am not very angry that your kind letter did not arrive sooner. It gave me much pleasure when it did come and I hope the next will be a little earlier. I do not ask for long letters nor care a farthing about choice phrases. Tell me your domestic news and you will always do me a great happiness.

(9-255) I am likely to be rendered more dependent than hitherto upon epistolary amusement for a change is about to take place in my family which I rejoice in for the advantages which it promises to those principally interested though to me individually it must be a great deprivation.

(9-256) Our friend Lockharts talents are about to call him into a much more enlarged sphere of exertion than he has yet acted in. Proposals have been made to him to undertake a very important literary concern which is combined with personal and professional engagements of considerable emolument. In short he is insured about 3000 a year and has his own little fortune and other advantages besides. In consequence of this very tempting offer he went up to London to examine the proposal more closely and see the principal persons concerned and the issue is
that he changes his residence from Edinr. to London and goes to the English Bar instead of the Scotch.

You are aware what a sufferer I must be as you know very well that Lockhart always shewd me the duty and affection of a son and that Sophia was a most kind and attentive daughter. But there is an end of all our Sunday dinner parties en famille and my rides over to breakfast to Chiefswood and so many other comforts which their society afforded me and which was the more precious to me as both Walter and Charles are like to be little at home during my time. I ought not however to admit of selfish regret upon this occasion but rather to be happy that Lockharts extraordinary talents have brought him into a situation by which his ambition may be gratified and his income advanced. I suppose if he made \$1000 a year here it would be the utmost. Sophia managed by economy and attention to live very decently within that income and though London is more expensive yet their income is so much as to give room for saving upon \$3000. I think it likely Lockhart will go into parliament next General Election. He will have it in his power at least—and then we will all get franks. The worst of the business is the little boy being so delicate but Lockhart is looking for a house that opens on the park and I hope Johnies health will not suffer. The poor boy is very delicate but a most engaging boy. To conclude this subject the Lockharts do not propose to go to Edinburgh which would engage them in a round of farewell visits to little good purpose. They remain fast at Chiefswood till the New year 1 and then weigh anchor for their new residence.
We expect the great Mrs. Coutts here today bringing in her train the duke of St. Albans and his sister—the former the newspapers will have it is slave to her beaux yeux or more properly the beaux yeux de sa cassette. I think she is scarce such a fool as to marry him but to be a duchess is a pretty thing. I will know better when I see them together. I could heartily have wished to have forfeited their good company on this occasion being by no means in the humour to entertain strangers. His Grace shall give me a frank (as Lockhart is not yet in Parliament) and so you will be 2/6 the better for the visit and that is more than I shall.

I am glad you like your Colonels lady and your new horse. I beg pardon for putting them together but I have turnd my fourth leaf and must be concise. I am also glad you have courage but courage as Bob Acres says in the play will come and go so do not be over venturous lest it fail you in some moment of emergency. I never see a lady ride but with a secret sense of insecurity and yet I have known the best horsewomen of my time—have seen old Lady Salisbury ride and Lady Anne Hamilton break a restive and runaway horse a sort of Spring with a side saddle on him.

I would rather somehow you had a quiet pair for the chariot. Walters duties as a courtier seem long of commencing. I shall be curious to hear how he performs in his new Capacity. Make my best Compliments to the Blakes 1 the good-humourd Hartstonges whose voices still ring in my ears and all our kind friends of Merry Dublin.

Ballinrobe says the Gazetteer and he ought to know "is a town in Ireland where assizes are sometimes held "—
you have a luck to assizes 2 Jane—15 miles south from
Castlebar 112 miles from Dublin. This hath a sound
of banishment about it. I hope you will get good
accommodation. Let me know all about it.

We expect Sir Adam and my Lady Eve almost every day
in this corner but the Colonel has concluded his round
of travels and dissipation with a fit of the gout which
luxurious visitor I suppose detains them at Tinwald
House.

It is odd I can hear no tidings of the box with books
and numberless etceteras, some things of yours by the
way which Mr. Milliken the bookseller undertook to
forward to me. I wrote to Walter to make some inquiries.

There are 50 worth of one ware and another besides
things which I can never replace—pickd up in the course
of our memorable travels through Ireland.

Lady Scott and Anne send their best love. Anne
proposes to write immediatly—quaere what space of time
does the word immediatly intimate when it is the expression
of a young lady. I will keep the frank open however.
Always my dear love your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 25 October [PM. 1825]

[Law]

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T0 CHARLES SCOTT, BRAZEN NOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD

October Twentysix 1825 (1)
DEAR CHARLES,—I had your short letter and heard of you again through Anne from which I observe you are at College and working hard. Incumbite remis—men labour to most advantage in the morning of life.

I have a piece of news for you which will surprize you as it has done us all. Lockhart and Sophia leave Scotland to settle in London. This is in consequence of a negociation about the Editorship of the Quarterly Review with appointments 1500 a year at least and other engagements professional and literary to the amount of as much more all ratified and renderd certain. It would be absurd in him to decline appointments of so valuable a description and in a line where he can distinguish himself so highly as take literature talents and good sense altogether he certainly is as likely as any man to play his part well. But it is a sore deprivation to us who remain behind and I cannot help feeling it as such personally. Sophia pleases herself with the idea of coming down to the Chiefswood cottage for a few weeks every year but that she will find difficult after a season or two and I for[e]see it will be

Ha til mi tullidh—We return no more—

It would be very selfish however to see their removal with selfish sorrow. I am and ought to be more interested in my childrens advantage than in that which I myself derive from their Society.

We have here Mrs Coutts and the Duke of Saint Albans and Lady Charlotte Beauclerk his Graces sister. It is ridiculous to see a young man of his high situation, modest too and gentlemanlike led about in a sort of
triumph by this Dame of diamonds. His being here however will save you a shillings postage which entre nous is more than I would give for the pleasure of the visit: though Mrs Coutts and the old gentleman that was have been uniformly civil and even kind to me and I owe her attention accordingly.

Anne is downcast at the idea of losing Sophia. Mama faces it better than I could have expected and we all look at the bright side as well as we can and turn from the separation.

I must add that the precise nature of Lockharts views is yet a secret because the Review remains under the present management for a season longer namely till 1st January and any annunciation of the change would be premature. You will be benefited by Sophia coming to town as I suppose she will afford you a bed at a time.

Adieu my dear Charles work hard and you will qualify yourself to enjoy good fortune in your turn. Wind and tide—mere chance I mean may be in one mans favour more than in anothers but if he cannot hand reef and steer he will make little of the voyage. All here send love. In the inclosed letter to Surtees I have mentioned Lockharts views only generally as being literary and professional and well secured. I would not [the remainder of the MS. has been cut off]

[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE
MY DEAR JAMES,—Two bills of £700 one yours one
Constables & one of £600, will suit me best and you
shall have the Cash forthwith. I return the notes
inclosed. I have no hesitation to take £2000 for December
perhaps more for I have now no debts. I have insurances
however to pay which must be looked to. Cadell
must let us have what he can in December and we must

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I am obliged by your criticisms but I must not let them
sink so deep into my mind as last year when your molligrunts
so hamperd me as to cost us at least one novel for
when you are out of spirits I am suspicious of myself and
this I neither must nor will be. This is using you ill for
your kind interference which after all is the most genuine
proof of freindship. But I like particular criticism better
than general & find it more useful.

I have a great business in my mind as mixed like other
things of this life with much good and evil.

Lockhart leaves Edinr & establishes himself in London
upon very advantageous prospects. He goes to the English
bar under certain assurances of patronage and support.
This is all we say as yet to the world—But to you I mention
in confidence that he has agreed to take the Quarterly
with £1500 a year together with other employment of a
professional description insured for as much more.

There is no setting [aside] such a call but alas ! alas ! I
lose my daughter & a son in law who has always shewn me
the duty & affection of a son but it is the law we live on
and to sorrow because our comforts slip from us is to
grieve that smoke goes up and water rushes down. What
is the use of philosophy if it cannot teach man to bear
deprivations.

Here is Mrs Coutts good lady has taken possession of
my house & kicks up a row which would be less
troublesome at any other time

Yours truly

W S

Wednesday [26th October 1825]

TO SIR WILLIAM KNIGHTON

MY DEAR SIR,—I have somewhat intruded on his
Majesty's condescension through your obliging channel,
when anything occurred in literature which was worthy (at
least seemed to me worthy) his Majesty's royal attendance
or patronage. But the present is a very remarkable case
indeed, and makes part of a great change which is about
to take place in Britain, and which sooner or later will
work great consequences for good and evil. The general
pains which has been bestowed on the education of the
poor begins to have a general effect upon the nation at
large; for folks who read are naturally as desirous to have
books, as folks who have appetites are to procure food. In
both cases it is of much consequence that wholesome and
nourishing diet be placed within the reach of those who
are hungry, otherwise they will be willing to eat trash
and poison.
Our great publisher in Scotland has formed a plan which, though intended for his profit in the first instance, cannot, I think, but have the best possible effect in supplying this new and extended demand for literature among the lower classes, by reprinting at a moderate rate, and selling at a low profit, a great number of the most standard English works both in history, in the belles lettres, as well as in science, and in the department of voyages and travels, natural history, and so forth. The object is generally to place the best and soundest works of every kind within the reach of the lower classes, whose shelves will be otherwise unquestionably filled with that sort of trash which is peculiarly dangerous both to their morals as men and their loyalty as subjects. The publisher, who is one of the most sagacious men I know in such matters, considers this not unjustly as a great national work, and is naturally desirous to place it under the most exalted patronage.

If I may presume to express an opinion, I do think that a work likely to be spread so widely among his Majesty's subjects, and calculated to place useful information within their reach, may not ungracefully be placed under his Majesty's immediate protection. I think I can pledge myself that the selection of works in this extensive miscellany will be such as to turn men's minds into such a channel as may render the power of reading a blessing, and without which it may very well turn out a curse to themselves and the State. It is not the power of reading, but the character of the works which are read, that is to form the advantage derived from general education. I enclose a prospectus of the work, and a letter from Constable, which I would beg you to take the trouble of
I have only to add, that this popular miscellany is to be cheap indeed, but yet handsomely and correctly printed,—the bookseller trusting for his profit to the quantity sold. The present prospect seems to intimate that it will be immense.

I spent a part of this fine summer in Ireland, and have returned delighted with that warm-hearted and hospitable country. Whatever people may say, its grievances are fast abating—much English capital has been introduced of late years; new cabbins which arise are more decent than the old ones; and the dress of the younger people does not exhibit such a variety of patchwork as that of the true old Milesian. I went through the greater part of the island, and saw much ground which might rival any part of England in wealth, and much scenery which might vie with any part of Scotland in picturesque beauty; and the inhabitants, from the peer to the peasant, are certainly the kindest people in the world.

May I request you to place my most humble duty at his Majesty's feet and believe me, my dear Sir, Your most obedient, very faithful servant,

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE, 30th October [1825]

[Brotherton and Memoirs of Sir William Knighton]

TO LADY ABERCORN
MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,—Your very kind letter reached me just as I was going to write to tell you with what pleasure & satisfaction I visited your fair country & how much I was gratified by the more than kind reception which I met with on the part of its hospitable inhabitants. Ireland has certainly the capability of becoming perhaps the finest portion of the Empire—it possesses everything requisite—a most fertile soil a high-spirited & kind-hearted population—rivers navigable canals besides the opportunities of internal communication afforded by those noble lakes which are like so many inland seas—fuel as far as inexhaustible quantities of turf goes—quantities of pastoral hills excellently fitted for sheep which however they do not raise to the best advantage—plenty of opulent gentry & nobility to form a powerful aristocracy & rather too many peasants for the present state of labour—All that it possesses is the gift of nature & what it seems only to want is the proper direction of a spirit of industry which is rising fast in various parts of the country. I saw a great deal of the middle & eastern countries [sic] little of the North where I was haunted by some sad reflections with which you my dear friend were often mingled. I thought what a kind reception I would have been honored with in these provinces & I felt a little heartache which induced me to leave them for the present unvisited. You will be pleased to hear my sincere opinion that I think the state of the country is mending if not rapidly at least with a steady & gradual progress. Much English Capital is flowing to Ireland from the difficulty of employing it to advantage in England—manufactures are spreading—many undertakings and other improvements are undertaken.
with spirit—some will undoubtedly fail but others will as undoubtedly succeed. In the meanwhile many hands are employed & men when they are busy & paid acquire the habits of regular industry & set an example to others. Meanwhile the younger people have not the squalid wretchedness which afflicts the eye in the older folks—their dress is more decent & their cabins more comfortable—better huts are built when the old pigsties are falling to pieces—the gentry seem returning to their country seats & attending to the improvement of their estates & the decoration of their demesnes. There are however still remaining the deep & visible scars of old wounds & much which offends the eye of a Scotchman accustomed to the extreme quiet of this country. The new police have a very formidable aspect. None of your Dogberries & Verges but considerable bodies of well-armed men—soldiers entirely in appearance & appointments & most of them serving on horseback. They are like the French gens d'armes in this particular & also in a species of omnipresence—in the remotest & most retired scenes you see parties of them. It seems to be generally allowed that this species of surveillance is for a time absolutely necessary to prevent scenes of nocturnal violence which the presence of so ready & efficient a force renders far more rare than formerly. We were in one or two places supposed to be unsafe but being a large party three gentlemen two of them young & active with servants & well armed we were not in the least danger only once or twice par precaution we slept outside the ladies rooms as the stags lie always on the outside of the herd of doe. But we saw nothing but extreme courtesy & kindness & I was almost ashamed of the precaution. The county of Wicklow contains
fine scenery & we saw it all making headquarters at the
Attorney General's Mr Plunkets who is an exceedingly
agreeable man. The lake of Glendalough with its
seven old churches of which the architecture is most
curious & extremely ancient. Like an old fool I must
needs remember that I was once the best climber in
the High School & had even scaled the castle rock by
the precarious path called the kittle (i.e. ticklish) nine
steps. In the strength of these reminiscences I ascended
an almost precipitous rock to place myself in Saint
Kevin's bed a little cavern about 50 feet above the
lake & in the very face of the precipice. My kind
Cathleen on the occasion was an old hag of a soldiers
wife—but I treated her more kindly than the saint did
his Cathleen whom he is said to have pitched from the
cliff for invading his retirement. She was grateful
accordingly for some malicious persons having circulated
a report that I was a poet she refuted the accusation
saying I was no poet but a noble & generous gentleman
for I had given her a crown. The professed poet of
Glendalough was not probably in the habit of making such
donations for my son-in-law Lockhart having given him
half the sum the bard remained on his knees in his potatoe
guardiner [sic] in a rapture of thankfulness as long as we
were in sight. Killarney is very fair indeed. I think
as a general view that it may be matched in our highlands
& in the Westmoreland lakes but the details of the
old monastery of Muckross & the island of Innisfallen
I do not think are equalled in Britain. They struck
us very much. I must not dismiss Ireland without
mentioning the kindness of your Ladyship's brother
Colonel Gore 1 who showed us very much attention.
He has a fine family of young people. A thing has
befallen us most unexpectedly in which you will not be uninterested. My son-in-law Lockhart has been applied to to become Conductor of the Quarterly Review with an appointment of 1500 a year & appointments professional & literary of a collateral nature which will produce more than an additional 1500. But alas they must exchange Scotland for London & I shall lose their society one of the greatest comforts of my life. But it would be selfish to complain of this deprivation. He is in the age of honourable ambition & active exertion & must pursue fortune where she presents herself. At present his appointment is a secret because he does not go to London till the New Year & a No. of the review must appear in the meanwhile under the old management.

Lord Wellesley has done me the great honour to take Walter as one of his Aides de Camp a thing desirable every way but especially as it will enable him to remain at Dublin should his regiment move to out-quarters which though indifferent [to himself] will be pleasant to his wife barracks accomodation being indifferent & lodgings not always to be had. Our friend Mrs Coutts left us today after a visit of two days. She had the Duke of St Albans & his sister in her train. She told me she had declined his addresses & intends to be positive in her refusal. I think however she may change her mind. He seems good tempered modest & quiet and no way brilliant or dashing—if she inclines to give her wealth & freedom for a coronet she could not perhaps make a better bargain but the difference of age is awful being on the wrong side too. Here is a long letter & little in it—but you say my dearest friend that you like to hear from me & so I write without apology for my dullness Always truly & gratefully yours

WALTER SCOTT
TO THOMAS MOORE, SLOPERTON COTTAGE, DEVIZES

MY DEAR SIR,—DAMN SIR,—MY DEAR MOORE,—Few things could give me more pleasure than your realizing the prospect your letter holds out to me. We are at Abbotsford fixtures till 10th November, when my official duty, for I am "slave to an hour and vassal to a bell," calls me to Edinburgh. I hope you will give me as much of your time as you can—no one will value it more highly.

You keep the great north road till you come to the last stage in England, Cornhill, and then take up the Tweed to Kelso. If I knew what day you would be at Kelso, I would come down and do the honours of Tweedsie, by bringing you here, and showing you anything that is remarkable by the way; but though I could start at a moment's warning, I should scarce, I fear, have time to receive a note from Newcastle soon enough to admit of my reaching you at Kelso. Drop me a line, however, at all events; and, in coming from Kelso to Melrose and Abbotsford, be sure to keep the southern side of the Tweed, both because it is far the pleasantest route, and because I will come a few miles to take the chance of meeting you. You do not mention whether you have any fellow-travellers. We have plenty of accommodation for any part of your family, or any friend, who may be with you.—Yours, in great joy and expectation,
TO WILLIAM STRAITON, GALASHIELS

WILLIAM,—I assure you I have the sincere wish to assist you. But my function in the City of Edinburgh is merely honorary and does not confer upon me any of the privileges of an actual burgess and particularly I have no right of recommending to offices. I need not point out to your own good sense that Magistrates of Burghs are apt to be very jealous of their patronage in that particular. As the winter season may be somewhat severe with you I enclose a guinea note to help it over. I remain your well wisher WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 28 October [1825]

TO WALTER, HIS NEPHEW

[Extract]

1st November 1825

MY DEAR WALTER,—A fault fairly confessed is always its own best apology, and therefore what I am about to say to you, must be considered, not with reference to the past, but to the future. Your poor father's affairs have first and last embarrassed me a good deal, and without very advantageous circumstances of a different kind I could not have had the pleasure of assisting considerably in the
support of your mother and sisters. I do not claim any merit for doing so—it is the duty of an affectionate relation. But this state of matters renders it indispensable on your part, that by every honourable exertion and every sacrifice and self-denial that may be called for, you ought to get into a situation,—one which may be useful to your family. This cannot be without strict economy, for let a man's talents and acquirements be what they may, he will fall into disrespect unless he is independent; and he who grasps at means of indulgence to-day without considering the wants of to-morrow never can be so. When you land in India you must make your pay answer your support. You must therefore practise in time that method and order from which you have a little departed. To close the lecture I send a note payable to your order for £60, which will clear out your debts. I do not even deduct the £12, because I wish you to start free and with a few guineas beforehand.

I expect almost daily to get an introduction to you to Mr. Telford,1 who I hope will permit you to attend to his office. He is now the first engineer in the civil line, and Dr. Brewster 2 has applied for his permission. I hope it will be granted, and that you will use all industry in availing yourself of it.

Your list of necessaries seems very moderate, and you may proceed to get them, and to send me the exact amount, which I will remit. . . .

Let me know when this arrives to hand, and how I am direct to you when you leave Brompton. I wish your uncle Robert would invite you to live with him. It might
be dull, but these must be months of labour, and folks that are industrious do not tire for want of amusement.

Adieu, my dear Walter; I should be cruelly disappointed if I should ever be deceived in the high hopes I have formed in you. You have, I believe, peculiar talents for the profession you have embraced. You have besides a quick observation, (a little too satirical, which is a woman's fault), good sense, and a good disposition. I will endeavour to procure you the best recommendations; therefore there is no fear of you if you be your own friend, as I trust and hope will be the case.—Always, my dear Walter, your affectionate uncle,

WALTER SCOTT

Lady Scott and Anne join in kindest regards.

TO CHARLES MILLS

LONDON 24 NORFOLK STREET 1st Novr 1825

SIR,—I have been requested by the Author of Waverley to make a communication to you on the subject of a passage in the Talisman, which I now try to do in the Authors own words. ... I have no doubt this will be satisfactory to you, and I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedt Humble Servt

(signed) ARCHD. CONSTABLE

[Enclosure]
The Author of Waverley is concerned to find that Mr Milne has misconceived entirely the purpose of a passage in the Talisman. It was neither the intention of the Author to charge Mr Milne for whose talents & industry he has the greatest respect with ignorance nor to impose a fictitious genealogy upon the public as a real one a deceit which would have in no respect added to the effect of his narrative. But most Authors of romance are in the habit of referring to imaginary authorities accessible to themselves alone as Cervantes quotes Cid Hamet Benengeli. And when such an author in a professd work of fiction refers to historical documents for one part of his narrative & requires the rest to be taken upon his own authority he means to intimate a distinction between that which is true & that which is imaginary. It was of consequence to the Author to show that the extraordinary fact of a proper marriage between Saladin & one of Richards relations was grounded in history although history gave no countenance to the colouring of the tale. The Author of Waverley begs to assure Mr Milne that if he had seriously meant to question any of his Statements he would have done so in respectful terms and supported his opinion by historical authorities.

[Stevenson]

TO ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD

MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,—The very flattering interest which your ladyship was so good as to take in favour of my son-in-law, Mr. Lockhart, in the event of a vacancy in the sheriffdom of Sutherland, induces me to
mention to you that he has been tempted to exchange his views in this country for others which are opening to him in London, and which in point of emolument are much more flattering. It is a little point of confidence as yet, but I may mention to your ladyship that he has accepted the management of the Quarterly Review, the appointments of which are about 1500 yearly, with the most favourable opening and indeed assurance of professional employment to a very considerable extent. I should be glad of all this, and I am, but not with unmixed gladness, for I must necessarily lose the greatest comfort in my life in my daughters and son-in-laws society. Sophia has been always a ladylike young woman, and accustomed to take a little part in the best society in this country. Her object will be to be very quiet in London, but I should feel it a great addition to the many obligations which I owe your ladyship if you would spare her a little occasional notice, as it is of so much consequence that she should take her ground under good auspices in this new scene of life. I think your ladyship will neither find her ungrateful nor undeserving such kindness. Another favour I have to ask of your ladyship, if it were not the trouble which it may give you. I am busied with something like a view of the French Revolution, and I wish much to do justice to my distinguished countrywoman Lady Sutherlands gallant efforts in favour of Marie Antoinette. Can your recollection, my dear lady, supply me with any notes of that period and the events connected with it which may be useful to such a sketch as I meditate? I do not mean to involve myself in an actual historical work, but merely to give some general, and, if I can, striking views of a course of events which I think we have almost lost sight of.
I have had Tom Moore here for three days, singing like a cherubim. I told him (for it was long since we had met) that as the world called him a Jacobin and me a Jacobite, it was clear that we agreed to a T, and we proved good friends accordingly. I believe me, dear Lady Stafford, with respectful compliments to Lord Marquis, ever your ladyships obliged and grateful humble servant,

WALTER SCOTT

ABOTSFORD, 5 November 1825.

Most noble the Marchioness of Stafford, etc. etc. etc.

TO HIS SON WALTER

DEAR WALTER,—I mentiond the box and books in my last letter to Jane. It is arrived quite safe after being forwarded by Mr. Milliken on 26 August it has lain two months at Belfast I suppose. This is not very regular communication. I see you are to have a Vice Queen and

SIR WALTER SCOTT

I beg you, time and place permitting, to make my most respectful compliments of congratulation to the Marquis and Marchioness when she shall have attained that dignity. I think she will look and do the dignified part of the thing extremely well. Here has been Mrs. Coutts with the Duke of St. Albans and his sister in her train. He is an avowd swain—a rejected one at present—but on a footing as a friend and so forth so that his chance is a good one of
carrying off this Mistress of Millions. He seems very
spoony indeed. Mamma is greatly better. She takes
care of herself but is I think rather too inactive.

I had just got this far when your letter arrived giving
me news of the great Mans actual marriage.1 Well
the brid[e] groom is no chicken but neither is the lady
and if they are pleased I am sure I am. The circumstance
of the brides being catholic will make a great sensation
and no less outcry. Tom Moore who is our guest at
present thinks it will cost him the Lieutenantcy. I do
not think so. He holds fast by Canning whom they
cannot do without.

I am dreadfully sorry at what has chanced at Old
Connaught. I am always an enemy to letting young
girls be so much with teachers of drawing and teachers
of music and so forth without a duenna's superintendence.
Such blackguards have too great an advantage over mere
children. They seemd all of them as innocent good
humourd girls as one would wish to see.

I promised Mr. Crampton a model of an engine for
lifting stones but I cannot get a right one here. When I
go to Edinburgh I will take care to forward one. We have
his friend Tom Moore here singing like a Cherubim.

I hope in God you will not break Jane's neck with
your horsemanship experiments. I would rather have
heard you had got two useful brutes for the carriage.

Remember young married ladies are sometimes liable to
be injured by any accident. I do pray you to be cautious,
and remember she has not been brought up to horse-play
and as you are strong be merciful.

Lockhart and Sophia are in Edinburgh letting their house and preparing for their grand remove to London which takes place at Christmas. Soph seems to take it much more discreetly and quietly than I could have anticipated but why should she not? Lockhart has high talents and is ambitious—the road to wealth and fame is as open to him as to most young men and why should he not press forward in the path that lies open. He wishes some house about Westminster and if possible looking on to the park. I am more afraid of little Johnie than any of the party—he has been so well accustomed to fresh air and the side of the little burn and [he] is such a delicate creature. But it is all in Gods hands. After all it is a doleful change on all sides.

Sir Adam and Lady Fergusson are at Huntliburn just now and dined with us twice to hear Moore sing which is really a delightful treat.

I like your last way of writing very well I mean your beginning a letter and filling it from time to time as occasion furnishes new subjects. I suppose the vice regal marriage may afford [matter] for a paragraph for I see you and Jane came in for a share of the wedding supper. Always supposing that the newspapers are to be trusted on this blissful occasion as one of them calls it. I am not apt however to place implicit trust in the said publick intelligencers because if I did I must needs suppose that I am at this moment in Paris whereas the evidence of my senses assures me I am seated in my black arm-chair in my own room at Abbotsford. These things are hard to reconcile.

I have discontinued the Abbotsford Hunt this year—
the crowd became rather too great and so many of the old stagers are gone besides that I have no young folks to head the field.

My kind Love attends my dear Jane with that of Mama and Anne. We go to Edinr. next week so pray direct Castle Street. Love to the Blakes Mr. Crampton etc and do not forget my respectful duty to the Vice Roy which is really due from me. Always yours affectionately

WALTER SCOTT
ABBOTSFORD 5 November [PM. 1825]

The Gunpowder plot
Shall never be forgot.

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

My DEAR JAMES,—Your notes only reachd yesterday & there is no business at Banks on Saturday. Tomorrow I expect to forward part of the [illegible] the rest will be tuesday or Wednesday.

I am glad you like what you have had. I would fain think I may keep it up. Pray be careful in noticing repetitions of expression of which I am but too guilty.

Thomas Moore is here and in grand feather. In these ticklish times I dare not ask you to leave head quarters. I would have otherwise been glad you had met him.

I have begun " Woodstock "—your doubt about the
I reinclose the 600 order sent on. W. S.

Sunday [6th November 1825]

I send you some precepts to be received in Exchequer.

This ancient way be kept of living.

[Brotherton]

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TO LORD MONTAGU, BOTHWELL CASTLE, HAMILTON

MY DEAR LORD,—I was honourd with your letter yesterday and only drop a few lines to say that I am quite satisfied of your Lordships kind intentions towards Thompson & gratified by the weight you have been so good as to give to my intercession on his behalf. Neither he nor I encouraged any hope of his getting the situation unless an opening could be made by translation. Things must be as they may. Such was the philosophy of Corporal Nym and I think it sums up that of the Schools on such occasions.

I am disappointed at not seeing your Lordship this season which has been a rare one as ever shone on our hills. I should have liked also to have seen the Duke at a time when his mind is opening fast I have no objection to his being a Nimrod unless it should carry him too much and too long to Melton Mowbray. Harriot Wilson (if you ever read so naughty a book) gives a curious picture of the pleasures of that celebrated place.

Here has been Mrs. Coutts leading in triumph the Duke
of St. Albans and Lady Charlotte Beauclerk. The swain has been rejected but is on the footing of freindship and all that. I think if she must purchase a ducal coronet with her millions she can scarce have a better bargain for she may remain Mistress both of them & him which could hardly be expected in any other case. He is very Spoony.

I have an affliction waiting me in the removal of Lockhart & his wife to reside in London which takes place at Christmas. We do not as yet mention particularly the views or rather certainties on which they remove but to your Lordship I may say that he has been offerd the management of the Quarterly revw. for a given term of years for better than £ 1500,, This however he declined for considering the expenc[e] of living in London separation from freinds &c it did not make a temptation but other advantages have been offerd of a professional nature which will double the above income & give fair hopes of living decently & even saving a little money besides ulterior probabilities. It is natural for a young man to be ambitious and [no] man is better qualified by learning and talents to wield so powerful an engine than Lockhart is.

I am sure Lady Montagu's constant kindness will excuse my hope that her Ladyship will not forget poor Sophia when in Edinburgh. I remember a tenant of your father writing to ask him to attend a probationary sermon to be preachd by the writers son at Ayr where the South Fencibles were then quarterd for without the Dukes countenance he said the poor lad would be like a cow in a fremd loaning.

They propose of course to live very quietly and I have
the utmost confidence in Sophias natural good sense and domestic habits in establishing her household on a right footing. At the same time the notice of any of our freinds whose rank and character place them in the highest station of society must always be of the last consequence to young persons entering so new a scene.

I think I was a petitioner for a bag of acorns: the season has been so fine that I fancy they must be finely ripend. Indeed I have pickd up very fine ones at Huntley Burn where there is some old wood. I beg my respects to Lady Montagu and all the family at Bothwell particularly Mr. Charles Douglas. Always my dear Lord Most truly yours WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 8th November [PM. 1825]

We go to Edinburgh on the 11th current.

[ Buccleuch ]

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TO [UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT]

DEAR SIR,—Two or three days since I safely received a most curious case containing the watch of the celebrated Tam of Shanter and composed of such a variety of different lands of woods as to form a most entertaining commentary on the works of the great bard who celebrated that most inimitable personage. I consider my winnock bunker is greatly enriched by this your great kindness.

Lady Scott did not find the sea bath answer so well for my grandchild as she had hoped from which she was obliged to bid an earlier farewell than she intended to the
Bonnie banks of Ayrshire. Otherwise she would have been very easily accommodated for we are very quiet folks.

I am very sorry anything should have happened to interfere with your labours especially of a kind that goes near the heart but I am glad to observe that you are targing [?] the bairns again. I have had my own vexations of late, the more provoking as I must not complain of them. My son-in-law, Lockhart, has had such advantageous proposals opened to him in London, the great motif lucre, that he has been tempted to give his consent for more wealth though perhaps less freedom and comfort. He is at the age when young men are ambitious, but I feel the loss of my daughter's society will be a great deprivation though I have still a very good girl in family with me.

I fully sympathise in your admiration of Burns and his form is at this moment imprinted in my mind's eye although Virgilium vidi tantum. I once dined in company with him, and remember well the flash of his dark brown eye. I think his pictures are not like him.

I do not think the little box and contents will ever pass from my possession to that of any friend however dear. I will be most happy if at any time I can shew my sense of your kindness, being dear Sir Very much your obliged humble Servant WALTER SCOTT ABBOTSFORD 8th November [1825]

We are now stirring winterward after the finest season I remember.
TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

(9-281)MY DEAR SISTER,—I inclose a cheque for £ 25., being the
(9-281)corresponding interest due upon one of the Notes granted
(9-281)by me to my nieces for £ 500 each the interest having been
(9-281)paid up on the other at last Whitsunday—please to mark it
(9-281)on the note with the date. I am anxious to hear about my
(9-281)dear little Anne whose situation was so unpleasant. We
(9-281)have not heard for a long time and are sincerely interested.
(9-281)The fine climate I would hope must be much in her
(9-281)favour. Pray let me hear from you soon upon this subject.

(9-281)A great change is about to take place in our little Circle
(9-281)and like most human affairs it has both its lights and
(9-281)shadows. Lockhart has agreed to take the Editorship of
(9-281)the Quarterly review and goes of course to reside in
(9-281)London for the future. He rejected the situation at first
(9-281)though in itself so respectable and having attach'd to it
(9-281)emolument to the extent of £ 1500 a year. Because he
(9-281)thought that as he could make £ 1000 here the difference
(9-281)would be swallow'd up in additional expense in London
(9-281)and in the deprivation of his society & alteration of his
(9-281)habits. But there existed such an opinion of his talents
(9-281)in the parties concern'd that they return'd to the charge
(9-281)with a proposal of further advantages of a professional
(9-281)nature which it is supposed will nearly double the
(9-281)emoluments of the Quarterly. This was an offer not to be

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(9-282)resisted and accordingly Sophia and he leave Scotland.
(9-282)I am most afraid of the poor child who is so delicate &
(9-282)accustom'd to fresh air. But they have a very faithful
(9-282)childsmaid a stout Aberdeen woman of some forty five &
so harsh featured that she may walk the park with all the safety of Hecate herself. So that Johnie will have regular exercise & fresh air as they propose to settle very near the Lungs of London as the parks have been calld.

For my own part Sophia has always been a favourite daughter and Lockhart besides the similarity of our pursuits has always shewn me the duty and affection of a son. The privation will therefore be very great but it must be born[e] with other privations which God sends us. I have the consolation to think that the separation is not only greatly to their emolument but also upon grounds highly honourable to Lockhart who has been on the general opinion of his talents & learning selected and urged to fill a situation of first rate importance. So we must see the thing as much in the pleasant light as we can since there is a sunny side to look upon.

I dined yesterday with Mr. Macculloch, Ardwall and found him and all his family well. I saw Craigdarroch there for the first time these twenty years. Time has made little impression on him his hair is not grey and no longer a young[es]ter is still a well looking man. I felt myself much older by comparaison but I am older in fact so have little reason to complain.

I must also mention the return of our cousin Colonel Russell from India overland. He also is in great preservation. I was extremely glad to find that in her extremely nervous state Jane Russell was able to sustain the arrival of her brother so joyful in itself but mixd with so many agitating feelings without any inconvenient consequences.

He seems to be a fine fellow of the right soldier caste gay.
openhearted and straightforward. But I wish this country may answer him as well as he seems to expect. I never recognized a stronger likeness than between James Russell and his father.

Our family here are in the usual health. Walter as you may have seen is Aid-de-Camp without solicitation to Lord Wellesley and become[s] of course a courtier in a small way. Charles is working hard to face his first examinations at Oxford. Sophia and Lockhart remain at Chiefswood till they change for London wisely thinking that a round of farewell dinners are but unnecessary ceremony. They keep Chiefswood and nourish the idea of being there once every year but tho' I keep silence I cannot see how that is to be.

Dr. Brewster has been writing to London in Walters behalf to get him into Telfords office if possible & I trust he will succeed. I [am] much bent on his employing his remaining time in Europe excepting what it is fitting and necessary that he should spend with his sisters and you in acquiring useful knowledge. I even think at present of denying ourselves the great pleasure of seeing him before he goes away unless I can make interest for his staying a month or two longer in Britain.

Brewster is at Gattonside or I should have heard from him ere now. My kindest love attends Eliza and little Anne. Pray say all kind things to Mr. Macculloch from your affectionate Brother

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 16 November [1825]
TO JOHN MURRAY

(9-284) MY DEAR SIR,—I was much surprized today to learn
(9-284) from Lockhart by letter that some scruples were in
(9-284) circulation among some of the respectable among the
(9-284) supporters of the Quarterly Review concerning his
(9-284) capacity to undertake that highly responsible task.1 In
(9-284) most cases I might not be considerd as a disinterested
(9-284) witness on behalf of so near a connection but in the present
(9-284) instance I have some claim to call myself so. The plan
(9-284) (I need not remind you) of calling Lockhart to this
(9-284) distinguished situation was so far from being formd by me or
(9-284) in any respect advanced or furtherd by such interest as I
(9-284) might have urged was not communícated to me until it
(9-284) was formd and as it involved the removal of my daughter
(9-284) and of her husband who has always loved & honourd
(9-284) me as a son from their native country & from my vicinity
(9-284) my private wish & that of all the members of my family
(9-284) was that such a change should not take place. But the
(9-284) advantages proposed were so considerable that it removed
(9-284) all title on my part to state my own strong desire that he
(9-284) should remain in Scotland. Now I do assure you that
(9-284) if in these circumstances I had seen anything in Lockharts
(9-284) habits cast of mind or mode of thinking or composition
(9-284) which render him unfit for the duty he had to undertake
(9-284) I should have been the last man in the world to permit
(9-284) without the strongest expostulation not with him alone
(9-284) but with you, his exchanging an easy & increasing income

1825                           SIR WALTER SCOTT        285

(9-285) in his own country and amongst his own friends for a
(9-285) larger income perhaps but a highly responsible situation
in London. I considered this matter very attentively &
recalld to my recollection all I had known of Mr Lockhart
both before and since his connection with my family. I
have no hesitation in saying that when he was paying his
addresses in my family I fairly stated to him that however
I might be pleased with his general talents and accomplishments
with his family which is highly respectable and
his views in life which I thought satisfactory I did
decidedly object to the use he & others had made of their
wit and satirical talent in Blackwood's magazine which
though a work of considerable powers I thought too
personal to be in good taste or to be quite respectable.
Mr Lockhart then pledged his word to me that he would
withdraw from this species of warfare & I have every
reason to believe that he has kept his word with me. In
particular I know that he had not the least concern with
the Beacon newspaper though strongly urged by all his
young friends at the bar & I also know that while he has
sometimes contributed an essay to Blackwood on general
literature or politics which can be referred to if necessary
he has no connection whatever with the satirical part of
the work or with its general management nor was he at
any time the Editor of the publication.

It seems extremely hard (though not perhaps to be
wondered at) that the follies of three or four & twenty
should be rememberd against a man of thirty who has
abstained during the interval from giving the least cause
of offence. There are few men of any rank in letters who
have not at some time or other been guilty of some abuse
of their satirical [gift] & very few who have not seen reason
to wish that they had restraind their vein of pleasantry.
Thinking over Lockharts offences with my own & other
mens whom either politics or literary controversy has
led into such effusions I cannot help thinking that five
years proscription ought to obtain a full immunity on
their account. There were none of them which could be ascribed to any worse motive than a wicked wit and many of the individuals against whom they were directed were worthy of more severe chastizement—the blame was in meddling with such men at all. Lockhart is reckoned an excellent scholar & Oxford has said so—he is born a gentleman has always kept the best society & his personal character without a shadow of blame. In the most unfortunate affair of his life he did all that man could do and the unhappy tragedy was the result of the poor sufferers after thought to get out of a scrape. Of his general talents I will not presume to speak but they are generally allowd to be of the first order. This however I will say that I have known the most able men of my time and I never met any one who had such ready command of his own mind or possessd in a greater degree the power of making his talents available upon the shortest notice & upon any subject. He is also remarkably docile and willing to receive advice or admonition from the old and experienced. He is a fond husband & almost a doating father seeks no amusement out of his own family and is not only addicted to no bad habits but averse to spending time in society or the dissipations connected with it. Speaking upon my honour as a gentleman & my credit as a man of letters I do not know a person so well qualified for the very difficult and responsible task he has undertaken & I think the distinct testimony of one who must know the individual well ought to bear weight against all vague rumours whether arising from idle squibs he may have been guilty of when he came from college—and I know none of these which indicate a bad heart in the jester—or as is much more likely from those which have been rashly and falsely ascribed to him.
Had any shadow of this want of confidence been expressd in the beginning of the business I for one would have advised Lockhart to have nothing to do with a concern for which his capacity was calld in question.

But now what can be done—A liberal offer handsomely made has been accepted with the same confidence it was offerd. Lockhart has resigned his office in Exchequer given up his business taken a house in London and has let or is on the eve of letting his house here. The thing is so publik that about thirty of the most respectable gentlemen in Edinburgh have proposed to me. I The ground is cut away behind him for a retreat nor can such a thing be proposed as matters now stand.

Upon what grounds or by whom Lockhart was first recommended to you I have no right or wish to inquire having no access whatever to the negotiation the result of which must be in every event painful enough to me. But as their advice must in addition to your own judgment have had great weight with you I conceive they will join with me in the expectation that the other respectable friends of this important work will not form any decision to Lockharts prejudice till they shall see how the business is conducted. By a different conduct they may do harm to the Editor, Publisher and the work itself as far as the withdrawing of their countenance must necessarily be prejudicial to its currency. But [if] it shall prove that their suspicions prove unfounded I am sure it will give pain to them to have listend to them for a moment. It has been my lot twice before now to stand forward to the best of my power as the assistant of two individuals against whom a party run was made.
The one case was that of Wilson to whom a thousand idle pranks were imputed of a character very different & far more eccentric than anything that ever attached to Lockhart. We carried him through upon the fair principle that in the case of good morals & perfect talents for a situation where vice or crimes are not alleged the follies of youth should not obstruct the fair prospects of advanced manhood—God help us all if some such modification of censure is not extended to us since most men have sown wild oats enough. Wilson was made a professor as you know has one of the fullest classes in the University lectures most eloquently & is much beloved by his pupils. The other was the case of John Williams now rector of our new Academy here, who was opposed most violently upon what on examination proved to be exaggerated rumours of old Winchester stories. He got the situation chiefly I think by my own standing firm & keeping others together. And the gentlemen who opposed him most violently have repeatedly told me that I did the utmost service to the Academy by bringing him for never was a man in such a situation so eminently qualified for the task of education.

I only mention these things to show that it is not in my son in laws affair alone that I would endeavour to remove that sort of prejudice which envy and party zeal are always ready to throw in the way of rising talent. Those who are interested in the matter may be well assured that with whatever prejudice they may receive Lockhart at first all who have candour enough to wait till he can afford them the means of judging will be of opinion that they have got a Person possibly as well situated for the
duties of such an office as any man that England could afford them.

I would rather have written a letter of this kind concerning any other person than one connected with myself but it is every word true were there neither son nor daughter in the case. And as such I leave it at your discretion to show it not generally but to such friends and patrons of the review as in your opinion have a title to know the contents. I believe me Dear Sir your most obedient Servt. WALTER SCOTT

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ABBOTSFORD [EDINBURGH] 17 November [1825] [John Murray]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, CHIEFSWOOD

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I have written to Murray as you desire and will also write to one or two of the others. But I cannot conceive what the object of all this is. If merely to remove the prejudices of Barrow or others I think a No. or two will do that more completely than any arguments which I could use. I almost wish you had come to town to state distinctly the nature of the charge to which I am to frame an answer. To your general disposition to take advice I can bear ample testimony and I can assure them that you have not in your disposition a grain of petulance. But I really do not know how much or how little you have been concerned in Blackwood which is the only distinct charge. I remember well your undertaking when your marriage was in treaty to break off that sort of satirical warfare. But I have always felt a delicacy in inquiring how far that was strictly complied with or how
far your roguery carried you again among the Ambrosians.
It is necessary I speak with certainty and exactness when 290

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I interpose my testimony on such a subject and in behalf of so near a connection. But what is to be the upshot of this? Mr. Murray cannot surely expect that you will break off a contract in which you have acted so far as to make a retreat positive ruin. The thing is now fixed you must mount the box and for my part I am not for personally using any kind of intercession which too generally and anxiously employ'd might lead men to think that your appointment depended on the pleasure of these people. Nothing is more valueless than the opinion of literary people of London coteries although it is unnecessary to tell them so.

They quickly take the tone from the public instead of giving it and are never to be feared unless they can stop you at the starting. You will find them troublesome enough if you play the old man and his ass and defer to their judgement too submissively. And I really think that after the situation has been offered and even press'd on you when you were not thinking of it by those who were most interested in bestowing it on a fit person there would be something ridiculous in going about to half the world to explain that you are not subject to failings which if they existed ought to have excluded you from the situation altogether.

You must just harden your face against all this nonsense or consider it as "penance for past folly." You must mount the box and when you have driven a stage or two folks will know what to think of you on better grounds than mere rumour. Murray though a good
fellow is in point of steadiness a reed shaken with the wind. Ever Gramercy stampd paper or we should have a retrocession with a vengeance. I have taken some pains to show that there are vestigia nulla retrorsum.

If this makes you really unhappy far the best way is to accelerate your going to town. When on the spot you know what is to be admitted or contradicted. Ever yours

WALTER SCOTT

17 November [PM. 1825] EDINBURGH

You know I told you to expect this. For my part if Barrow were to wheel himself to the North pole I cant see the work would be less saleable. Love to Sophia and Johnie.

TO J. G. LOCKHART, CHIEFSWOOD

DEAR LOCKHART,—Your kind and attentive letter gave me a shock for though I thought myself pretty safe knowing the situation of the House in question two years ago when their business was examined by an accomptant to settle matters between the partners—although I also knew that since that time the dogged and calculating prudence of Cadell 1 had been a check on the adventurous
spirit of his partner and had suffered nothing to be undertaken
without a sure view of the funds—although besides
I knew that a Bond of 2500 to myself had been paid to
my agent John Gibson on the term day Messrs. Constable
declining to hold the money though offered in case they
judged it an accommodation. Although besides all this I
knew that Cadell had laid down a plan of retrenching
discounts which made him wish to put off payment of
some cash due to me from November till January & that
nevertheless he had offered since I came to town to shell out
the ready if my occasions required it—an offer voluntarily
made—Although I say I knew these things yet I could
not read your note without painful anxiety as doubtless I
must have been put to great inconvenience probably to
loss by any such event.

I saw Cadell and told him that I had heard from a
friendly person towards them and me & by a letter from
London that their affairs were in bad order & that
Constable had left town in consequence of his Bankers
having abruptly closed his account. He listened gravely
but without the least concern & for answer shewed a letter
received that morning from Messrs. Dickson & Co/ whom
I have known for their Bankers in London for many years
& do not believe they ever employed another. It
acknowledged a Drat. from Constable for 2000 discounted a
large number of bills and concluded with declaring themselves
highly satisfied with the way in which their business
was managed in these times when money was less readily
found than in the summer. It was the letter of men
highly satisfied with their customers and apparently
ready to do more than had been asked. Cadell told me
they had in their chest which I might see if I liked 25000
of bills which they kept out of the market at present not wishing to push their Bankers.

I mentiond the circumstance of Mr Robinson having been engaged in business out of the bookselling line.

Cadell said that more than a year ago he knew that when money was plenty he had advanced 1000, on a speculation about hops which had brought immense profit but did not believe he was engaged in any other. He added that Constable had done no business in London except about the Miscellany.

All this especially the bankers letter and the fact that they paid to myself within these four days 2500 which they might have retaind and were willing if I pleased to pay me as much more since to put the matter entirely at rest on which I heartily felicitate myself & you. I have no objection that these circumstances be stated to Murray. Cadell seemd to care very little about the matter saying that they had no engagements either present or future that they were not amply prepared to fullfil. Of course I avoided using Murrays name or any name whatsoever only stated the information came from a London friend.

I think the report has originated in the difficulties of the moneyd markets which even the greatest houses must feel a little and in the bankruptcy of a great bookseller lately which always sets on foot similar reports of failures in the same line & Constable may have had some pinch for the moment. But men who refuse the loan of 2500 when offered and offer an advance of the same sum when it was not calld for cannot be in any real distress.
(9-294) Upon your own matters I will write to Heber. But I
(9-294) will be shy of treating the charge as of any consequence
(9-294) which it might be erected into by a bustle on the subject.
(9-294) If these gentlemen ask for a pledge for your steady conduct
(9-294) can they have a better than that you give up a competent
(9-294) income your native country a society of loved and
(9-294) affectionate friends to take charge of this affair of theirs
(9-294) and can any man suppose that you will in mere gaiety of
(9-294) heart run the ship on shore in which you have embarkd
(9-294) I may say your all. In such cases (take Wilsons &
(9-294) Williams' for example) I have alway[s] thought it best

1825              SIR WALTER SCOTT              295

(9-295) first to secure the place and then let the discharge of the
(9-295) duty defend the appointment. I will write to Southey &
(9-295) Heber when I know from you precisely what I shall say
(9-295) about your connection with Ebony. I would not
(9-295) willingly verify unjust things. Of course Murray will
(9-295) manage his affairs so as to make no unpleasant collision
(9-295) betwixt M[r] Coleridge and you or lead his friends to
(9-295) suppose that he has been in any respect supplanted by
(9-295) you or yours. My kindest respects to the revd. Laurence
(9-295) and his fair lady. I am very sorry I am not at Abbotsford
(9-295) to make them wellcome. So are Ladies Scott & Anne.
(9-295) Yours affectionately          WALTER SCOTT
(9-295) EDINBURGH friday [PM. November 18, 1825]

(9-295) I have some reason to conjecture that it is not altogether
(9-295) Blackwoods concern but some idea of your having
(9-295) lia[i]sons with John Bull or Theodore Hook which are
(9-295) working against you. You must take devilish good care
(9-295) of your start in society in London. I do not look on
(9-295) Theodorus as fit company for ladies, and if you even
(9-295) haunt him much yourself you will find it tell against you
(9-295) especially when the paper comes to be read. He is
MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I have just received both your letters. You have taken exactly the ground you ought to stand upon as a man and a gentleman. If you were to mind Murray’s Backshop the thing would never do. Before Barrow and such gentlemen who like Tristram Shandy’s bull gain a character by going gravely through their business think of giving up the review or correspondence with it they will do well to consider whether they have served its turn or whether it has not rather served theirs.

There is no danger now that Murray is fixd by the foot. I shall certainly write to Giffbrd and Heber but on the general footing of kindness to you and friendship to them touching very briefly on the case in hand. I do not see what dearer pledge you can throw into such a concern than your whole income or nearly so your friends and your future hopes. All these stand pledged to warrant your doing your best and is it to [be] supposed you will permit them to be rashly or idly forfeited.

Though it is against my own interest as I wish you could have spent this Christmas en famille yet I really think your own presence in London will spare you some uneasy reports and keep the Timorous 1 from swerving. You will of course spend Sunday with us and will part without leave taking. I may perhaps see you in Spring at all
events summer comes round fast enough in its turn and
we will write often.

I admire your goodnatured way of getting rid of
MacGinn. Let us know if we can do anything for you
here as you must be a little hurried. Always yours

WALTER SCOTT

Love to Sophia and Johnie. I cannot say how I shall
miss you all.

I think it will be highly indelicate nay imprudent in
Murray to delay a decisive settlement with Mr. Coleridge.
If your journey to London were to precede his dismissal
his friends would say you had urged or hastened it and we
have too many misrepresentations to omit prudent means
of avoiding others. Besides the work will be injured by
the least uncertainty in the line adopted.

[PM. 21 November 1825]
[Law]

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TO ROBERT SOUTHEY, KESWICK

EDINR. 22 Novr. 1825

MY DEAR SOUTHEY,—I have intended for some time
to write to you about the change about to take place in
the management of the Quarterly which is about to
devolve upon my son-in-law Lockhart to whom your
aid & counsel will be most acceptable & most useful.
There have few things come upon me more suddenly than
this unexpected change which withdraws from me two
persons in whose society I have received so much satisfaction and whose removal from this country I had never contemplated as even a possible event. When I had the pleasure of seeing you at the Lakes I had not the most remote idea that such an idea had entered into the head of any one or indeed that any change was intended. On the contrary I was exerting what influence I had to secure for Lockhart the Sherifdom either of Caithness or Sutherland which would have added 300 or 400 to an income of about 1000, on which my daughter & he were living very comfortably & economically. In the course of October a friend of John Murray came down with some very flattering & advantageous proposals to Lockhart which inferred however his removing to London. Neither he nor I considered that upon the whole the advantages presented counterbalanced the great comfort of dwelling amongst your own people. Lockhart however agreed to go to London to see Murray when he heard for the first time that there was decidedly to be a change in the management of the Quarterly & the situation of Editor was offered to him coupled wt. such views as to his profession &c. as made the offering a very tempting one. A letter from Lockhart from London was the first intimation that I had of the subject and as the advantageous character of the transaction was sufficient I had no right, to whatever privations I might be subjected, to prevent my young friend from following where his better fortunes called him or seemed to call him. And in the end of October the transaction was regularly concluded. I mention these particulars because you might think it odd that when we spoke together at Keswick on the subject of the Quarterly I never hinted at this transaction in which I was so nearly connected. Still
worse would I like you to entertain an idea that either
Lockhart or I had thought of soliciting or manoeuvring
for such a situation while it was in the hands of another
& most respectable gentleman. I The most distant idea
of such a thing never crossed my head until I had Murray's
answer from London in answer to one of mine stating
that my son-in-laws views were sure though moderate—I
believe Lockhart's scholarship (of which however I am
no great judge) his ready powers of composition &
williness to labour, his general knowledge & especially
his docility & tractability of temper may make him as
proper a person as could well be found to take this
weighty matter in hand since a change was to be. Some
satirical follies in Blackwood's Magazine ere he was
twenty four years old will doubtless be remembered to
his prejudice. When he married my daughter six years
ago I pointedly objected to this application of his talents
as what was not respectable in itself & tended to
compromise my daughter's happiness. He promised me to
forbear & accordingly never did afterwards mingle in
that species of personal warfare waged in Blackwood's
Magazine nor was there the least foundation for supposing
that he had any the least interest in that work as a
proprietor, Editor or regular contributor of any kind. I
have not the least reason to think that the man of thirty
& upwards a most affectionate husband and father is
likely to relapse into the satirical & freakish humours of
his inexperienced youth. Still however the early frolics
of his pen added to the continued effusions of the same
kind by some of his friends must lead him to be suspected
by some & accused by others of this species of imprudence
& indifferent taste until his own course of acting shall
prove these accusations false. This he must lay his
account with. But I wish him to stand rectus in curia with you & I need scarce tell you that without the most perfect belief in this steadiness which I ascribe to him I know no worldly bribe would have induced me to consent to his holding the situation in question since I should have thought it likely to be attended with nothing save discredit & loss to himself & all his friends 1—I cannot tell you with what pleasure I saw your fair young Ladies & Miss Coleridge. It had been so long since I saw them absolute children & they are now fine young women. I trust your own health is better. Mine is stouter than even in my best days but I am no longer able to take the same exercise either on foot or horseback—

A thousand thanks for the tale of Paraguay 1 I am sure you can almost at once illustrate the history of a country & enrich its poetry—it is felling the jungle with one hand & gathering flowers with the other Believe me Dear Southey Yours very truly WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LORD MELVILLE

MY DEAR LORD,—I regretted much not seeing your Lordship when in Edinburgh but two attempts which I made were abortive and the confusion attending the fire interferd greatly with visit-making.

My present cause of intruding on you is the very general and as I understand not entirely groundless report that a vacancy is like to take place in Sutherland in which case I hope you will permit me to mention my son-in-law
Lockhart as a young man whose principles and talents do not render him unworthy of preferment in his own country. The friendly terms on which I have always stood with the Stafford family whom by the way I have had the opportunity of obliging more than once by the interest which your Lordships friendship allowed me to have with you would I think be sufficient to make my son-in-law agreeable to them as Sheriff Depute. But of course I would say nothing to them unless your Lordship should judge it adviseable.

I should make I am sensible very many apologies for this species of intrusion but the grounds of my anxiety are obvious and will not I hope be misconstrued by an old friend. And therefore with kind compliments to Lady Melville I beg to subscribe myself Your Lordships much obliged & faithful Servant

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 21 November [1824]

TO ROBERT CADELL

DEAR SIR,—I sent a note in answer to yours assenting willingly to the advertisement and title but it was lucky your servant calld for I forgot to say three Volumes & 5 January. Exertion may make me keep time & I think the whole will certainly do good. Yours truly

W SCOTT

Tuesday Evening [22 Nov. 1825]
I hope to be at home all tomorrow being Teind Wednesday 3 and shall only be visible to you or Constable. After looking into my own affairs I am much comforted. By merely fullfilling engagements I can bring 10,000 betwixt [now] & Midsummer and I cannot want above 1000 of the sum for any private purpose of my own. I have about 4000 par ci par la and a good property under my feet besides an estate of 1500 a year and offices to the amount of 1600 besides—

[unsigned]
[Stevenson]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, CHIEFSWOOD

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I received the letter which you will find on the other side this morning. It is a backing out of the alarm which Murray by this time sees he had been hasty in raising. I have answerd it telling him the truth that besides himself I wrote to Heber on whose friendship & prudence I have the most absolute reliance. I have also written as I tell him to Southey but such a letter as I would have written to him at any rate I mean explaining to him that I knew nothing of the proposed change in the Quarterly when I was at Keswick. I thought it necessary to do this both because as an old friend of my own and valuable contributor to the Review he might have expected me to be frank with him on such a subject and also lest he should suppose I had been meddling about Canning and manoeuvring by my interest with Canning to edge out Coleridge and put in my own son-in-law. In the same letter I am incidentally & naturally led to explain the Blackwood affair and make
him aware that you were in no shape answerable for the mauvaises plaisanteries which Wordsworth and he have sustain’d in that frisky publication. This is all which I think I can or ought to do in the case. As for Canning & Croker I take it they would not care sixpence if you had been Kit North from beginning to end—I will swear for the last at any rate. In short I think the matter is to be at rest and to rest let it be laid. You will have the making of your own character and you will make it I am sure to purpose.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT

The inclosed was franked by Barrow and I believe the interlineation to be his hand. Love to Sophia and Johnie.

W. SCOTT

26 November [PM. 1825]

TO SIR WALTER SCOTT

DEAR SIR WALTER,—I had just finished an answer to yr Letter received this morning when young Disraeli arrived & compleated my conviction that he had totally mistaken the object of his mission—which was to tell you alone the apprehensions which had been expressed by the most valuable friends of the Quarterly Rev. at

NO ONE HAS ANY ILL WILL AGAINST MR LOCKHART ! ! !

the appointment of one who had so long been connected with Blackwoods Mag. but which could be instantly dissipated by the influence of yr name—by writing to three persons—Canning—Croker & Heber—it had nothing
(9-303) to do with my prior arrangements which remain the same. Mr L. was not to have been told of it by any means—for it could be of no possible use & might as it has done have led to great evil—I am sorry to find that Mr Lockhart has written to anyone this can not amend the matter—But pray let him stop & I will write fully to you tomorrow—There is nothing to apprehend & if I had written instead of sending to you—it would have been settled in a moment—Mr Coleridge has acted in the most truly noble manner—pardon this short note until tomorrow from—Dear Sir Walter

(9-303) Your faithful Servt Jno MURRAY

[Law]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(9-303) MY DEAR SIR,—I have your letter this morning. Besides yourself I only wrote to Heber on whose friendship long tried, and prudence I could perfectly rely mentioning the rumours in question and my reasons for being confident that they were perfectly groundless so far as Lockharts temper and disposition were implicated. In fact I think that in sacrificing a competent revenue leaving his native country and quitting at once his views in life and his natural connections he gives the deepest pledge he can do that no light or trivial temptation would induce him to risk the safety of the concern in which he may be now said to have embarked his all. If I had not felt absolutely confident that Lockhart had the same deep & serious views in the matter which I have expressed I would not for half my fortune have given my opinion in favour of his removal. I have written also to Southey not with reference to this subject in particular but because I thought he might with justice suppose that I knew all about this change while at his house in September

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and that I ought to have spoken to him about it as an old friend. I think this was incumbent on me at any rate and took the opportunity to rectify any opinions which he might have entertained of Lockhart arising from some passages in Blackwood which could not but be disagreeable to himself and Wordsworth & which I was instructed positively to deny.

I thought this species of explanation due to Southey both as my own much respected friend and as an old contributor to the Review indeed a most valued supporter of it.

I never thought Mr Barrow had the least personal ill-will against Lockhart but it was easy for him to be led into forming an erroneous opinion of his character by hearing old stories imperfectly mixed up with new matter to which he had no access.1 Some of his earlier flights are certainly not prudent but I am sure there was none of them different in character from the frolics which young men of talent so often indulge in. I am sure he has now added both prudence & experience to his considerable talents & hope he will do well for himself and you.

Believe me your etc WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 26 November [1825]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT, CHELTENHAM

MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,—I received your letter this morning and was greatly relieved by it as I began to entertain some apprehensions for Eliza. I delight to hear she is getting so much better, and am not alarmed at any
nervous symptoms which may remain since the consequences
of so severe an attack cannot pass away at once.
I am glad this will find Walter with you and should wish
him to stay there till he hears from me. Dr. Brewster
has written a fortnight since to Major Colby who is at the
head of the National Survey to ask his advice in the case
& both he and I are impatient for an answer. Assure
yourself I deeply sympathise with you in parting with
Walter who I trust will behave so as to be a credit to us
all. I feel it the more that I am myself like to be lonely
enough as my day draws to evening. If any fitting
person should take a fancy for our [Anne] the old couple
would be left to comfort each other as they could.

I am truly glad to see there is a prospect of getting
free of a matter so very unpleasant as these government
claims. Poor Tom was careless enough God knows but
yet there is no mode I can imagine in which such sums
of money could have been either applied or misapplied
without leaving some trace of the way they went. I hope
now the business will be brought to a settlement and that
you will get the pension which will be a comfortable
addition.

My kind compliments to Mr David M'Culloch. I have
begged Tom Moore to call on you should he come to
Cheltenham. He is a very pleasant creature & has
most excellent manners. If your brother's health allows
him to match "sang about" I don't believe there were ever
two such singers in the same room, and both of the kind
which addresses itself to the heart. I He spent two or
three days at Abbotsford, and I being a Jacobite, and he
a Jacobin, we agreed to a TE. But as I see the papers
I have got my joke it is scarce fair to duplicate it upon my friends.

I sincerely hope my dear nieces will reap in future life a reward for the troubles in which their career has begun, poor bodies. I sincerely hope that the worst is past, and the habit of patience is in fact its own best reward.

Just as you surmise, I will be in London in Spring, & will certainly make out Cheltenham at all rates. Sophia starts about the 8th or 10 (2) for the Great City,

Not stranger like or sojourner,

But to inhabit there,

as our precentor Lawrie Lathem 3 used devoutly to scream through the Auld Greyfriars. It is a sad separation after all but I shrug my shoulders & think as little as I can about the disagreeable part of it. Lady Scott is indifferent well, but begs with Anne a thousand kind remembrances. I write this immediately because I wish you to be aware of the cause of the delay about Walter which I dare say you will not in your heart be extremely sorry for. He cannot be better than with you ready to start for London or elsewhere as we may be advised the best.

I see with great pleasure that the Huxleys are comfortable. Walter you are aware is also an aide-de-camp & Courtier in a small way which is in his favour and particularly in his wife's as it gives habits of good society and varies the gossipping of regimental Ladies and the Tom-Dickery of a military mess. Kiss my dear nieces for me
TO J. G. LOCKHART, CHIEFSWOOD

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I have your letter of yesterday. You will have received mine from Murray which though in the best stile of diplomatical confusion implies that all apprehension on the score we apprehended is quite at an end. In my former letter I thought it becoming to be pretty firm though I took care to mix nothing of the Phrygian in my musick. I am glad we made no more fuss about it for to plead high defences to such an indictment seems to infer a conscious feeling that defence is necessary. I am glad for his own sake & for yours that Coleridge has behaved so handsomely. His assistance cannot but be useful & what is more—it shews union & firmness among people whose sentiments all go one way.

You are welcome to my best exertions for Pepys and I think of a gay trifle—a review of the Account of Granbourn Chase 1 which may be made funny enough. I fear my services cannot be made very useful to you unless ventum est ad Triarios when I never flinch. In ordinary cases I never write about politics or literature of a serious kind. I think the last is unfair in one who writes so much himself. It is as if I swept away the snow to prepare smooth ice for my own cast. If you are a curler you will understand this simile if not I must refer...
I chiefly write to beg that if possible Sophia and you will anticipate your visit to Edinburgh on[e] day and dine here on friday next to meet a few family friends and one or two of your own as Admiral Wilson and Gay. I intend to ask them at all events knowing that if possible you will give us that day also. We have a bed for Sophia and can secure one for you in the vicinity. The Keiths and Col. Russell will form our family forces—pray come if you can possibly. The dinner hour will be six o'clock.

This is Sunday and we have dined quite alone. But we will get used to this while we know you and Soph are well and prosperous.

On Sunday next we will be quite alone and I will submit to you the few ideas which occur to me about your new and important task—not that I think I can suggest any which will not occur to yourself only it is not altogether useless to know how a vieux routier like myself thinks on such matters.

I have had the readiest and kindest assurances (unsolicited of course) from Lady Melville and Miss Dundas of their wish to shew civility to Sophia in her new sphere and the same warmly offerd by Lord and Lady Montagu.

Mama and Anne join in kindest love to Sophia and poor little Johnie. Affectionately yours W. SCOTT

26 Nov. [PM. 1825]

27 I mean. Pray write by return of post.

[Law]
TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(9-309) EDINBURGH, 28th November [1825]

I received your letter this morning, and have to thank you both for its frankness and its kind expressions as far as I am concerned. Believe me, they are perfectly reciprocal, nor is there occasion for them being otherwise.

Whatever you may have to complain of with respect to Murray's conduct, I was totally unknown to me. Till the middle or rather the end of October, I had no more idea of Lockhart's being manager of the Quarterly than of my being to-night on the top of Skiddaw. Neither do I know at this moment with whom the plan originated, or how many or how few of those connected with the Review were concerned. Indeed, I neither wrote nor spoke to any friend that I have in the world on the subject, until I wrote on the same day to Heber and yourself—to both my old friends, and literary men, and to you as a most valuable contributor to the work. I was by no means anxious on the subject of his getting the situation, foreseeing some difficulties, and feeling sufficiently strongly the pain of parting with my son-in-law, daughter, and grandchild.

So that whatever has been done or left undone by Murray, I neither had nor could have the slightest accession to it. If I had wished to make an interest among friends of the Review, I would have written to you among the foremost, being aware of the title you had to be consulted in the matter, and having the highest confidence in your kind feelings towards myself. In respect to Mr. Coleridge, nothing would give me more pain than the idea that either
Lockhart or I were edging him out of a lucrative and honourable situation. The situation was offered to Lockhart by Mr. Murray as open and disengaged; he put the question whether Mr. Coleridge's retiring was a thing determined on, and he received a positive answer in the affirmative. He had no access to Mr. Coleridge personally, but never doubted that a full explanation had take place between Mr. Murray and him.

The first question I asked was concerning Mr. Coleridge's connection with the Review, and I was assured it terminated with the new year's commencement. An accident would have confirmed me in this belief had I doubted it for a moment. Lord Gifford, in my house, and in conversation, mentioned Mr. Coleridge's prospects of rising at the bar, and his Lordship expressed a regret that his management of the Quarterly was like to interfere with them. This seemed perfectly to explain why the situation was open. The fact I own I never doubted. I have only to add that Mr. Coleridge has most handsomely offered to continue his support to the Review by the contribution of articles—a circumstance which is valuable of itself, and will be most grateful to Lockhart's feelings. It is possible, as you say, his friends may resent what he himself has no cause for resenting. But I should think it improbable, because I have observed that in such cases there are usually some private motives of the resenters' own, which are conveniently carried by affectation of zeal for a friend, and I know no ground for the existence of such motives in this case.

The circumstances mentioned by your fair correspondent are such as I doubt not will be the sentiments of many
and disseminated by more than believe in or feel them.

But there is nothing which some experience with letters has brought me more to despise than the puffing of friends, or the rumours circulated by enemies. I would as soon buffet with the snow-flakes which are falling on my window at this moment, as I would try to contradict idle rumours and combat unfounded imaginations. A work like the Quarterly is sure to have the fair play of perusal, and then the public at large, who care for neither our friends nor our enemies, will judge for themselves.

With respect to Murray's undertaking a newspaper, I suppose it is by no means unlikely; but I am certain Lockhart will not accept an office so toilsome and laborious as that of Editor, and that he will have no connection with that or any other speculation which can interfere with doing his duty to the Quarterly.

As for Joannes de Moravia, I think his conduct to you is indefensible, but I am perfectly convinced it arose out of a constitutional timidity, and I am sure it could not be any depreciatory feeling of the great services you have rendered to the Quarterly, to which we can all bear witness, or a want of sense of the great loss which the work would sustain by your withdrawing, which occasioned his putting off the proper communication to you on the subject, but that in fact he anticipated objections on your part to a greater degree than I hope you will find cause for, and put off apprising you, as men are apt to delay encountering an apprehended difficulty, however that very delay may increase it. I am sensible that it requires an effort, however, to overcome the very natural feeling arising from ill-treatment, whether it arise from the weakness or the malice prepense of him by whom it has been offered. I am at the same time truly affected with your
kind message overcoming that effort, in consequence of our old and mutual friendship. Believe me, you will not repent it. It requires some time to know John Lockhart, and you have been accustomed to associate his name with disagreeable matters. But when you do know him, remember I tell you beforehand, you will like him.

If I had not occasion to know him to be both safe, well-tempered, and competent, with a high feeling of honour and public principle, I would rather put my hand in the fire than accept of your generous offer to continue on my account your support to the work which he must in future manage. I shall mention to him when he comes to town this week, that although you are not satisfied with the manner in which the change of Editorship has been intimated to you, yet in consideration of our old friendship, you are not disposed to withdraw from the work an assistance which I know Lockhart will highly appreciate. If you would have me say less or more, or wait till a future season for saying anything, you will have time to write, as Lockhart does not come to town till Friday, to receive a parting entertainment from some of his young friends here, which, Whigs excepted, comprehend the first young men at our bar. It was not Sophia but Anne who was called Madame French,—the black-eyed lass you saw at Keswick.—God bless you, my good friend,

WALTER SCOTT

Lockhart has had the most flattering assurances of support from the literary patrons of the Quarterly. Barrow had some doubts, which are satisfied.
TO COLIN MACKENZIE

(9-313) MY DEAR COLIN,—You know all matters at this time are prorogated to the recess and therefore I add my particular entreaties that you will prorogue your return from Harcus till the first sederunt day in January next. This is the anxious wish of all our brethren and by giving a very little attention to my own 1 in the early part of the morning enables me to come here and discharge yours after the court sits down. The business is very easy and you will really act very unwisely as well as unkindly if you do not leave us to manage it, but endanger your health so deservedly valued by your bretheren and many others and I need not say by me in particular. So pray do not think of coming here till you see how the country agrees with [you].

(9-313) Our petition to Excheqr. has been refused and what to do next I know not. There are two courses. Hector opines that we should again solicit the attention of the Treasury and Lord Melville seemed to say to Sir Robert that they mistook our situation and confounded it with that of the English Clerks who purchase their situations. I have little hopes from this measure having always seen that those who have taken up a threap 2 as we Scots folk say are far worse to convince than men who are actually founding on some thing like reason. Still more do I doubt Hector's second plan of referring to the House of Commons. Official persons in our situation seldom can excite a very strong interest. Our salaries are exactly qualified to illustrate Pompey Bums assertion that every true mans apparel fits your thief.3 If the rate
is too high it cannot be doubted that we the receivers

will think it little enough—and let it be supposed they
are too little the ex-official folks will think it large
enough. In short I think we should not rashly venture
into parliament. If we remain as hitherto on
the defensive (which is the other course) one of two,
things must happen—either that we shall shuffle on
with more or less inconvenience until poor father
Ferriar drops off in which case we shall not [be] foreclosed
by any example founded upon his retirement—or else
that the business will get so much embroiled that the
court must take it up and interpose in our behalf with the
treasury—or perhaps the Minister may try his brain
against Ferriar and in that case I should think that he
being defensive would have a far better chance of being
listened to than if he were initiating the business himself
in the House of Commons of which it is no treason to say
that no man can foresee what they may do. In a word I
would make Government understand that we will not
permit a retirement unless on the terms which we are
entitled to hold and when Ferriar becomes unable to
attend they must come into our terms or the business
must go into arrear. We have this compulsitor in our
hands and I think it as well to trust to it. For observe
if we once stir in the House of Commons and they decide
against us actum est—there is a decision on our case and
that by a body whose authority is not the less that they
have no legal character.

Here is bitter cold weather—in the midst of which
Lockhart and Sophia are setting off for London. If our
friend I had as much civil courage as he has personal
(9-315) spirit I might have been spared the great pain of this separation. But I suppress these unpleasant reflections for perhaps I am not in a mood to judge of the matter with perfect candour.

(9-315) Lord Montague is sitting at the bottom of the table cocked and primed to repeat {obliterated} much in terms of the Act of Sederunt where the same act has no terms applicable to the matter. He has parenthetically desired me to add his entreaties to ours that you will remain rusticated till January at soonest. Yours affectionately,

(9-315) WALTER SCOTT

EDINH. CLERKS TABLE. 2 DIVN.

(9-315) 2 December [1825]
[Brotherton]

TO MRS SCOTT OF LOCHORE AND CAPT. [SCOTT] KINGS HUSSARS

(9-315) DEAREST JANE,—I take the opportunity of sending a few lines by the son 1 of my old and faithful bottle holder Tom Purdie who has got a place as a gardner in the sweet County of Limeric[k]. I saw Mrs. Jobson two days since and let her know of this opportunity. She was very well and Lady Fergusson staying with her. The worthy knight is himself at Meigle visiting his old friend and mine Peter Murray of Symprim.2 I hope all goes on well that the palfrey ambles easy and the Colonels Lady carries her dignities meekly towards the Ladies of the regiment that the parties are gay the snacks better orderd

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than at Lucan and laughing as merry as it [was] wont to be. Above all how do ye like your vice regal mistress. I know not. You are I suppose one of the little stars which wait upon her Majesty the moon of Ireland. We had little Moore with us about three weeks since. He and I went to the play once when it happend to be a pretty good house. Moore was discoverd and received a great deal of applause at which I was particularly pleased as Saunders was in giving him a good reception paying a part of my debt to Paddy-land.

All our thoughts are turnd to our approaching parting with the Lockharts; knowing how intimately we all live together you will have no difficulty in supposing that this must be an unpleasing anticipation. But what is thought best for the young folks must satisfy the old. They come on thursday & remain till Monday or Tuesday next then back to Chiefswood and from thence immediatly to London. It is time, they were there for Lockhart must have much to do in his new department[t]. Sophia has all her domestic establishment to arrange and as to our losing them a few days sooner one must piece it out with the old proverb "better a finger off than aye wagging."

You would see a notice in the newspapers that I had gone to the Marshal MacDonal ds at Paris. There was a letter from him yesterday to Hector MacDonald which is a very funny one. He complains very politely that while he had not the pleasure and so forth of receiving the person in question he had a whole host of literary ladies some begging scraps of hand writing some locks of hair and several sending verses which they wish the Scottish author should revise and criticize.
We are all in tolerable good health and walking through the world in its old fashion eating drinking scribbling and waking and sleeping without much to interfere with our very mechanical operations. Only Lord Melville being down here I have been more about than lately being askd to meet him. About 24th. Decr. we crawl out to Abbotsford and wish we had Prince Housseins tapestry to transport you there to eat your Christmas pies. We must comfort ourselves with the hope of seeing you in better travelling weather, worse it cannot well be for as the old hunting[-song] says "My dear it hails, it rains, it blows."

All which elemental discords clattering against the windows of our old halls of justice do not at all relieve the dulness of a November day or enliven the eloquence of two or three drowsy advocates. So if I am dull there is a reason for it.

I hope your maids have found a more agreeable mode of amusing themselves than by keeping the house litterally in hot water. When such accidents happen it is now I believe agreed that cotton (supposing the skin is broken) is the most effectual application. Vinegar and Lime water is a specifick and oil is also good but I should greatly doubt salt though the favourite recipe of your Abigails.

I beg my particular regards to the Surgeon Genl 1 Attorney General and family the Blake family and Dr. Brinkley not forgetting poor Paddy Hartstonge and sisters. Alway[s] my dear little woman your affectionate
EDINR. 29 November [1825]

If you write soon it will be as Judy says a great consola—2
I am sorry to say that since I wrote the inclosed Mrs

Jobson has had an alarming accident from the effects of
which she is now much recoverd. Lady Fergusson who is
in Shandwick place just now was taken suddenly ill in the
night and Mrs Jobson getting up hastily went to get her
some assistance and it being in the dark met with a severe
fall on the stairs. Luckily she got off with a slight sprain
and some bruises which are getting quite well again but it
might have been an alarming accident in its consequence.
Write soon.

4th December [1825]

TO HIS SON WALTER

DEAR WALTER,—I take the opportunity of Charles
Purdie going to Dublin to send you a letter. It is always
good to save postage. Charles is going to be a gardener
somewhere near the sweet town of Limerick to which you
made your advances by that famous night march. He is
clever fellow and I hope will do. He has a book from
me to give to the Head gardner at the Lodge who I
suppose will have no objection to let him see the Gardens
there. If you can give him quarters in your hotel— for
the day or two he must stay at Dublin I am aware you
will do it for old Toms sake. I also intend to give him
the superintendence of a book 1 containing some copper
and bronze implements for Dr Tuke your neighbour
in the square who has so beautiful a Musaeum. I
promised to add one or two articles to it and now send
these old rattle-traps as Capt. John would call them to
make my word good. Will you be so good as pay for
the carriage of the box if it has cost Purdie anything.

Since we came to Edinburgh I have been askd to meet
Lord Melville at several parties which has made me more

of a junketter than usual but as it was chiefly among old
friends it was not so tiresome as such [things usually are].

On thursday Lockhart and Soph come to town alas to
take leave which will make our future life the sadder.
He has a rough sea before him for many will envy and
abuse him for his own sake some perhaps from thinking
the world has given me more than my due and many more
from political hatred. But he is very clever and
sufficiently hard-bitten to make him indifferent to much of
this sort of petty warfare and then his talents are of a
kind that must [tell] now that he has fair scope for
exertion. He has besides the good backing of Canning
Ellis Heber Bishop Bloomfield 1 and all the contributors I
believe of the review so that Vogue la Galere. I hope he
will dissolve the goodnatured club except when the
original members have the happiness to meet. Seriously
his satirical propensities make him enemies which his
good nature does not deserve. But as Corporal Nym
says things must be as they may.

We have had bitter weather here Sunday and yesterday
the ground was coverd with snow and the snow [was] 2
falling till ten o'clock at night when I retu[r]nd from
Melville Castle. This threatens an early and severe winter.

Colonel Russell my cousin has come home a fine dashing soldier looking fellow who has sufferd less from India though he has been there near thirty years than most folks I know. His manners are not very elegant but he is a kind hearted warm-feeling man and I have been heartily glad to meet him again.

Mama is upon the whole I think better sleeps well and has more appetite but is still annoyd with the swelling in her ancles. Little Johnie is very well I hear. Poor little fellow he is most likely to suffer by this change of residence.

We are very desirous to have your court news. The Viceroy is a person so particularly well bred that I think it must be comfortable to be near him sometimes. I hope the Marchioness gives satisfaction. I think she will bear her state bravely. But I do not suppose brother Jonathan would like much so large a fortune passing out [of] his continent to gild a Marchionesss coronet in Britain. I should rather think it would gall his republican pride.

How does the riding come on ? But I will ask Mrs, Jane herself about that matter only I fear my correspondence will be none of the brightest just now for I am writing in the Court very cold and very dull and little warmd or enlivend by the thrumming of two very dull pleaders. You would of course let Mr. Milliken know that the Box with the Books came at length in great safety. I was afraid they might have sufferd from damp
but they were all in good order. Anne and Mama join
in kind love to you and Jane. Always your affectionate father
WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 29 November [1825]

Our Xmas vacation begins on 24 December our festival will be an awfully dull one this season. There will be no dealing with Nicol in these times for the money market is in such a state of agitation that I would not like to embark in so large a transaction without I saw [it] settled which will happen in a month or two. I presume you settle your accompts regularly with your agent Mr. Isaac Baillie. He is I am sure a good and honest fellow. But right reckoning and short reckoning make long friends and terrible accidents sometimes happen from neglecting to make regular inspections and settlements. A writer to the Signet, a gentleman and excellently connected and generally well liked, was drown in the unfortunate Steamboat 1 and was at first much lamented. But in truth he spoild an old proverb and showd that a man might be drown whose actions deservd a dryer death. He had cheated one gentleman Lord Balgray of many thousand pounds which had been put into his hands as the manager of a trust.

Concluded this letter 4 December

More last words of Mr. Baxter. After all Charles Purdie has got a berth in a vessell going direct from Glasgow to Limerick so Mr. Walter Hamilton takes care of this letter the book for the gardner and a box of trumpery for Dr Tuke. I have something also to send
to the Surgeon General when I can get an opportunity.
Lockharts friends gave him a dinner on Saturday a very
stylish one. About fifty people were present Solicitor
General praeses Robt. Dundas of Arnistoun Croupier and
much wine shed. Many songs and speeches to the
honour and glory of the said Don Giovanni who fell
asleep in his chair about one in the morning to the sound
of his own praises. Mr. Williams wakend him and the
whole company with bouncing sentence[s] of Latin that
sounded like a discharge of artillery and I suppose was
by that time nearly as intelligible to most of the company.
These things I only know by report having left at ten as a
sober man should. Yesterday Lockhart dine[d] with us
consuming little meat and much small beer.

This morning Sophia and he took French leave de-camping
about seven in the morning. I was glad of it for
as the song says
" What argufies snivelling and piping ones eye."

I hope the parting is for their advantage and that must
make me acquiesce in it although it is hard to be separated
from almost all my children.

But we hope to see Jane and you in a few months.
Yours affectionately,
WALTER SCOTT
5th December [1825]

More last words yet. 6th December
After all Walter Hamilton will not bear this letter which
has had its destinies alterd so often. He does not set off
until next week and will take charge of the box to the
Dr and the letter which I send to that learnd collector.
Meanwhile I send the Gardners book. The mans name is Robson I think.

[Law]

TO MRS. HUGHES

EDINBURGH, 3d Decr.(1) [1825]

MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,—I have owed both Mr. Hughes and you a letter for a long time but I am as you well know terribly dilatory in the matters of correspondence and particularly since my eyes have begun to make writing more inconvenient to me and more troublesome in necessary consequence to the reader than it formerly used to be. I have been besides under some anxiety at the thoughts of parting with Lockhart and my daughter whose good fortune (I hope at least it is to prove such ultimately) bring[s] me some discomfort in the outsett. I have not the slightest idea who or what determined Murray on making a change.2 I only know that the offer of the situation was not made till the end of October when without a word of previous intimation the situation was offered to Lockhart who had not the most distant thoughts of it. The surprize was equal to me who was at that very time engaged in soliciting a situation in this country on which Lockhart had some claims. We were then given to understand distinctly that Mr. Coleridge retired from the situation though why or when we were not informd. Mr. Coleridge has behaved as handsomely as possible and continues I hope his assistance to the Review. I am sure nothing could be more agreeable to Lockhart's feelings for altho' he neither had nor could
have the least accession to Mr. Coleridge[']s giving up
the critical sceptre yet if Mr. Coleridge had behaved
otherwise under the circumstances the good natured world
would have accused Lockhart of wrenching it out of his
hands whereas he only succeeded to it when it was
unswayed. I have little doubt that Lockhart will do the
business well. But he had in his own country and among
his old friends enough for all the comforts and most of
the elegancies of life and I wish he may have no reason
to repent 1 for exchanging his quiet life at Ghiefswood
for the more feverish and ambitious occupation which he
is now about to assume. I have been entirely passive
in the matter. I could not exert any influence to prevent
my son in law from accepting an honourable mode of
distinguishing himself in the eyes of the world and which
was offered to him in a manner so creditable to his
caracter in literature and frankly I feel more and more
as the moment approaches of separation circumstances

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LETTERS    OF

which make it peculiarly painful to me.1 I have not the
least apprehension of Lockharts getting on well as he is
passed the age when his talents for satire might have led
him a little too far. But I am anxious for the health of
my daughter and still more of the poor frail little child
whom they are so much wrapt up in he is very very
delicate and fear the spine is affected : in which case—
but it is needless to write about it.

I am much obliged to you my dearest Madam for your
attention to Charles I have not heard from him for some
time but shall be most happy to think he is near you.2 The
last time I heard he was busy studying for his first
examination. I owe Mr. Hughes my best thanks for a cheese which showed the mettle of the pasture where the cows were fed. Make my kind love to him and my best thanks acceptable. I will not forget your little dog—but it must be next summer for puppies whelped in winter seldom give satisfaction being usually paltry beasts.

My wife who is much obliged by your inquiries has rather got better but asthmatic complaints are of a very tedious kind and her fits of breathlessness return very often.

We have had real northern weather of late the snow is lying very deep on our mountains, and I question whether

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT

the Lockharts who are coming to Edinburgh to day to bid their friends adieu will get through the Moorfoot Hills and I shall be glad to see them safe.

5th December.—They have arrived and parted too this morning without any formal adieus for which I am obliged to them. I hate snivelling and blowing of noses. They were off before day-break to avoid such catastrophes. I need not tell you how glad Sophia will be to see you in London where poor soul she will be like a cow in a fremit loaning: (this will try your Scotch, Madame).

Pepys has had bad luck for I made some scratch about him for Lockhart's use last week this entre nous I certainly would not have interfered with my friend Mr. Hughes. My kind compliments to him and to the kind Doctor.

From him that is lonely dowie and wae but always Dear Mrs. Hughes most truly yours,
TO R. CADELL

DEAR SIR,—I have some pleasant news for our friend Constable. I wish much to see him this morning if possible—I shall be at home all day this being a blank day for the court. Yours truly

W. SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Wednesday [7 December 1825]

TO SIR WILLIAM KNIGHTON

MY DEAR SIR,—I was honoured with your letter this morning, which, I own, relieved me from the unpleasing doubt whether I might not have gone beyond my province in communicating to you for his Majesty's consideration the subject of my last. I am sure I would rather lose my little fortune than submit anything of the kind to his Majesty without the most attentive consideration to its consequences.

Whether the plan of education be not somewhat extended beyond the ranks to which it is most useful, is a subject of great doubt. But, being so extended, the increased number of readers must have good books, of sound principle and standard merit, otherwise they will choose bad ones rather than go without; and then the boon of knowledge will be just on a par with that of language as expressed by Caliban,
"You taught me language, and my profit on't
Is—I know how to curse." 2

I enclose the first perfect copy of the first number of the work, which is nearly ready for the public.3 I also enclose a proposed dedication for the consideration of his Majesty, in which I have endeavoured to express, in as few words as possible, the reason why a work of the kind, so devoid of typographical splendour (although neat for the price), should be adorned with his Majesty's name. I made Constable transcribe it fairly, but without telling him more than that it might be well to have a scrawl in readiness, in case his application should be honoured with his Majesty's approbation.

His Majesty will not perhaps hear with entire indifference that my son-in-law, John Lockhart, has been tempted to change his views in this country, in order to become editor of the Quarterly Review. The talents which have been thought worthy of this trust are pretty generally admitted; and I can answer for his possessing that love of his Majesty's government and devotion to his person which are the best warrants for exercising the power now lodged in his hands in a proper manner. It is a great qualifying of the pleasure which I should feel on the occasion, that I must be deprived of my daughter's society, as they must of course reside in London.

I pray you, my dear Sir William, to make my most respectful duty acceptable to his Majesty, and I am, with much regard. Dear Sir William, Your most obedient servant, WALTER SCOTT
The Chief Commissioner has borne his great family loss with much firmness.

EDINBURGH, 7th December [1825]

To His Majesty

KING GEORGE IV.

The generous Patron even of the most humble attempts towards the advantage of his subjects,

THE MISCELLANY,
designed to extend Useful Knowledge and Elegant Literature,

by placing Works of standard merit within the attainment of every class of Readers,

is most humbly inscribed by his Majesty's humble and devoted servant,

ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE.

EDINBURGH, December 1825.

[Memoirs of Sir William Knighton]

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TO J. G. LOCKHART

EDINBURGH, 6th December [1825]

I return the sheets revised, most anxious as you may believe to hear from you. I send a letter from that weary wight Gillies. I will try to do him some account of Moliere's life, but nothing will thrive with him. He is
(9-328) the sloth who gets up into a tree, eats up to the very last
(9-328) leaf, and then begins to grin and howl so as to deafen
(9-328) the whole neighbourhood. But I think I said this of
(9-328) the poor fellow once before to you, so I will rather hail
(9-328) him in the language of the ballad 1 —

(9-328) Now up there spake a good fellow
(9-328) That sate at John o' the Scales' board,
(9-328) Said, " Welcome, welcome. Heir of Linne,
(9-328) Some time thou wert a right good lord.

(9-328) Some time a good fellow thou hast been,
(9-328) And neither spared thy gold nor fee,
(9-328) Therefore I'll lend thee twenty pence,
(9-328) And other twenty if need should be."

(9-328) It is, however, very dangerous for a petitioner whom that
(9-328) sole quality renders bore enough, to be a bore on his own
(9-328) account. Miss Edgeworth might have made a good
(9-328) chapter on Beggars who are bores otherwise than by
(9-328) their profession. 2

(9-328) Anxious to hear from you, and with love to all, I am
(9-328) yours, WALTER SCOTT

[Familiar Letters]

TO THOMAS MOORE

(9-328) MY DEAR MOORE,—The inclosed music has been lying
(9-328) in my desk for several days as Anne was no way slow in
(9-328) procuring what you wished to see. 3 But I have been a

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(9-329) good deal hacked about by the indisposition of two or
(9-329) three of my brethren in office which throws an additional
degree of business into my hands. Luckily I don't much dislike muddling about law business it has been my lot all my life and as it has served to roast my mutton why it would be a shame not to get up into my wheel like a well behaved turnspit. A fortnight more so swiftly does time run on brings us to our Christmas holidays when we will get to Abbotsford for three weeks or a month. My society there will be contracted by the loss of the Lockharts who set off last week for London to take possession of my son-in-law's new occupation. It is a feverish and delicate charge he has taken on his shoulders but he is young and can bear his load. What would I give to have a lift of Prince Hossein's tapestry to bring you and Mrs M. thof unknown and your little folks all down to Abbotsford together "just to drive the cold winter away." But as this may not be Accept my best wishes for this Christmas and many a holiday besides. Lady Scott desires to be kindly remembered and Anne offers her compliments. Constable our great Bibliopolist [some word or words omitted between the pages] to cause reach you in safety by the medium of Messrs Longman a certain number of volumes—how many I am horrified to think of—of which I request your acceptance—at the risque of their lengthening and saddening a winter evening. Rees must chuse a good able-bodied Van that this lump of literature may not break it down. I Believe me always Most truly yours WALTER SCOTT EDINR. 9 December [1825]

Your kind note arrived yesterday and the inclosures were regularly forwarded. I am glad the fells did not long retain their influence—Lockhart and Sophia left us for the same direction on Monday last. When you
TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW, KAESIDE

TO JOHN GIBSON, JUNIOR, W.S., CHARLOTTE STREET

(9-330) happen to be in town Croker will know of their whereabout.

[Owen D. Young]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW, KAESIDE

MY DEAR WILLIAM,—I had your letter of news in safety. Although you do not express you [are] in much need of cash I inclose 20 for wages &c and will come out fully provided for every thing else. We come on 24 rather late as I must stay till 12 o'clock.

We were reasonable sad after the loss of the Lockharts who took trench leave on the morning of last Monday with great consideration for themselves and us. I hate leavetaking snivelling and red eyes. I have got a quantity of acorns & expect more. These will come out by the cart. These will go to the seedbed of course in Spring. I am not at present aware that there is more to say. We are all well here Only dowie lonely and wae

Yours truly

W SCOTT

EDINR. 12 December [1825]

I send this by Selkirk so it will reach by Brunton.

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 331

TO JOHN GIBSON, JUNIOR, W.S., CHARLOTTE STREET

[14th December 1825]

DEAR SIR,—I have received the title deeds of my estate of Abbotsford and that according to the Inventory
Thereof and will soon return them to your custody again
as they cannot be in [safer hands].

[without signature]

[Walpole]

TO CAPT. SCOTT, 10 STEPHENS GREEN

favourd by Mr Hamilton.

DEAR WALTER,—Mr Walter Hamilton has promised to
give a look after Mr or rather Doctor Tukes box of
brazen utensils which I hope will reach your mansion
in safety and that you will take the trouble to send the
inclosed note with them. I have not heard of John and
Soph since parting but a line from Greta Bridge.1 Mrs
Jobson is well enough to come abroad today for she felt
the consequence of her fall for some time and no wonder.
Falling seems to be the fashion amongst us. I believe
I wrote you that I had rather an awkward fall among
some new buildings. I was returning from Robert
Cockburn's 2 and wishd to cross the street and got a
mudbath praised be Heaven nothing worse—the more dirt
the less hurt says the learnd Dean Swift.3 And now I
learn you have had a fall too. Methinks you might have
let us know something of it. My kind love attends Jane
though she is a naughty monkey for not writing. Yours
affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 14 December [1825]

We go to Abbotsford on 24 where address till 14 January.

[Law]
TO J. G. LOCKHART, LONDON

My DEAR LOCKHART,—This will find you I trust temporarily if not comfortably settled. I have been thinking much of Sophia and Johnie during the gloomy weather which must have made Stanemore doubly desolate especially as you wanted the kind wellcome & friendly countenances of Rokeby. Yours from Catterick Bridge did not reach me untill yesterday.

I am very sorry I have not the honour of knowing the Arch Bishop of Canterbury 1 in the slightest degree. But I believe Mr Careys merit as a translator of Dante has been always acknowleded as of the very highest order. He has certainly chosen the most difficult subject in the literary world for translation and though it is long since I read the book I still remember the pleasure which it afforded me.2 I have always heard that Mr Carey was a worthy and respectable man.

I have had a most kind letter from Barrow in consequence of mine to Heber. He assures me of his readiness and willingness to do all he possibly can in point of rendering you assistance. It is plain the Emperor of the West 3 like other potentates was a[t] first too precipitate & sanguine and then like MacBeth was afraid to look on what he had done.

Sophia or you can write at a time and let us know the

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 333

Gossip especially how Johnie likes London and if he talks Of Abbotsford and Chiefswood & ha—papa.
I have a very kind letter from Lady Stafford with kind
offers of all attention to Sophia. She does not come to
London till May but wishes to see you at their Villa. I
think with Ditton park & Cleveland House you will have
as good backing as folks need desire who do not wish
above a genteel Competence of the great world.

There is no news except that the Great Hogg of the
touches this morning and not thinking
himself a sufficient boar or desirous of a foil or perhaps in
order to make a Bardic convention " of huzz tividale
poets" brought with him Thompson 1 the song making
not psalm-singing weaver of Galashiels. This was rather
cool on the said Hoggs part but Thompson is a good
enough fellow so it all went off well the better that
Lady S. did not know that the Boar of the forest had been
the introducer of the poetical Thrums. Our Hogg gave
one superior grunt. Talking of Moore or according to his
mode of accentuation Muir he said his songs were written
wi' owr muckle melody—they gied him he said a staw 2 of
sweetness—"Aye" said Thrums "his notes are ower sweetly
strung." " Na na " said the porker " ma ain notes are
just right strung and its his that are clean ower artificial."
Dont you think you hear this echoe [?] of a pigstye passing
his criticism on Moore. I thought Lady Anne would
have spoken but thank God she gave a gulp and was
silent. After all the Hogg is a kindly animal very grateful
to you though I think he rather believes you honourd
in the accession of the juvenile Squeaker to your train of
emigration.

I inclose a note to Allan Cunninghame. By the way
poor Fanny 1 escaped from the Servants at Leith came
up to Castle Street and scratchd at my room door which
was rather an affecting circumstance. She sought about & whined a good deal but did not offer to leave the house so was contented with us as a pis-aller. We kept her till friday morning when the smack was about to sail and then sent down John as the most experienced head of the party to deal with the Steward in her behalf. I hope she has reachd safe.

I had a letter from Barrow in consequence of what I wrote to Heber. It confirms what we knew before that Murrays mixture of rashness and timidity made the sole cause of alarm. Barrows letter was in the kindest possible terms towards you—all assistance to be at your service at all times &c. So that blast is blown bye. But you will always have to remember what a freakish unsettled being you have to do with and how certain you would be of his deserting if he could supposing any pinch to occur as an examination before the House or the like which will render it doubly incumbent on you to keep out of scrapes for you will have bad backing except in the way of backing out.

May I trouble you to settle with Allan Cunninghame for Wordsworths bust I mean my bust sent to Wordsworth & let me know amount. I am told the little Pepper has run away from Newton. I hope this is not true.

I send you under cover to our friend Mr Croker a whole host of letters and pity your having the trouble to open and read them. It will be ill luck if you find another as difficult to read as little worth the trouble of deciphering [as this]. I am with kindest love to Sophia and Johnie Affectionately yours WALTER SCOTT

14 Decr. 1825 EDINBURGH.
We shall be at Abbotsford on the 24th.

TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT, ROKEBY

MY DEAR MORRITT,—I am sorry you missd Lockhart who had it in charge to explain to you all his cause of transmigration which though the change is to all human appearance greatly to their advantage in the way of fortune is such a deprivation to me in point of comfort that while I cannot in grace or propriety express myself sorry yet it would be a great contradiction of my feelings to be in any respect very joyful. So I am like Mahomets coffin—or like the ass between the bundles of hay or like anything else that does not know well what to think about the matter.

It is very true that Murray about two months since made some advantageous proposals to Lockhart to change his residence with a view to take the management of the Quarterly connected with some other views both literary and professional which will make his income a very handsome one and give him an opportunity (living quietly as it will be their object to do) to save some money. For this they sacrifice a good deal for Lockharts income here amounted to about 1000 yearly which is very sufficient for a Scottish Hidalgo though too little to live easily in London. I believe between ourselves the choice was made on the recommendation of Canning and Gifford who were desirous to see Lockhart in the situation. Certainly though I saw Canning at Col. Boltons on Wyndermere he never spoke a word on such a subject; nor had either Lockhart or I the most distant idea of such an offer till it came seeking him in a way it was difficult
for him to avoid accepting such a fortune when it was buckled on his back. Murray after having let the matter go so far as to come to stamped paper thought fit at last to apprise the acting Editor (young Coleridge) that he had made an arrangement with another helmsman.

This was using both Coleridge and Lockhart to whom he had represented the situation as entirely vacant [with] very great injustice but I believe it arose entirely out of a timidity of temper which made Byron term the great Lord of Albemarle Street the most timorous of Gods Book-sellers. The explanation was easily made so far as Lockhart was concerned and Coleridge who has other views in his profession retires from the Editorship with the very handsome offer of continuing his services in the Review as a contributor. So does Southey to whom Murray though the review is so much obliged [to] him failed to communicate his intended change. Indeed I fancy the change besides being thought necessary from some decay in the review was partly owing to the wish to have some one well disposed to Mother Church but not just disposed to ride on its rigging as we say in Scotland, which Southey is rather apt to do without considering that to plead the best of causes to an extravagant height or what is the same thing pleading in a manner contrary to the general sense of the time.1 One never makes much by riding a good horse too hard. Bishop Bloomfield Barrow &c all give John their right hand of fellowship so with full consent of all concerned King John is installd instead of King William. I may be wrong but I think Lockhart perhaps the best calculated of any man I know to discharge this great critical task. He has a great stock both of classical and miscellaneous information a turn of composition as fluent as it is forcible and
elegant, perfect good temper and the feelings of a gentleman which go far in my idea of a critic. Six or seven years ago I thought him rash particularly in using too much horseplay in his raillery but time had taught prudence & his present situation is of too responsible nature not to engage him to watch over any revival of his former frisky disposition. Such are 2 the hopes and

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT

auspices under which they leave and with them a large proportion of my domestic & family happiness. I congratulate you my dear friend on having the same reason for rejoicing that I have for regrets. Your nephew long separated from you is soon to be united in a way happy & more Comfortable I think than when young and old reside under the same roof. A ride or drive forms such an agreeable amusement when there is an affectionate motive at the other end of it, and so dull comparatively when executed merely for exercise that I sincerely rejoice that you have gotten what I have lost. I beg you to make my best compliments acceptable to the young people and that you will express my sincere good wishes to them on their adopting the respectable character of housekeepers.

When you go to Brighton you will probably pass through London and you will hear of Lockhart by enquiring at Murrays. Sophia was much mortified at not seeing you and the young ladies. I beg my kindest remembrances (in which Lady Scott & Anne beg to be included) to the Miss Morritts. I am always yours truly

EDINR. 1825. 14 December WALTER SCOTT

I hope my old acquaintance Billie Doo 1 have not
TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW

MY DEAR WILLIAM,—The money-market in London is in a tremendous state, so much so that, whatever good reason I have, and I have the best, for knowing that Constable and his allies, Hurst and Robinson, are in perfect force, yet I hold it wise and necessary to prepare myself for making good my engagements, which come back on me suddenly, or by taking up those which I hold good security for. For this purpose I have resolved to excercise my reserved faculty to burden Abbotsford with £8000 or £10,000. I can easily get the money, and having no other debts, and these well secured, I hold it better to "put money in my purse," and be a debtor on my land for a year or two, till the credit of the public is restored. I may not want the money, in which case I will buy into the funds, and make some cash by it. But I think it would be most necessary, and even improper not to be fully prepared.

What I want of you is to give me a copy of the rental of Abbotsford, as it now stands, mentioning the actual rents of ground let, and the probable rents of those in my hand. You gave me one last year, but I would rather have the actual rents, and as such business is express, I would have you send it immediately, and keep it all as much within I as you think fair and prudent. Your letter need only contain the rental, and you may write
your remarks separately. I have not the slightest idea of losing a penny, but the distrust is so great in London that the best houses refuse the best bills of the best tradesmen, and as I have retained such a sum in view of protecting my literary commerce, I think it better to make use of it, and keep my own mind easy, than to carry about bills to unwilling banks, and beg for funds which I can use of my own. I have more than 10,000 to receive before Midsummer, but then I might be put to vexation before that, which I am determined to prevent.

By all I can learn, this is just such an embarrassment as may arise when pickpockets cry "Fire!" in a crowd, and honest men get trampled to death. Thank God, I can clear myself of the melee, and am not afraid of the slightest injury. If the money horizon does not clear up in a month or two, I will abridge my farming, &c. I cannot find there is any real cause for this; but an imaginary one will do equal mischief. I need not say this is confidential. Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

16th December [1825], EDINBURGH

The confusion of 1814 is a joke to this. I have no debts of my own. On the contrary, 3000 and more lying out on interest, &c. It is a little hard that, making about 7000 a year, and working hard for it, I should have this botheration. But it arises out of the nature of the same connection which gives, and has given me, a fortune, and therefore I am not entitled to grumble.

[Notanda]
TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

MY DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to tell you that the dedication of the Miscellany I is highly approved of and that you are at liberty to proceed accordingly Yours truly

W SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Tuesday [20 December 1825]

Private

[Stevenson]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, 25 PALL-MALL, LONDON

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I had your letter this morning and observe with great pleasure that you are settled or in the act of being so. It is better you have got a good house for there is scarce any thing in London so necessary to comfort and credit. You may scrub in your dinner as much as you please so you have a handsome front in a fashionable part of the town.

I observe with very great interest what you say concerning Tom Moore and Sheridan. It will be one of the most noble opportunities for an opening and leading article which you could have had. You will I know give Tom his full merits and treat him with that sort of liberality which may show that the censure which you bestow arises out of no narrow party feeling but is call'd forth by the occasion. I would have you take an opportunity to consider briefly his poetical rank. He may be considerd as reformd in the point of his Erotiques and I would not rake up old sins. There is one especial reason
for candour in respect to his merits because in order to blame him (which there is every reason for doing) for lending himself to circulate calumnies respecting the King you must show that you are neither an enemy of genius nor the tool of a party. I am aware that high-flying tories will not be pleased with this. Nevertheless fair pleading is the real way to serve a good cause. If a critic were to begin by treating Moore as a piping singing poet of the boudoir whose works were to be considered as trifles or worse and then to bring a charge of calumny against him [he] would be blending falsehood with truth in such a manner that your argument would lose the benefit of the one without gaining any credit from the other. Every body will be sensible that the frivolity is not proved because the critic cries trifler and will therefore argue that the calumny is as little proved when he cries slander.

A critic was of old a glorious name
Whose sanction handed merit up to fame
Beauty as well as faults he brought to view
His judgement great and great his candour too.

Concerning what you are to have from Sir W[illiam] K[nighton] I think you should see him yourself. It is a very dangerous and slippery ground and you know what Shakespeare says

Two may keep counsel when a third's away.

The said confidential Baronet is a solemn coxcomb (I think) with more craft than wisdom and what jumble might be made in pouring out information of consequence from such a gallipot into a crackd tumbler like your great publisher no one can say. Sir W. K. knows well enough
who you are and you will of course find him accessible
should you wish it.

All this would probably occur to yourself but old men
like neighbour Verges will be talking. I have no doubt
all is quite well with the Crafty but the distress in London
gave me no small anxiety. Indeed I intend to raise a
large sum of money and take out of the market the
infernal long-dated Bills which they pay me with. I
would not have put them in circulation at all but for
building &c. & the expences of Walters commission and
fitting forth. I will lose nothing but rather gain for when
the bills come to maturity they will pay off the
encumbrance and in the mean time I am none the poorer.

Constable goes up to town in next week to launch his
Miscellany by which I have no doubt he will make a
great deal of money.

We go to Abbotsford on Saturday. I could be extremely
sorry were [I] to indulge in recollections on the loss of
Sophia Johnie & Co

But grievings a folly
Boys let us be jolly
If there's sorrow just now there'll be pleasure once more.

I have had two visitations from poor Gillies who is I
am sorry to say on his very last legs. He came to me
with a long complicated unintelligible plan for raising
money by insuring his life and wanted to persuade me

that [he] could make 1200 a year by translating from
the German. Of course I will be desirous to help him
if it is possible but it can neither [be] by lending him money which I neither have to spare nor can afford to lose nor by swallowing absurdities and I suppose he thinks hardly enough of me. If they are to be turned out and want a little ready that is quite different. He brought Robert Wilson 1 with him who frankly told me his affairs were desperate and that no one could lend money to him with the chance of being reimbursed. It is a most painful business as I ever was connected with.

Castor and Pollux being contrary to Astronomical rules in conjunction at the fire bar when I read your letter I misread an important fact videlicet that the Article on Tom Moore is not to be yours. I am very—very sorry for it. I do not like Crokers stile in such things in the least—he is a smart skirmisher but wants altogether the depth of thought and nobleness of mind where the character of a Sovereign is to be treated. If you can get it into your own hands or can modify their article your own way I shall be much better pleased. He blunders about his facts too and in fact will never be more than a very clever confused sort of genius. Take care to keep manuscripts & documents as to every No. so that you can easily lay hands on them.

I must relieve you my dear Lockhart. I do not expect long letters but pray let them be frequent. My kindest love to Sophia & dear little Johnie—it will be long before I see him I doubt for I must work hard as any Turk to get Bony afloat—D——n him but I doubt thats done to my hand. What meal does Johnie want for the porridge. I will send it up from Abbotsford. I think it will agree with him better than the southern food of horses. I will
(9-343)not fail to get ready the Articles you want but it will be
(9-343)at [sic] Yours always WALTER SCOTT
(9-343)EDINBURGH 20 December [PM. 1825]

(9-343)We go to Abbotsford on 24th where direct. The
(9-343)having a namesake so near is a great scrape. You should
(9-343)cause all articles &c to be sent to Murrays.

(9-343)The more I think of Moores article the more I wish you
(9-343)would do it yourself. At any rate let no condescension
(9-343)to Croker or any one else prevent you from shaping it
(9-343)your own way. I for[e]see from your natural modesty
(9-343)of nature you will have difficulty in ruling your
(9-343)contributors but you must in some cases be absolute.

[Law]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, 25 PALL MALL

(9-343)Favd by Mr. Gordon of the Engineers

(9-343)MY DEAR LOCKHART, — Mr. Gordon of the artillery who
(9-343)was introduced to me by the Duke of Gordon is desirous
(9-343)of giving to the public in some shape or other the story
(9-343)of two twin sisters orphans of Saint Domingo which you
(9-343)may be inclined to look at. It is a story out of which De
(9-343)Foe would have glorious hints remarkable enough in
(9-343)incident though too flat and simple in narrative. If you
(9-343)have any sharp clever fellow about you who could dress
(9-343)up the language and give some explanatory notes I
(9-343)should think it worth publishing. Here all is of course
(9-343)at a stand. I do not augur much ultimate loss but a
(9-343)great deal of inconvenience. Yours very truly

(9-343)EDINR. 23 Decr. [1825](1) WALTER SCOTT

[Law]
TO ALLAN CUNNINGHAM

(9-344) MY DEAR ALLAN,—I received with great pleasure your
(9-344)valued gift of the Scottish Songs. I One of the best of our
(9-344)day is I think " The wet sheet and the flowing sea " it
(9-344)has enough of dash in it to give spirit and energy to the
(9-344)Poetry—enough of poetry to embellish the force of
(9-344)expression and a beautiful tune to the boot of all that, I
(9-344)would have had something to say on the history of the
(9-344)songs and your little introductions but it has been rather
(9-344)a sore subject with me of late—that same song-writing.—
(9-344)My daughter Sophia leaves us with her husband for
(9-344)London tempted by higher prospects than the country
(9-344)opened,—though they were very well off here also.—But
(9-344)ambition is necessary to young folks as well as natural—it
(9-344)spurs them on to exertion—and I have little doubt
(9-344)Lockhart will make a figure amongst you. If you will call
(9-344)on my daughter she will be happy to sing to you any of
(9-344)your favourites, not that she has a fine voice or much
(9-344)execution but sings with spirit and simplicity & gives
(9-344)expression to the tune and words. Poor soul she will be
(9-344)like a cow in a strange loaning for some time.

(9-344)If you like a dog of the Pepper & Mustard kind I will
(9-344)keep you one in Spring for the puppies are then best.
(9-344)They should be sent rather younger than the last, but I
(9-344)wanted to see them over the distemper if possible since
(9-344)it is both trouble and expence to send a dog so far
(9-344)to die as they are very like to do, for like all highland
(9-344)dogs their life during the first year is very
(9-344)precarious.

(9-344)I will be delighted to see Wordsworths bust both for
the sake of the Poet, the man—the artist and my good friend Allan who has taken such kind trouble about it.

Believe me very sincerely yours

EDINR 24 Deer. [Novr.] 1825       WALTER SCOTT

My kind compliments to Mr Chantrey if returned to town.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO HIS SON WALTER

private
ABBOTSFORD 24 December 1825
MY DEAR WALTER,—I had a most horrible fright last week for the dreadful state of money affairs in London lest Hurst and Robinson Constables great London correspondents should have come to harm for there was no such thing as the best houses getting any acceptances discounted to meet their advances. I knew Hurst to be worth more than a £100,000 but what would that have signified if with all his property he could not have the ready. This must have involved Constable in difficulties and all my bills of which last years various expences made me discount a good many more than I like would have come back on me like a rocket turned the wrong way. I thought it best to be prepared for the worst and instantly borrowed £10,000 upon my estate to take up whatever bills I was concern'd with that might have otherwise distress'd me. Constable bustled [ab]out and sent up £12000 or £15000 for preserving his own credit. But I believe the wily Yorkshire tyke Hurst made his situation appear more pinched than it was to get as much assistance as he
could from Constable. In fact when put to his trumps
the honest gentleman shelled out about ₤ 30,000 without
entering a bankers door so he stands as firm as the Bass
and even firmer than he was from his bottom being thus
ascertain'd. But I was damnably bilious till matters
were safe. I have resolved to let the [bond] lie on my

LETTERS OF 1825

property for two or perhaps three years during which time
my bills will come to maturity and I can pay the contents
of the bond without going near the money market. As
Abbotsford house is all paid you settled and no material
claim upon me I think this will be the best way for us all.
All engagements I ever made with Constable and his
friends have been most honourably acquitted and I have
now less doubt of them than ever. But it is better to be
my own banker and wait till their bills become due as far
as I possibly can than to get too deep in the discount line.
I dare say you will approve of this resolution though it
will keep me short for a little time and postpone my
project of treating with Nicol Milne. I have good
security for my bills besides the documents themselves,
and betwixt this and next year (1827) I have much more
than I can possibly want for my own expences besides
what I shall place against the ₤ 10,000 borrowed. So if
you want a little help to keep you clear of debt I will be
able I dare say to assist you with perfect convenience.
I am glad to see you have been a good husband of your
money it is the road to honour and independence.

What you say about the books to the Lady Vice Regent
is extremely proper and Mr Ballantyne will have pleasure
in attending to it. I suppose he may for such a purpose
make free to use Mr Gouldbourns frank.
Here is a beautiful day and I am in the Parliament House bound for Abbotsford where this letter is like to be finishd as I intend to write a few lines to Jane. As you said I should mention the mess business to Jane I will explain it though I dare say you will make up the little squabble best yourselves. I do not wonder that she who has been bred so much in quiet and retirement should not be aware that a young man must not drop acquaintance with his comrades even though at the expanse of a jollyfication occasionally. I must own the [more] seldom you can do so the better but Sahagun is a particular day. You are very bilious and suffer I think more by irregularity than most young men—

29 December

I had written as far as the above when I had a most unpleasant interruption just as I had laid down my pen and was chatting with Mr Laidlaw—At once it seemd as if a dagger was struck through my right loin affecting me in the most painful manner and in the most sensitive part of the body. I thought the game was up and that it was inflammation of the kidneys but Clarkson rid me of that anxiety when he came, engineered away and pronounced the disorder a gravellous tendency—a sort of Macadamization of those parts which would be best on their original structure and much exasperated by a disposition to bile against which the state of the Clerks table will not permit me of late to take the necessary precaution by staying at home and taking physic. I have since taken lots of hyosymus and calomel. The pain though dreadfully acute while it lasted was over in twenty four hours. The dispiriting
and debilitating effects of the calomel must remain for some time. But there is not the least fear of serious inconvenience at present. It is true such a disease is apt to return. But what then—we must take what God sends us of good or evil and my happiness will be complete when I know you are all well though I cannot enjoy the health and strength of my youth.

I have not been quite idle. I have sent a song to Jane which I think dashing enough. If you think it will interest at your headquarters you may give the Marchioness a copy only beg it may not become publick. My letter to Jane will explain all that is necessary to explain the subject of the ditty. I will not say a word to her about [the] Sahagun dinner and indeed should have done it at any rate with the greatest unwillingness. Married folks little disputes and such must happen until husbands and wives are angels are always best accommodated among themselves. Poor Janes heart is so sincere and good that one must make considerable allowance for the narrowness of her education.

I hope you will be able to come over here some time in winter or spring. There wants something to be done in thinning the woods at Lochore which will improve the plantation save wood for repairing the inclosures and even perhaps put a little money though not much in the Lairds pocket. You will be able best to judge how this can be.

We keep a wretched Christmas here. The Scotts [of] Harden came to day but I was not able to sit with them. Harry also called who is a real honest lad and my favourite of the young people but I could not ask him even to stay
(9-348)dinner. This is not illness but the unpleasant and
(9-348)depressing consequences of calomel.

(9-348)Lockhart and Sophia are occupying a comfortable
(9-348)house in Pall Mall and Johnie quite well. I wrote to little
(9-348)Jane so dont send my love through you.

(9-348)I have got my freedom from Corke and am I conclude
(9-348)entitled in future to button my coat behind though I shall
(9-348)not intimate that to the kind donors. A Corke lady—
(9-348)a sister of the Paymr. of the district has sent as a rider on
(9-348)my freedom a long letter wretchedly spelld and worse
(9-348)expressd asking me to get her ten pounds for a novel
(9-348)which I am obliged to decline as of course it cannot be
(9-348)worth ten pence. I Pray get a frank at your levee as it
(9-348)would concern me to cost the poor woman postage besides
(9-348)her disappointment.
[unsigned]

[Law]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 349

TO J. G. LOCKHART

(9-349)26 December [1825]

(9-349)DEAR LOCKHART,—I hasten to write lest you or Sophia
(9-349)should hear that I have been ill with probably the usual
(9-349)quantity of exaggeration. Last night I was sitting
(9-349)chatting after dinner with Laidlaw in our usual way
(9-349)when I felt as it were the stroke of a dagger about the
(9-349)region of the kidney which obliged me to take to my couch
(9-349)without a moment[s] delay. Clarkson came & pronounced
(9-349)it [a] gravellous attack in alliance with bile.
(9-349)He engineerd away and after much agony for six [or]
seven hours he drove the enemy for the present from the field and I hope it will not return for there are parts of ones body one would [not] willingly have Macadamized.

I am quite out of pain this morning but as weak as water between the disease and remedy. I intend to go no where this season except to Huntley Burn.

I am quite glad to hear you have got the article on Moore to yourself. I can hardly conceive a finer subject. I inclose a letter for Sir William Knighton which I think you should use and show him the passages in which the King is concern'd. I hope they will be sure of their facts for it craves wary walking.

I am truly glad Mr Shaw has good hope of little Johnie.

I will write Sophia a long letter but am not equal to it today. I inclose however a Jacobite song 7 seven verses of which she may get up if she likes. It is greatly too long. The subject is Dundee breaking off from the Convention in 1688-9. See Dalrymples history. The air is bonnie Dundee—the common words begin

Whare gat ye that haver-meal bannock
Ye silly blind body and dinna ye see.

It is also known by the well known words in the beggars opera

The charge is prepared the Judges are met—2

I will set about Pepys the instant I am well that is quite well again. I beg you will order me a copy of Murrays paper. Poor Lydia—She has this that is gallant about her that she has most manfully playd out the part she
(9-350) proposed to herself—has been what she wish’d to be—and (9-350) is dying as she would have liked to have died.

(9-350) About the song once more Sophia will understand it is (9-350) to be sung a la militaire and not as the song is in the (9-350) Beggars opera. It is a very fine air and admits of much (9-350) variation of feeling.

(9-350) Laidlaw is in high spirits with the idea of working some (9-350) things he will do admirably but it is a pity he wants (9-350) reading and general knowlege to ascertain what is really (9-350) original in his own conceptions what matter he has been (9-350) anticipated in by others. God bless you my dear Lockhart (9-350) a thousand loves to Sophia Yours truly

(9-350) W. S. 4

[Law]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 351

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-351) DEAR JAMES,—I was seized on Sunday night with what (9-351) from the suddenness and severity of pain somewhat (9-351) alarmed me with the fear of inflammation of the kidneys (9-351) but it proves to be only a touch of the gravel. I dont (9-351) love to have my loins Macadamized and therefore have (9-351) set to work with calomel to clear away bile and with other (9-351) remedies against the gravel which have proved perfectly (9-351) successful. I had no remaining pain on Monday morning (9-351) but having been kept awake all the preceding night I (9-351) slept last night from seven in the [evening] till twelve (9-351) next morning.

(9-351) I have not of course been able to do more than to (9-351) arrange a preface to La Rochjacula’s Memoirs 1 with
one or two notes. Constable is anxious about this that he may have a specimen of his Miscellany. Better send a proof by post than wait for Blucher as one proof will serve.

I hope you are all going on well. Do not dally about setting this up as it may forward Constables views to have it ready. Indeed I think with your own assistance as to stile & Mr Hogarths as to the French names & words it might almost do without my seeing it. I hope to be able to work [at] my own work to morrow though Calomel is a bad freind to exertion. Yours truly

W SCOTT

[27 December 1825]

[2] TO MISS WEMYSS, 2 CORKE

MADAM,—I am honored with your letter and it gives me great pain to say that I do not see in this country any possibility of advancing your views of publication. There is something more than either goodwill or talent requird to the task of composition it is essentially necessary to the most ordinary degree of success that there should be a certain command of language and facility of expression which, without presuming to say that my fair correspondent is deficient in other and more material qualifications she certainly does not appear to me to have attaind in a degree sufficient for venturing before the public, this is one of many instances in which I must feel it painful and offensive perhaps to speak the truth. But what good purpose would my disguising it serve.

If you should think of publishing I will subscribe for
(9-352)2 copies of your work with the greatest pleasure but as you
(9-352)appeal to my judgment I must [speak] sincerely however
(9-352)painful and assure you that without much more study both
(9-352)of Orthography and the structure of language I fear your
(9-352)literary labours will only be remunerated in so far as they
(9-352)are supported by subscription Your most obed Servt.

(9-352)WALTER SCOTT

(9-352)ABBOTSFORD 29 Dec 1825

[Bayley]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

(9-352)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I send you a few sentences as
(9-352)you desire.1 Unluckily I had not brought the book here.

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 353

(9-353)But you know I care least of all human beings about the
(9-353) fate of my lucubrations so use or reject them or cut and
(9-353)quarter them at pleasure they are just of consequence
(9-353)so far as they can be useful—not a jot farther. For these
(9-353)three days I have not stird out the cold air affecting me
(9-353) keenly while I take calomel. It will [be] over to night
(9-353)and I take leave of the attack with the old proverb.
(9-353)It is well away if it bide.

(9-353)I have begun Pepys 1 but as the D——I would have it
(9-353)the book is in the town. I have sent for it however.
(9-353)Kindest love to Sophia and Johnie. The Scotts told us
(9-353)that William had calld on you and seen you well Always
(9-353)yours W. S.

(9-353)ABBOTSFORD 29 December [1825]
Sir James Stuart of Allanbank writes to me that a Dr. Prato a German desires to be introduced to you with a view to do work in the quarterly. I told him in reply I should mention to you there was such a man—who wrote it is said some Review of Schiller but as for anything approaching to a recommendation to employ him it was what I intended to decline granting in all cases for I think your situation is responsible enough without having the botheration of friends thrusting forward individuals out of benevolence. So if Dr. Prato calls you know how I stand about it.

TO MRS. SCOTT OF HARDEN

MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,—I should have only added a stupid landlord to a dull and dismal day for I have still this unpleasant complaint hanging about me which makes me as my friend Will Rose says a kind of wretch. The medicine agrees very ill with me I mean in point of discomfort. So that you have rather had an escape of it. We think we will be obliged to go to town early next week unless I get this shakiness off so that I fear this will be a stupid Christmas & pass off without the pleasure of our seeing each other.

Will you tell Mr & Mrs Newenham I have got my freedom from the City of Corke in a very handsome silver box of which I am not a little proud I am Dear Madam always very truly yours.

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 25 Jany (1) [December 1825]
TO MRS SCOTT OF LOCHORE

MY DEAR JANE,—You will be sorry I think to learn that the cause of my silence has been sudden and severe indisposition. None of my misfortunes happen like those of any one else for I always break down at the top of my gallop and when I least expect it. So I was in a manner shot dead on Christmas day within half an hour after dinner minced pies in my very throat. The pain was very great but it proves to be what is called a chronic disease which learned word means I believe it is not a disorder which one immediately dies of but only [one] which if it visits you frequently renders life little worth having. But as our friend Dr. Dickson would say shall we receive good at God’s hand and shall we not receive evil? If I am a bad divine and a worse philosopher I hope I am not ignorant of the advantages I have enjoyed or unreasonably impatient under the increasing infirmities which must attend old age and which in my case have been longer delayd and less severely inflicted than in that of many contemporaries. Besides have I not all of you my dear children loving each other and affectionate to me to comfort me under such circumstances.

I hope besides by caution and attention to avert the return of this cruel complaint and though I write out of spirits more than is usual you must my love impute it to the depressing effects of calomel which I have been obliged to take in a quantity which does not agree with me at all.
Well but we will talk of something more agreeable.
You know among my foibles I am a most incorrigible
Jacobite and the other day I lighted on the passage in
Baron Dalrymple's memoirs of great Britain (not Dalrymple
Lord Hailes Annals of Scotland) in which there
is a very spirited description of the viscount of Dundee
leaving Edinr. to go north to raise the Highlands. He
headed you know the clans in the battle of Killiecrankie
and died in the moment of gaining a complete victory.
My Great Gr. father was with him I believe in his retreat
and certainly in the battle in which Dundee fell—and you
remember the picture of old Walter with the Beard
which we always look on with a sort of family reverence
for he was a staunch old Carle. Well—these things
running in my mind and having no spirits for serious
business I have thrown off the verses I inclose to the tune
of bonnie Dundee. There are three sets of words to the
tune. The one is rather free and begins

Oh wha hae I burn'd or wha hae I slain
Or how hae I done ony Injurie, etc.

The other is a common song

Oh where gat ye that haver-meal bannock
Ye silly blind body and dinna ye see
I gat it out of the Scots laddie's wallet
Atween Saint Johnstoun and bonnie Dundee.

The third is in the Beggars Opera

The charge is prepared the Judges are met
The jury all ranged a terrible show.
Under one or other of these heads I think you will find out the tune and I inclose you a beautiful and illigant copy of new words for it. Don't make them public. But if you find that giving a copy to the Marchioness Wellesley or our friends the Cramptons or the Plunkets or in short where you like and where they will think it a kindness you are under no restraint—the meaning is that you should make a compliment where you like it only it is always best to make it a sort of little mystery and favour—no copies to be given and the like. What people think they cannot easily come by they always consider as a compliment though it is not worth having. It requires almost no setting for I who have no ear or almost none for tune have a perfect ear for time and never wrote a verse in my life for a measure with which I was familiar which was not quite adapted to it. You will observe the tune is usually sung like most scotch tunes too slow and as a sort of dirge. It is this which makes scotch musick be thought generally to want spirit whereas by singing a Scotch tune with more spirit you always have the power of giving feeling to pathetic passages by dwelling on and prolonging them.

Sir Adam was here and sang the Bonnets with great spirit. I trust I will be able to go to Huntly Burn on next Monday and make him perfect in the melody. What a different season is this Christmas from the last. But each had its advantages and its doubts and perplexities.

We will see no one here but the Scotts of Harden and the Fergussons. The former family have Newenhams with them who will be our guests one day next week hoping that I shall please God be able to receive them.
I hope Walter and you will get over in Spring. You should look at Lochore with a view of cutting wood which will otherwise be damaged I think and just to let you both take a look of your property and friends here.

It is now a long time that excepting his pleasant scamper with us through Ireland Walter has not stirred from his regiment and he surely should have leave in his turn like other folks.

We are dull enough here. I am sitting in my little room off the library with Ginger and Spice (you remember them I hope) to keep me company. Nota Bene Spice got into one of the flues of the garden wall to day after a cat and we thought we should have to have open the wall to get out the little spit fire alive. However she was poked out at last. Then Mama and Anne sit at the other end in the little breakfast parlour poking with their noses over the fire and there is our merry Christmas and please ye. Mama and Anne desire kindest love and all the happiness of the New year. God bless you too says old papa and believe me my dear little body. Your most affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 29 December [1825]

I have kept this bye me for eight days being willing to add which I can now safely do that I am in the fairest possible train of getting quite well again.

[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

MY DEAR JAMES,—I have received your melancholy epistle & have sent the notes to London with no certainty
however of their being accepted yet with good hopes.

I will also try to get £500 or £600, here but not upon
bill for it is interdicted to all the agents to lay out large
sums just now. If I get the money I will send it tomorrow
or monday. My remittances in London will come in time
for the 5th & 7th and surely if the £10,000 is to come [at]
all it must be ready for that time. Constables position is
highly uncomfortable. I should mend our own loss with
the backing we have but I hope he will be able to make
some of the large negotiations he talkd of in London
I believe there are too many bills out there Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

Lockhart is importunate with me (in an ill hour) for a
Review of Pepys Diary. Mine I believe is with John
Thomson. I wish [you] could send me per coach that or
another.

I continue quite well.

TO GEORGE HOGARTH, W.S., EDINBURGH

MY DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 2d I only received this
morning for the Bond was returned duly signed. I wrote
you a general letter about the burthens not being aware
of the nature of that which you mentiond in yours of the
Second.
I have no objection to clear away Mosses Bond 1 at Whitsunday and it was part of my own plan to do so. But if Miss Fergusson's 2 are feudally secured which you will know by this time it will be impossible for me to clear them off sooner than at Martinmas 1826 or Whitsunday 1827. You will know by the search whether this is the case or not. I mentioned in my former letter that I meant to pay the Mosses Bond over Kaeside at Martinmas but I can do it at Whitsunday quite as well & will trust myself to do so on receiving your answer by granting such a Missive to Mr Dunlop's purposes. I am almost positive there is no other heritable debt on the property save Mosses. A post or two will be lost by these matters but that is of no importance at present.

The property has cost me more than 50,000 and it agrees as well with my own purpose as with Mr Dunlop's wish that it should not be burthened beyond the extent of 10,000.

I should have been glad to have seen you here but hope that for another time I am Dear Sir—Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT
ABBOTSFORD 4 January [1826]

Laidlaw I find does not return from Yarrow till Friday or Saturday night. The rental shall be sent instantly on his return. After all I think it as well to inclose a Missive if you think the farm will answer—if not I can send a more special one when I see the burthens which actually exist.
DEAR JAMES,—Congratulating you sincerely on mended prospects I send you the Cheque for £ 1450 produce of two of Constables notes payable 24/27 February and 24/27 March which I have marked payable @ Coutts so you will enter them accordingly.

As for Constables people I cannot but think they are sound at bottom and that we run little danger from such temporary assistance as I mentioned in my last. If they do not help the presses henceforward they will be very thankless.

A letter of Hogarth was delayed for a day which postpones the loan I should think for this week. But that is now of less consequence. I am always truly yours.

WALTER SCOTT

Thursday morning [5th January 1826]

It may not be quite politic to let Cadell know quite the extent of your resources lest he should be for laying too much weight on [them?].

[Glencoe]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

MY DEAR JAMES,—I am much obliged by your printers letter. You must be aware circumstances have not been
too favourable for my work of composition. But I will
look over with care the copy and try to attend to your
criticisms.

In respect of your assisting our friends in Princes
Street I am clearly of opinion you should do so as far as
can be done without really endangering yourselves. I
have no doubt of Constables bottom though he I dare say
& know has traded too deep. But I have large sums of
money in advance from them. I have besides valuable
securities over my own copy rights and have every interest in
helping them as far as possible. You will understand
that supposing you have 3000 or by successful discounts
4000 or so clear for february still in the humour of the
banks that may not be more than enough to carry us
through & March I see is heavy. Cadell must therefore
see that we cannot discount bills or afford permanent
assistance with ordinary safety to ourselves. Advancing
sums to meet present exigencies to be repaid at a
time certain is different—We have seen ourselves how
much things turn on a pivot and therefore on a pinch
you should give them all reasonable assistance. In short
Cadell should speak plainly out with the assurance that
we regard their interest as next to ours but yet must for
their sakes and our own take care of our own honour.
This is a difficult negociation I am aware but still you
must encounter it with all its difficulty which if you see
perfect confidence on Mr Cadells part will not I think
be hazardous in the long run. I burthend my estate with

the purpose of relieving in the first place our own
difficulties and therefore what you do must be in the way of
temporary loan which I think we should not deny them.
I have great confidence in Constables making some
Substantial arrangement in London by the means he proposed and we must try to keep them up till that is done. From tomorrow I give my whole time to Woodstock and you working hard at the presses I trust it will be a mine to all of us—Speak to Cadell when he applies to you with perfect openness it is the best for all parties for if he thinks as he must do justly for himself exhausting our resources will not do them any good but great harm.

On the other hand it must be considered that having already advanced 5000 our resources must be held ready for our own purposes and though we will with pleasure impart aid when we can yet in these times Mr Cadell will see that we must preserve the means of answering our own too numerous demands. Most of these affect them as well as us and he must see that reducing our mutual acceptances is serving them as well as us. Where a doubt occurs say you must refer to me. Assistance for days or weeks calculated to suit our own exigencies may be granted but we have it not in our power to place for a length of time any part of our disposable capital at their command [as it] is not in our power with justice to our own engagements—I should be glad if we could do more but being out of our power the same answer must satisfy them which during the last anxious week they have been obliged to apply to us. This is the course of business and common sense and no man understands both better than our friend Cadell.

Your expected balance will also be abated by your paying Dunlop and Hogarth which must be done handsomely when you get the cash.

I expect an answer from Courts tonight but I fear I shall only get it in time for post tomorrow I will try though if the cash comes to forward you the drat. tonight.
I have little more to say except that I hope some of the chances of this world may fling in my way a chance of returning Mr Hogarth's kindness. I remain very truly yours WALTER SCOTT

You will send the Bond to Hogarth immediatly.

5th January Wednesday [1826]

I highly approve of your way of managing with the Banks.

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

The omitted word is "Merovingian" dynasty.

DEAR JAMES,—I have your refreshing letter. I really think nothing serious can occur now—"Especially as for the end of February & March [oodstock] 3000 must be forward" besides that I can get after the present encumbrances are cleared off all reasonable accomodation [for] both at Coutts. No man could have been a stouter and better helmsman than you have shown yourself on this occasion. I am sorry for Constables absurdities yet Cadel & he will not I think part. It is too good a business.

I did not care to tell you that I have been very uncomfortable. The hyasymus which I was obliged to take for the gravel deranged me a good deal and I believe was the cause of some of the inaccuracies of the copy for one day I could neither write nor spell. This is over thank God and I would be quite well did the weather allow of my taking exercize but it is deep snow. I return the
(9-363) proofs & copy for Woodstock. I hope they will not smack of the Apoplexy. Copy for Woodstock by next Blucher.
(9-363) Continue to say how Cadell goes on. I am going to take the hill spite of the snow
Yours truly

(9-363) [5th or 6th January 1826] (1) W. S.
[Walpole]

364 LETTERS OF 1826

TO [JAMES BALLANTYNE]

(9-364) DEAR JAMES,—I received your letter which makes our things thus far and no farther inconvenient [than] that perhaps Mr Dunlop may abridge us of 3000 in order to clear off at Whitsunday the burthens to that extent. I hope however you will get the full 10,000,. I am glad you did not come today as it has all the aspect of a storm. You would get my 1450.

(9-364) I send some copy, I have been indifferent well. Our loan must be in some degree forestalld but if with reasonable assistance from banks it can clear february when things will get better, I am resolved to have Woodstock out & besides can assist materially in March. A little time is all now wanted. Yours truly W SCOTT

(9-364) ABBOTSFORD friday [6th January 1826]

(9-364) I was much obliged to Hogarth for writing. Your plan of the Advocate would not do. Constables behaviour is very strange.

(9-364) Only part of the copy sent has been transcribed. I send all that is done.
TO MAJOR WALTER SCOTT, CHICHESTER

(9-364) MY DEAR WALTER,—I have kept the inclosed by me for more than a week during which I have had very tight attacks of bile with a gravellous tendency and the snow has prevented me from taking exercise which would do me good. It has however worn off of its own accord and I am now quite well again but must take care of myself.

(9-364) The Corke box is arrived very handsome. I inclose my letter of thanks which also I thank [you] to get frankd with its proper titles which the Irish Almanack will give you. The Gentlemans name is Wryon I think but I cannot make out whether he is recorder or Mayor and must trust you to put that to rights. All are well here the Skenes living with us otherwise very quiet. I expect Matthews on Monday 1 and will bring over the Huntley Burnites to share the treat. All well dear boy and join in kindest love. Always with every kind and affectionate wish of the season to Jane and you Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

1826 ABBOTSFD. 7 January 1826

(9-365) I will een beg a frank for Mr Gouldbourne 2 for this packet as you belong to the family.

TO JOHN NICHOLAS WRIXON, MAYOR OF CORK

(9-365) SIR,—I am honoured with your letter, transferring to me the very flattering resolution of the Magistrates
(9-365)presenting me with a certificate of my freedom,
(9-365)accompanied by a Silver Box very beautifully engraved.3

(9-365)It is difficult for me, Sir, to express my feelings in any
(9-365)degree, which shall be correspondent with the distinguished

366 LETTERS OF 1826

(9-366)honour conferred upon me by the ancient city
(9-366)of Cork, and the worthy magistrates and Community.
(9-366)I can only say, that they are in proportion to my sense
(9-366)of the small merit which I could pretend to such a mark
(9-366)of regard, and that I feel much honoured in ascribing to
(9-366)the partial hospitality of Ireland towards strangers, this,
(9-366)as well as many other flattering circumstances, which
(9-366)attended my late visit to your delightful country.

(9-366)My gratitude will long dictate the most sincere good
(9-366)wishes for the prosperity of your ancient and important
(9-366)city, which has so kindly enrolled me among her freemen,
(9-366)and I have the honour to request you will present my
(9-366)sincere and warm acknowledgments to the Magistrates
(9-366)of Cork for the great and acceptable honour.

(9-366)I beg you will also accept my best thanks for the
(9-366)trouble which you have had individually, and that you
(9-366)will believe me, Sir, your much obliged and very humble
(9-366)servant,

WALTER SCOTT

(9-366)ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE, 7th Jan. 1826.

[The Representative, 1826] 1

TO CHARLES SCOTT OF MILSINGTON

(9-366)MY DEAR COUSIN,—I duly received your letter 2
containing the melancholy notice of our good aunt, Mrs Curle's death, which comes not unexpected, and is so far happy that it has come easily. I have been under the charge of Dr Clarkson, of Melrose, lately for a very painful complaint, which he thinks will be rendered worse by travelling in this rigorous season, so that I am unwillingly prevented from attending on to-morrow's melancholy ceremony. I had intended to be there so late as yesterday, & had written to make an appointment with our Cousin Maxpopple, for that purpose, but I find it would really be unsafe, as I was obliged to take calomel last night. I beg my kind respects to the friends who may meet on this occasion, and particularly to your sister & brothers. I am always my dear Cousin, Very truly yours,

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, Monday [9th January 1826]

[Charles Scott]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I have both your packets. Pash in Scotch undoubtedly signifies head especially the head of a large dog or calf. My muckle pash. I will make the entry on the proof.

I have been quite well since my attack only for some time very down-hearted with the calomel another nasty stuff they call hyasymus—and to say truth the silence of my own household which used to be so merry at this time. Latterly we had a visit from the Skenes—Mathews and his son and Scrope 1 —they all left us on friday.
I inclose the article on Pepys. It is totally uncorrected so I wish of course much to see it in proof if possible as it must be dreadfully inaccurate—the opiate was busy with my brain when the beginning was written and as Jas. Ballantyne complained dreadfully so will your printer. I doubt. The subject is like a good sirloin which requires only to be basted with its own drippings. I had little trouble of research or reference. Perhaps I have made it too long or introduced too many extracts—if so use the pruning knife hedge-bill or axe ad libitum. You know I do not care a curse about what I write or what becomes of it.

I thought it right to give Sophia a little paternal caution about engaging again with a pet doctor which next to a pet parson is an abomination. The one would have you believe you cannot preserve your health the other that you cannot save your soul without his assistance and yet folks die and are damned all the same or perhaps somewhat the sooner. Besides if she adopts Fergusson she is to consider that he is a young gay man and in the censorious world where you now live he cannot properly come in the place which Ross used to hold in her estimation. I think this doctor-loving is Sophias most marked foible. I have told her so and now you must look to it a little yourself, both on your account and hers.

Here has been bitter weather. The thermometer was yesterday at 8 1/2 at ten A.M. and today at twelve. It has been always good for walking however so I yoked myself so to speak to Tom Purdie and he drag’d me by highways and byways about three miles through the
(9-368)snow.

(9-368)Tomorrow Snow permitting we get into Edinburgh.
(9-368)Meantime you can expect no news from this place. I saw
(9-368)poor Chiefwood the other day. It will be necessary for
(9-368)you to settle whether James 1 stays or not and let Mr
(9-368)Laidlaw know. Said Cock a pistol sends his humble
(9-368)remembrances. Commend me a thousand times to the
(9-368)magnanimous Johnie. I am happy to hear his new
(9-368)accoutrements sit well and will live in hope he will not
(9-368)greatly miss Marion and the Red cow. Farewell my dear
(9-368)Lockhart never trouble yourself about writing for you
(9-368)have I suspect enough of that upon hand. I am constantly
(9-368)expecting to see the Representative.2

(9-368)Pardon my sending you such an uncombd unwashd

1826 SIR WALTER SCOTT 369

(9-369)thing as the inclosed. I really cannot see nowadays to
(9-369)read my own hand so bad are my eyes or my fingers
(9-369)become. Always yours affectionately

(9-369)WALTER SCOTT

(9-369)ABBOTSFORD 16 January [1826]
[Law]

TO JOHN GIBSON

(9-369)MY DEAR SIR,—I have this morning 1 the very unpleasant
(9-369)news that Constables house must stop payment by which
(9-369)I will be greatly embarasd At the same time I have so
(9-369)many hypothecs upon my works done & to be done that
(9-369)I hope I may work through without great ultimate loss.
Mr Hogarth who manages the matters of Ballantyne & Co and knows the whole affairs personally will explain them to you.

Yours truly, WALTER SCOTT


TO J. G. LOCKHART

Postmark: Jan 20, 1826

My DEAR LOCKHART,—I have your kind letter: whenever I heard that Constable had made a Cessio fori by dishonouring a bill of mine I thought it became me to make public how far I was or was not concerned in these matters and to offer my fortune so far as it was justifiable and the completion of my literary engagements the better thing almost of the two to make good engagements for myself and Ballantyne & Co and even supposing that

Constable & Co and Hurst & Robinson do not repay me a penny of upwards of £30,000 which they owe me or which I must pay for them my old age will be far from destitute and my family not ill provided for even if my right hand should lose its cunning. This is the very worst that can befall me. But I have little doubt that with ordinary management their affairs will turn out favourably if they are left under their own management and brought to market quietly. It is needless to add that I will not engage myself either for £20,000 or £2000 or £200,1 I have advanced enough already to pay other folks debts and will pay my own while I have the ample
means. If our friend Constable had set out a fortnight earlier for London nothing of this would have happened but he let the hour of distress precede the hour of provision and he and others must pay for it. Yet do not hint this to him poor fellow it is an infirmity of nature.

I have made my matters public and have had splendid offers of assistance all of which I have declined for I would rather bear my own burden than subject myself to obligation or ask the assistance of friends. There is but one way in such cases.

You will of course see I have taken my ground which is to put my affairs for the present into the hands of John Gibson till they are read out. I have the means to lay down 15000 which but for circumstances should have been twenty thousand which J. B. and I had prepared if these two great houses could have carried on their own concerns.

It is easy no doubt for any friend to blame me for entering into connexion in commercial matters at all. But I wish to know what I could have done better in 1806 excluded from the bar by my being a clerk of Session and deprived of all emolument for six years by my colleagues prolonged life. Literature was not then what poor Constable has made it and with my little capital of 2000 or 2500 of principal I was too glad to make commercially the means of supporting my family. I got 600 for the Lay of the Last Minstrel and (a price which made mens hairs stand on end) 1000 for Marmion. I have been far from suffering by Ballantyne. I owe it to him to say that his difficulties are owing to me—to be
(9-371)sure so are his advantages which will greatly predominate.

(9-371)I trusted too much to Constable's assurances of his
(9-371)Correspondents and his own stability but yet I believe
(9-371)he was only sanguine but he got about 7000 from me
(9-371)under the idea that the support would carry them through
(9-371)—various things give me good security for that and other
(9-371)sums. Indeed the upshot is just on what H. & R. and
(9-371)Constable may be able to pay me. If 15/ in the pound
(9-371)I will not complain of my loss for I have gained many
(9-371)thousands in my day. But while I live I shall regret the
(9-371)downfall of Constables house for never did there or can
(9-371)there exist so liberal so intelligent and so trustworthy an
(9-371)establishment. They went too far that is certain when
(9-371)money was plenty. Yet if every author in Britain had
(9-371)taxd himself half a years income he should have kept up

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(9-372)the House which first broke in upon the monopoly of the
(9-372)London Trade and made letters what it now is.

(9-372)I have had visits from all the monied people offering
(9-372)their purses and those who are creditors sending their
(9-372)managers and treasurers to assure me of joining in and
(9-372)adopting any measures. I am glad of this for their sake
(9-372)and my own for though I shall not desire to steer yet I
(9-372)am the only person that can conn as Lieut Hatchway
(9-372)says to any good purpose. A very odd anonymous offer
(9-372)I had of a loan for 30,000 which I rejected as I did every
(9-372)other. Unless I die I will beat up against this foul
(9-372)weather—a penny I will not borrow from any one since
(9-372)my creditors are content to be patient. I have the means
(9-372)perfectly and sufficient confidence to resort to them.

(9-372)I would have given a good deal to have avoided the
(9-372)coup d'eclat but that having taken place I would not give
(9-372)sixpence for any other results. I fear you will think I am
(9-372)writing in heat of excited resistance to bad fortune but
(9-372)dear Lockhart I am as calm and temperate as you ever
(9-372)saw me and working at Woodstock like a very tiger. I
(9-372)am grieved for Lady S— and Anne who cannot conceive
(9-372)Adversity can have the better of them even for a moment:
(9-372)if it teaches a little of the frugality which I have never
(9-372)had the heart to enforce when money was plenty and it
(9-372)seemed cruel to interrupt the enjoyment of it in the way
(9-372)they liked best it will be well.

(9-372)In consequence of Messrs. Constable not taking up
(9-372)their bills and not repaying their loans to me the copy
(9-372)rights of two or three works return to me which must be
(9-372)worth much cash.

(9-372)I hope you got my article. Yours dear Lockhart
(9-372)affectionately WALTER SCOTT

(9-372)Kindest Love to Sophia and tell her to study the song 2

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(9-373)and keep her spirits up. Tyne I heart Tyne all and it is
(9-373)making more of money than it is worth to grieve about it—
(9-373)Kiss Johnie for me.

[Law]

TO ROBERT CADELL

(9-373)DEAR SIR,—If you go out this morning I wish you
(9-373)would give me a call in passing. But do not interrupt any
(9-373)business as I have nothing to say beyond a wish to know
(9-373)how things go on.
I had a letter from Constable last night which as it came open I presume you saw. He seems to cling to his London scheme which so far as I am concerned cannot be executed. I am Dear Sir Very truly yours.

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET, Saturday [21st January 1826]

MY DEAR CONSTABLE,—I received yours and am truly glad to see you can sustain your spirits under these calamities so unexpected when we last parted. I trust Messrs Hurst & Robinson will find the means of going on. With respect to myself whenever the secrecy of the matter was ended and I was obliged to consult my friends & ask for time all that I would have wished to have concealed was made known and therefore I will make no further struggle as it would serve no purpose but to render uncertain my personal funds & make me perhaps an insolvent instead of an indebted person—From what I hear they are about to sequestrate Constable & Co and will certainly do so unless you can come down & show them from your experience that their interest lies a different way. I am clear that a good trustee & time might save much money to the creditors & that an accountant who will throw all into the market will suit the interest of all parties better. I or you might be able to assure them a good composition. At any rate I fear your interest now lies here rather than in London & that do Hurst &
(9-374) Robinson what they like the Princes Street Establishment
(9-374) will be destroyd root and branch—Mr Cadell is very
(9-374) gloomy about it and so am I. But it is impossible for him
(9-374) or I to help it.

(9-374) For myself be my loss lighter or heavier I will bear it
(9-374) manfully. Woodstock will be on the Counter in a month
(9-374) and you shall see that neither frost nor foul weather shall
(9-374) abate the spirit of Dear Constable yours truly

(9-374) EDINR. 21 January [PM. 1826]        WALTER SCOTr

(9-374) Every body has been kinder to me than another
(9-374) especially the Banking gentlemen. But it is a sad thing
(9-374) for a proud man to need that sort of kindness.

[Stevenson]

1826          SIR WALTER SCOTT              375

TO JAMES SKENE OF RUBISLAW

(9-375) DEAR SKENE,—If you are disposed for a walk in your
(9-375) gardens I any time this morning, I would gladly accompany
(9-375) you for an hour, since keeping the house so long
(9-375) begins rather to hurt me, and you, who supported the
(9-375) other day the weight of my body, are perhaps best
(9-375) disposed to endure the gloom of my mind.—Yours ever,
(9-375) W. S.

(9-375) CASTLE STREET, 23 January [PM. 1826]

(9-375) I will call when you please. All hours after twelve are
(9-375) the same to me.

[Skene-Tytler]
TO ROBERT SHORTREED, JEDBURGH

(9-375) My DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in sending you Pringles appointment. Pray lose no time in attending to what Mrs Coutts letter directs. Let me know the wish you have about his settlement and I will get the matter settled without delay. The most unhappy and unexpected failure of Constable which will to a certain degree involve poor Ballantyne will make me a great loser but I have been a great gainer also and I must be patient live at less expense and work harder. Doing so two or three years will make me as good or better than I was.

(9-375) My kind compliments to Mrs Shortreed and family.
(9-375) I am very glad that if I have been a losing gamester myself I have still the means to succour my friends. Yours truly

(9-375) CASTLE STREET 23 January 1826

(9-375) You sent me an attestation of age &c. Better send another as Mrs Coutts may have lost that I sent her.

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(9-376) Amid much personal vexation my dear good friend I am truly glad to have this off my conscience.

[Fleming]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW, KAESIDE, MELROSE

[EDINBURGH, January 26, 1826]

(9-376) MY DEAR WILLIE,—I wrote to you some days since, but from yours by the carrier I see my letter has not reached
It does not much signify, as it was not, and could not be, of any great consequence until I see how these untoward matters are to turn up. Of course, everything will depend on the way the funds of the great house in London, and those of Constable here, shall turn out. Were they to be ultimately good, or near it, this would pass over my head with little inconvenience. But I think it better to take the worst point of view, and suppose that I do not recover from them above five shillings in the pound; and even in that case, I am able to make a proposal to my creditors, that if they allow me to put my affairs into the hands of a private trustee, or trustees, and finish the literary engagements I have on hand, there is no great chance of their being ultimate losers. This is the course I should choose. But if they wish rather to do what they can for themselves, they will, in that case, give me a great deal of pain, and make a great deal less of the funds. For, it is needless to say, that no security can make a man write books, and upon my doing so—completing those on hand—depends the instant payment of a large sum. I have no reason to apprehend that any of the parties concerned are blind to their interest in this matter. I have had messages from all the banks, &c., offering what assistance they could give, so that I think my offer will be accepted. Indeed, as they cannot sell Abbotsford, owing to its being settled in Walter's marriage contract, there can be little doubt they will adopt the only way which promises, with a little time, to give them full payment, and my life may, in the meanwhile, be insured. My present occupations completed, will enable me to lay down, in the course of the summer, at least 20,000 of good cash, which, if things had remained sound among the booksellers, would have
put me on velvet.

The probable result being that we must be accommodated with the delay necessary, our plan is to sell the house and furniture in Castle Street, and Lady S. and Anne to come to Abbotsford, with a view of (economizing, while I take lodgings in Edinburgh, and work hard till the Session permits me to come out. All our farming operations must, of course, be stopped so soon as they can with least possible loss, and stock, &c., disposed of. In short, everything must be done to avoid outlay. At the same time, there can be no want of comfort. I must keep Peter and the horses for Lady Scott's sake, though I make sacrifices in my own [case]. Bogie, I think, we will also keep, but we must sell the produce of the garden. As for Tom, he and I go to the grave together. All idle horses, &c., must be dispensed with.

For you, my dear friend, we must part—that is, as laird and factor—and it rejoices me to think that your patience and endurance, which set me so good an example, are like to bring round better days. You never flattered my prosperity, and in my adversity it is not the least painful consideration that I cannot any longer be useful to you. But Kaeside, I hope, will still be your residence; and I will have the advantage of your company and advice, and probably your services as amanuensis. Observe, I am not in indigence, though no longer in affluence; and if I am to exert myself in the common behalf, I must have honourable and easy means of life, although it will be my inclination to observe the most strict privacy, both to save expense and also time; nor do we propose to see any one but yourself and the Fergusons.

I will be obliged to you to think over all these matters;
also whether anything could be done in leasing the saw-
mill, or Swanston working it for the public. I should
like to keep him if I could. I imagine they must leave
me my official income, which, indeed, is not liable to be
attached. That will be a 1600 a year, but there is
Charles's College expenses come to 300 at least. I can
add, however, 200 or 300 without interrupting serious
work. Three or four years of my favour with the publick,
if my health and life permit, will make me better off than
ever I have been in my life. I hope it will not
inconvenience the Miss Smiths to be out of their money for a
little while. It is a most unexpected chance on my part.

All that I have said is for your consideration and
making up your mind, for nothing can be certain till we
hear what the persons principally concerned please to
say. But then, if they accede to the trust, we will expect
to have the pleasure of seeing you here with a list of stock
and a scheme of what you think best to be done. My
purpose is that everything shall be paid ready money
from week to week.

I have 180 to send to you, and it is in my hands. Of
course it will be paid, but I am unwilling to send it until
I know the exact footing on which I am to stand. The
gentleman whom I wish should be my trustee—or one of
them—is John Gibson, W.S., the Duke's factor.

Lady Scott's spirits were affected at first, but she is
going better. For myself, I feel like the Eildon Hills—
quite firm, though a little cloudy. I do not dislike the
path which lies before me. I have seen all that society
can shew, and enjoyed all that wealth can give me, and
I am satisfied much is vanity, if not vexation of spirit.
What can I say more except that I will write to you the instant I know what is to be done. In the mean time it is only necessary to say I am arranging my affairs, and mean to economise a good deal, and I will pay every man his due. I have not forgot Toms [ ] 50.—Yours truly,

[Ballantyne and Notanda] WALTER SCOTT

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26 4 o'clock.

I have the pleasure to say that at a great meeting of the people chiefly concerned it was resolved that the matters should be conducted by a private trust and on the principles I had proposed. Sir William Forbes took the Chair and behaved like himself.

TO CAPTAIN WALTER SCOTT, STEVENS GREEN, DUBLIN

[PM. 26 Jan 1826]

DEAR WALTER,—I am truly sorry to write what will give you pain to read but an event has taken place which in a worldly point of view has carried away a most serious proportion of my worldly goods. This is the sudden and most unexpected Bankruptcy of Constable and Company here and their Agents and correspondents Hurst and Robinson in London both within these three weeks accounted the largest houses in London and Edinburgh and the most safe. They had in their hands many engagements of mine for which I had wrought hard and will now not only not get a farthing but be obliged to pay back the cash I have received. How their affairs
will turn out is uncertain but I look to be a great loser and may perhaps be so further than I at present calculate. It is hard at my hour of life. But as every body here is inclined to give me time I must hope that I will make a good fight. I am not afraid of any body losing a penny and I trust with good management I may even save my land though it will be by reducing my scale of expence very much. But I would give up much rather than part with Abbotsford and as Janes provisions are safely secured on and I have some funds to bring almost [sic] I think what has cost me so much money may be saved to you and yours. At least I will make a gallant fight. I was loth to write you these unpleasing tidings till I could say something certain but I cannot now stay longer. It is cruel to think that a little arrangement might have prevented all this. I urged Constable to go to London a month since and get cash which he easily could then have done to meet his engagements but he lingered here till it was too late I then went post and to no purpose. Jeffrey has also lost a great deal I am told. But I shall be the greater sufferer have left bonds in their hands which should have been paid off by them many years since but which not very fairly they kept up paying the interest regularly so that I never knew of their existence.

Mama and Anne are as you may [have] supposed distressd enough. I had so little idea of wanting money for my own purposes that I had been lending it for the relief of others. Many resources remain however if I live and keep in good health and to live a little more tranquil and private will relieve me of a great plague of company as well as expence. If it were not for the Court
of Session I could go abroad for a year or two for it will be awkward living at Abbotsford like mice under a firtlet as we must do for two years at the very least.

You will probably blame me in this matter for remissness and certainly I do not mean entirely to exculpate myself. But for many years I had made many thousand pounds through this house was honestly treated by them and therefore was induced certainly to leave a great deal too much money at their disposal. My own affairs were in good order and I had borrowd as I informd you a large sum to meet any pressing contingencies greater part of which they contrived to get hold of as I was obliged to support their credit if possible rather than [sic]. My spirits are unshaken by this misfortune. I am working away and luckily have in my own hands the price of my present labour. I will thus if the public do not throw me off have a very large sum to assist me in the necessary payments and to induce those who have other claims to have patience. All the monied people concernd have offerd me the greatest civilities but a little patience is all I shall ask and in two or three years please God I will be my own man again unless Constables affairs turn out dreadful indeed. I have put my affairs entirely into Mr John Gibsons hands and shall not meddle further than to supply the cash for clearing them out as fast as I can.

My Love to poor Jane. This will put an end to the petits cadeaux for some time but good days will come back. She will of course understand that all her jointure &c are quite secure and cannot be affected by my mishap. I will write to you when I can say any thing more certain.
You will be poorer at my death perhaps and perhaps not for if any thing can make me a miser this luckless mishap will.

Adieu. I am sorry to tell you these news. But let not your heart be cast down for the loss of worlds gear while I remain to replace what is lost. It is as well after all (supposing them to fail at last) that it has happend now for very large sums coming in for my two next books have thus been kept out of their clutches. Always in comfort or discomfort your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

I have declined assistance from every one being determined to work myself out of the scrape as I got into it.

I have your letter and Janes. I suppose you will not expect a gay answer at present.

TO JAMES SKENE

[26th January 1826]

MY DEAR SKENE,—A thousand thanks for your most kind proposal. I But I am a solitary monster by temper, and must necessarily couch in a den of my own. I should not, I assure you, have made any ceremony in accepting your offer had it at all been like to suit me.

But I must make an arrangement which is to last for years, and perhaps for my lifetime; therefore the sooner
I place myself on my footing it will be so much the better.

— Always, dear Skene, your obliged and faithful,

W. SCOTT

[Skene - Tytler and Journal]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I write immediatly to thank you for your kind letter just received. I can say very little about our affairs but look for Constable turning out as bad as possible. Such at least is the rumour whether exaggerated that they may transact with their creditors or sincere I know not. Cadell told me their gross profits were repeatedly 10,000 a year but with many drawbacks and complains that Constable overdrew while he himself lived at 500 a year. Cadell would not let me know what his determination was. Constable showd an eager desire to go on if possible. My countenance is indispensible if they do go on so I may find an opportunity of hedging some of my losses which at all events will be very large. Abbotsford

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

cannot be brought to sale being hamperd with Walters contract of marriage. What the parties concernd will do I know not. If they permit me to pay my debts by a private trust I can bring large funds into the market which judging from what has been the case before must realize 20,000 and upwards in a few months—if they chuse to proceed by legal measures I will take my legal defences for I will involve no friend in my loss. They cannot in that case expect me to write books for them. In a commercial point of view the latter proceeding would be far most adviseable for me but according to my own feelings unutterably repugnant so I shall pray them to
take full payment as if I were asking a favour.

Our little schemes are partially formd. Lady S. and Anne intend to go to Abbotsford and I am to lett or sell this house I and get lodgings at the Albyn Club or some genteel privacy as Bobadil says for I calculate I will be no visitor and little visited. What a relief it would have been to have had one of your Attics and to have seen affectionate faces at my daily meal which must now be solitary enough. But this is the only plan I can think of to secure Lady S. some of the comforts which habit has renderd necessaries and indifferent health clings to as such.

About the real extent of my loss it is impossible to calculate till we see what Constable will pay and what security my copy rights &c give me over him. I look on the concern as a very bad one and would at present be glad of 5/ in the pound. Constable is trying to get things afloat but I doubt his finding support. I have no hesitation to say in your ear (for the letting out such a thing would do infinite prejudice) that with all his great profits sometimes up to $10,000 gross in the year I shall not be surprized to find they have never recoverd the draughts which Hunters 2 trustees made on their stock. Still it is a mystery—for they never sustaind any loss of consequence and Cadell brought in a large sum of money. He and Constable are at daggers drawing and recriminate bitterly on each other.

As for myself I look with perfect firmness and calmness on the life before me and though I have no delight in the circumstances which have led me to adopt it yet in respect
of the life itself I like it well. I shall get rid of company of every kind from Dukes to canvas daubers for when the kitchen and cellar fail there will and shall be an end of the hospitalities of Abbotsford against which I make my determinations at any rate. I will see the dispersed members of my family sometimes and I have two of them with me for seven months in the year. I will neither give nor take invitations of any kind and withdraw myself from public places entirely as you know I rarely frequent them.

I shall have Abbotsford to walk about Tom 2 to lead me and a pony to carry me. We will keep Pepi 3 and the old horses if by any sacrifice it is possible and study must be at once my amusement and my business as indeed it has always been. For I never knew the day that I would have given up literature for ten times my late income. The success of my efforts I must consider as more precarious than my friends are willing to admit. The public are apt to desert folks when their back is at the wall—If I succeed in my labours I shall in time recover all that I have lost—if not bread I shall eat or white or brown and I trust will at least leave no debt behind me. Ill health may also follow ill fortune but that I do not greatly apprehend my constitution is so good. I will let you know the instant the Creditors have settled on their line of conduct.

I wish Sophia would see about little Walters 4 things and would like to know when he sails. I must equip him now in the most moderate way consistent with decency and cannot do by him so well as I would: it shall be however as well as I can.
How I am glad your good fortune has carried you to London before these reverses had happened as they must have embittered parting and made it resemble the boat leaving the sinking ship.

I am afraid you will suffer about the Shakespeare but surely you will have retention on the book so far as it has gone for recompense of your labour.

I am with kindest compliments to Sophia and good and kind wishes to poor Johnie. Very truly and affectionately yours WALTER SCOTT

Do not let Johnie forget poor old Hapapa.

EDINBURGH 26 January [PM. 1826]

Talking of the Review can you help me to the place where [I] found the curious passage about the pickling the quarters of criminals tempore Caroli secundi and the blow out which the Hangman gave on the occasion. It was the Retrospective review perhaps.

I am sorry to send away an unsatisfactory letter but I think you would be glad to know that I feel as firm as the Eildon-hill though a little cloudey about the head now and then like him. My mind tells me I will get above these things in two or three years.

"And still I'll welcome—but with less of cost."

Last and pleasant accounts. The creditors have had a meeting and [in] the handsomest manner agreed to proceed by private trust which will be instantly carried through. Sir William Forbes was in the chair and
(9-386) friendly as he always is. The meeting was unanimous in recommending a handsome allowance for the family ad interim.

[Law]

TO MRS. JOBSON, SHANDWICK PLACE

(9-386) DEAR MRS JOBSON,—You have probably heard and perhaps with the usual exaggeration of such things that I have lost a large sum by Mr Constable's failure which is so far too true. I have been fortunately able to arrange it in a manner which will not be inconvenient to me by selling my property here and living entirely at Abbotsford & some other family arrangements which if God gives me life and health will in four or five years do more than regain all I have lost. It is scarce necessary to say that the young people can be in no way affected by my loss except that papa may not be so able to spare them a few hundreds. His time however will come round again also and I have reason to hope the book-sellers will pay pretty well But I think it is wise to look at the very worst. At all events it is a great comfort to me to know that Walter & Jane will succeed to my property when I am called home according to their settlement and without any share in my misfortunes. My other children are well provided for and the only thing will be that I must myself live economically for a few years which indeed I would I should [sic] make my choice at any rate. I did not think it necessary till I should know exactly what is to happen to trouble you with these affairs. I heard from Walter last week all at Dublin excellently well. I am dear Madam Your most respectful humble Servt WALTER SCOTT
CASTLE STREET 27 January 1826

I will have the pleasure of calling and explaining any thing further on the subject you may wish to know. Do you know where Sir Adam is.

Bayley

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW,

[Extract]

MY DEAR WILLIE,—I inclose two Bank notes for 100 each which I trust will reach you safely. This sum will according to your letter of 16 currt added to the draught on Craig pay all the accompts about Selkirk, Galashiels & Melrose which should be done without delay. There will remain 20 towards the book, wages etc. Perhaps your coming so soon as Monday will be unnecessary for although [those] here who are interested have with unanimity gone into the arrangements I proposed, yet there are other creditors whose consent must be had and who reside at a distance. There is no reason however to apprehend that any thing will go wrong after the powerful recommendation of the meeting of yesterday & the common sense of the thing. In the meantime however you must look sharp to discharge or prepare for discharging such hands as can be spared & get through such jobs as should not be left unfinishd. You know our wants etc better than we do ourselves and will help us of course to arrange our affairs in present and future.

You must consider that Abbotsford will be our constant
(9-387) residence. When here I shall be in lodgings. It will be best to begin upon the [most] moderate scale that is practicable for it is easy to let out a reef but difficult to take one in and it will be far less painful to Lady Scott the person whose feelings will suffer most to have the restrictions of her department settled at once. I don't care a farthing except for her sake.

(9-387) The woods must be thought of however. I grieve to think of parting with some of the old men. Yet it must be and we must limit ourselves within a very small number. I think the sale of such fruit as we are like to have may go far to keep up the garden.

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When you come to town I wish you to bring the 3d. Vol of Mrs. Afra Behn's plays which the catalogue will point out to you. It is in the press on the left of Shakespeare which is almost entirely full of the drama.—Yours truly W SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 27 January [PM. 1826]

In the hurry of the time I have had no time to say to George Thompson that I applied to Lord Robert Kerr about the place at the Military Academy & that I understand they are not to teach the classics there for interfering with other establishments.

[Ballantyne]

TO [JOHN CAM HOBHOUSE, WHITTON PARK, HOUNSLOW] 3

SIR,—I am almost ashamed that personal business of
my own though involving a considerable part of my fortune should have prevented me for a single post from replying to your very interesting communication.

I will be most happy to contribute any thing in my power to show the high veneration I entertain for Lord Byrons brilliant genius and deep sense I entertain of the friendship with which he always regarded me.

I have just accomplishd a settlement of the affairs I alluded to under conditions which will greatly limit my power of doing what last month I would cheerfully have done in such a case and therefore it would not I think be fitting that my name should stand among the committee.

But I put myself in your hands as to this only saying that though my subscription must be in proportion to my power rather than my inclination if there is any thing else in which I could be of the slightest use whether I am one of the Committee or not it will give me the highest pleas[e]. I am Sir with respect Your most obedient humble Servant WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 27 January [1826]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

MY DEAR LOCKART [sic],—I can say very little more than was in my last. I believe there is little doubt that the gentlemen concernd will all go into the arrangement which was accepted on thursday by all who could be brought together. So that I know the worst of my matters and though I may hope I certainly have nothing
further to fear. Abbotsford remains with me which attachd as I am to the place I have made prevents a great and severe pang. For what could I do without Tom Purdie and the dogs and Will. Laidlaw who though no longer a steward will I hope remain our neighbour at Kaeside especially as I can employ him as an amanuensis if I find he can stand the fatigue.

I believe also the arrangement made will be of great consequence to Lady Scott who would not like to be let down in Edinr. and who has in the country the means of living comfortably. We intend to keep Bogie and sell the fruits of the tree of the garden beyond our own use. The difference is between a retreat with becoming dignity and a rout on the field of battle I mean with respect for the ladies for me I do not care a farthing about the appearance of things in comparaison to the reality. For my part every thing beyond the merest necessaries will feel uncomfortable to me and you will find me turnd to a very miser till these things are clear. Otherwise I dont care much about the matter now the coup d'eclat is over. Some in chariots and some on horses and so forth. Be-sides I have enough left for all useful and comfortable purposes and now my wife is reconciled to the matter I am as much [of] a mind to live even with minute oeconomy were that necessary as ever I was to be more lavish than I like for naturally when I think on such things at all I am rather narrow.

I have neglected an answer to a letter of poor Gray — chiefly because I do not well know what to say to him. He wants an introduction from me to Heber to get an introduction from him to the Bishop of Calcutta. Now
I am shy of giving an introduction to a cock-braind unsettled man of this kind whom I commiserate very much but whom I still think not a person for whom I could in any shape pledge myself to a friend especially such a friend as either Reginald or Richard Heber who undoubtedly try to do something for him by which in all probability I should come to disgrace. I do not like to make him bearer of Bellerophons letters stating him what he really is and yet in the East. If you have made Hebers acquaintance and could explain to him exactly in what degree I wish the introduction to be understood as for a clever learnt and I believe most well intentiond man—but for a Chaplain—good lack! I might give him an introduction cum grano which would be of real advantage but a general recommendation would bring us both into a scrape and is what I cannot do for him. I suppose he has found you out by this time.

We relishd the Representative very much. Try to select as much as you can a separate point of fire for different days not to be too much de omni scibili in one number. But I see you are doing so.

31 January

I have your letter of 28 Current yesterday. If Mr Robinson wishes a distinct view of the affairs of the parties here he must prosecute his intentions of coming down. I do not like to write on such things from hearsay but I know Constables creditors have had a meeting and named a committee who are to report against a day this week. Mr Constable talks of making some terms for going on but how or whether this is possible I know not. Ballantyne
certainly will not go on though with him there is not any doubt of their paying every thing. They were in complete credit and had cash and discountable assets for all their demands till the stoppage of these two great houses made it impossible for them to go on and their next proposal must be to pay as they can for which they have made the best arrangements in their power and such as have contented all the parties concernd. All shall be shown to Mr Robinson if he comes down as proposed.

I shall be very glad if any arrangement can be made to allow both Constable and Hurst & R. or one or other of them the disposal of the new works but you are aware it will depend upon others not on me and upon a curious settlement with Constables House or creditors in which if they give me harsh measure I will be of course obliged to withdraw the Goodwill which I have hitherto exercised. They also talk of money down. The first work will be out in march. As I said before I will be glad that it goes in the old channels though I cannot afford them so good a bargain as formerly. It is wonderful how much I am familiarized with my unpleasant situation. Gad I think I rather like it if the ladies could bear it better but they feel the want of things indifferent to me as abridgements in equipage housekeeping and so forth. I believe they would rather chuse the reality of poverty and the show of wealth than the reverse. Now we have plenty for comfort and many of the elegancies of life besides all its necessaries. But this is not petticoat philosophy and besides I am writing over again what I said in the first page for the letter lay by me for three days. A thousand loves to Sophia and dear Johnie whom kiss for me. Ever yours WALTER SCOTT
I have no objection to Mr Robinson seeing the business part of this letter. Constables house talk of sending up a Clerk to him. I told Constable I thought Mr Robinson had much better come down and see all the principals. I did not judge it proper to say any thing further of the contents of your letter than that I had heard that Mr Robinson thought of coming down. J. Ballantyne unites with me in wishing that he should.

[PM. 31st January 1826]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

MY DEAR JAMES,—I am glad you see the thing in the true light Of me you are sure that if the Law gave me any undue advantage as I know none it can give I would renounce it voluntarily. The inclosed 1 was what I wishd to show you. How Hurst & Robinson can [hold] so many of our acceptances unless endorsed by Constable I cannot guess. I shall advise Robinson to come down without delay. But I will not close the letter till I hear from you. Of course I will keep very vague on Constables affairs. As for our paying our acceptances regularly & conveniently their own Stop & that of Constable have made it impossible. In time I hope & trust they may be all paid—that is if the public stand friend—were one confident of that no long span labouring as I have laboured of late would make us freemen of the forest & better than ever we were Yours truly W SCOTT

If you chuse instead of writing to call in the Evening
TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[February or March 1826]

MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,—I had been long meditating writing you a letter but probably should have paid it off with thinking about it like the parrot in the show had not your kind letter just received made it an absolute act of ingratitude to suspend my purpose any longer. Woes me if any of my friends judge of my regard by my regularity as a correspondent for partly having much necessarily to write partly from the gradual but very sensible failure of my eyes and partly from a touch of original sin which often prevents me from doing the very thing I ought to do I have become a very irregular and unworthy letter writer.

The circumstances which have given you such friendly anxiety I am not Stoic enough to treat with disregard. But it is not [my] nature to look upon what cant be helped with any anxious or bitter remembrances. My good fortune so far as wealth is concerned was exactly like the motions of the Kings of Brentford "Ere a pot of good ale you could swallow (I mean I not you) It came with a whoop tis gone with a hollo.

The fact is I belong to that set of philosophers who ought
to be called Nymmites after their good founder Corporal Nym and the fundamental maxim of whose school is "things must be as they may." And so let that matter rest things past cure should be past care. I trust I shall do well enough even if the blackening aspect of affairs in this country should bring a further and more wreckful storm which is not at present at all unlikely. I had plenty of offers you may believe of assistance and poor Jane preferred her whole fortune as if she had been giving a gooseberry. But what I have done foolishly I will bear the penance of wisely and take the whole on my own shoulders. Lady Scott is not a person that cares much about fortune and as for Beatrice she amuses herself very well with her altered prospects for with a sort of high persiflage which she never got from me she has a very generous and independent disposition.

As for Lockhart London will suit him much better than Edinburgh. He will be obliged to lay aside his hidalgo silence and exert himself a little in society and I am glad to learn he takes the trouble to do so. He has now a great stake to play for his talents are of a nature singularly applicable to whatever is before him and he has a great fund of acquired information and Sophia is in every respect a safe and prudent helpmate. I have often laughed at the heterogeneous group which we composed during our most delightful travels.

ABBOTSFORD 30th April

This letter was written as far as above more than two months since. But I have since had great family distress which the circumstance you allude to has made me avoid writing unless where circumstances made it absolutely
(9-395)necessary. Sophia when expecting soon to be confined
(9-395)was obliged to go down to Brighton with little Johnie
(9-395)whose natural weakness has resolved itself into a complaint
(9-395)in the spine to cure which the poor child has to lie
(9-395)on his back constantly and there was the great risque that
(9-395)he might be called for before Sophias confinement. Then
(9-395)came her being rather prematurely delivered of an infant
(9-395)whose health was at his birth very precarious although
(9-395)thank God he seems now doing well. To complete this
(9-395)sum of domestic distress is Lady Scotts extreme bad health
(9-395)which though better than it was is still as precarious as
(9-395)possible. Her complaint is of water on the chest and
(9-395)the remedy is fox glove which seems a cure rather worse
(9-395)than most diseases. Yet she sustains both the disease and
(9-395)the remedy to the surprize of medical persons—But—
(9-395)I will not write more about it. As to my pecuniary loss
(9-395)by Constable it is not worth mentioning and we have fair
(9-395)prospects that the business may be weathered without
(9-395)much ultimate loss of any kind. The political letters
(9-395)were merely a whim that took about a day each. Of
(9-395)Woodstock the best I know is that it has been sold for
(9-395)8400 instead of 3000 which Constable was to have given me.1 The people are mad but that in the present
(9-395)circumstances is their affair and the publishers do not
(9-395)complain.

(9-395)I am deeply sorry for Mr Jephsons sudden death and
(9-395)feel much interested for his family I have scarce seen a

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(9-396)man I liked so much on short acquaintance he had so
(9-396)much good sense accomplishment and thorough gentlemanlike
(9-396)manners. Depend upon it I will do what I can
(9-396)for the subscription I think the book should have been
(9-396)twenty shillings the usual price of an octavo and it should
(9-396) be printed well and on good paper. I beg you will
(9-396) immediately put down the following names

(9-396) Lady Scott of Abbotsford 2 copies
(9-396) Miss Scott of Abbotsford 1
(9-396) Charles Scott Brazen Nose College Oxford 1
(9-396) J G Lockhart Esq Pall Mall London 1
(9-396) Mrs J Lockhart 1
(9-396) Hugh Scott Esq of Harden 1
(9-396) Mrs Scott of Harden 1
(9-396) Lieut Colonel Fergusson 1
(9-396) William Scott Younger of Raeburn 1
(9-396) Capt Walter Scott of Lochore Kings Hussars 1
(9-396) Mrs Scott of Lochore 1
(9-396) Sir W Scott 6

(9-396) I will be responsible for and will remit the money when
(9-396) I get to Edinburgh as despatch in such cases is always
(9-396) useful. I have no doubt I may pick up a score of names
(9-396) more if you will send me a subscription list.

(9-396) In general I am resolute in subscribing only for myself
(9-396) because I cannot think of asking my friends to subscribe
(9-396) to the numerous applications which I do not think myself
(9-396) entitled to decline. But this is a very different question.

(9-396) I am concerned to say that I do not think there is the
(9-396) most distant probability of success at Edinburgh in the
(9-396) line Mrs Jephson proposes though I am happy to think
(9-396) it may answer better in Bath. We are a poor people and
(9-396) in families of consideration our estates are almost
(9-396) uniformly strictly settled on heirs male therefore the mother
(9-396) has to keep the female chickens under her own wing and
(9-396) those of good account are generally desirous of bringing
(9-396) them out themselves and their connections enable them
(9-396) to do so. Those again who are very wealthy desire
sometimes London education for their daughters. In short there does not exist amongst us the stile of young ladies who can give for such advantages as I am sure Mrs Jephson would assure them any thing like 200 or 250 a year. Our eldest sons get our estates—our younger become lawyers go to India or into the army our girls live at home while Mama can keep house on her jointure get husbands if they can and if not do as they can on the interest of 1500 or 2000. The elder brother is in general an honest fellow but embarassed with debt he keeps his sisters in his house if his wife is not cross and a sort of half family pride half family affection carries the thing through but for paying large pensions it is not in the nature of things. Besides though young Englishmen or Irishmen get easily into good society in Edinburgh it is I think more difficult for ladies to do so unless with some strong recommendation as fortunes or talents or accomplishments or something. In short I see no hope in that scheme. The melancholy resource of a boarding school for young ladies might succeed but the rates have been always kept very low at Edinburgh so as to make it miserable work. My kind love to your brothers and sisters I hope Mrs Fox will make you all a lucky present with good fortune to herself. Walter and Jane have been jointly and severally threaten[ing] a descent upon Edgeworthstown from Athlone but they are both really bashful as to doing what they should do and so Don Whiskerandos and the lady Tilburina may never accomplish what they themselves consider as grateful and proper.

Kindest regards to Mrs Edgeworth and Miss Sneyd

Always yours

WALTER SCOTT
TO [JOHN GIBSON]

MY DEAR SIR,—I inclose the bills which will come higher than my computation especially as a very heavy bill to [Child] which Lady Scott thought she had paid in full last year arrived just now. Besides there are several of the old accounts for House at Abbotsford only partially paid. But then to meet this I have got some literary revenues [?] of which I have hitherto made little account but which can now be made effectual to relieve the funds a little. I should wish the smaller debts and poorer people settled with if possible. I am sure I can have any reasonable time from the better class. I hope Hogarth has sent the title deeds.

I am happy to say Woodstock advances so well that if God grant me life health and spirits it will be on the counters even in the end of February. Yours very truly,

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Wednesday [1st February 1826]

Lady Scott has agreed to make no more accounts.

[Owen D. Young]

TO CHARLES SCOTT, B.N. COLLEGE, OXFORD

MY DEAR CHARLES,—This being about quarter day I send a bill for 40 payable to your order which with 35 paid by your desire at Christmas makes up the 75 due.
at this quarter. It is certainly hard on me to lose so much hard earned money at this time of day but when were riches without their wings. All you can help me in my dear boy is to be careful to keep your living within your income as you must suppose I am not now in condition to let out a reef on occasion as we must necessarily

live on a limited income and submit to several privations. Mama and Anne propose to go to Abbotsford which is henceforth to be our sole family residence. Poor No. 39 [is] to be sold off with all its contents. During Session time I am to reside in a very comfortable apartment next to the Albyn club so that having the assistance of their servants I can dispense with a valet. We part with Butler Lady's maid &c &c but think that for Mamas health we can continue Peter and the carriage. Abbotsford &c remains as usual but I shall restrict all expensive farming operations. We totally and absolutely reject all species of visits near and dear friends excepted in this way I save both money and time. Thus you see I am doing all that Man can to remedy this great misfortune.

Meantime do you cram your head with all useful knowlege that you may be ready to take a flight for yourself. To you this misfortune may not be without its use as Adversity is a good sobering medicine in the heyday of youth and though I dare say you never leaned much towards me yet [it] is always a reason for exertion when a young man sees the necessity of swimming without support.

Mammas spirits and Annes are both good though they suffered much on the first affliction. As for me I was never better in my life and if hard labour on my part will mend matters they will not very long remain disorderd.
At present the situation of these thrice unhappy book-sellers leaves me little to hope of their paying any such large sum. Walter and Jane are both well according to letter today received. I am always dear Charles affectionately yours WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 1 February [1826]

TO JOHN GIBSON LOCKHART

DEAR LOCKHART,—I have little to say yet I may as well put a few lines into the frank which I have gotten. I have seen with great pain some unpleasant expressions of Sophia respecting poor dear little Johnies progress. I am inexpressibly anxious about it.

We are here all very well and reconciling ourselves to think and act according [to] what prudence recommends without expecting to discover gold mines or get prizes in the Lottery which was our first remedy for all disasters. For me if the propose[d] arrangement proceeds which I suppose it will as it is clearly for the benefit of all concernd I must just live quiet and work hard for a few years and I have no objection to either condition. On the contrary I rather like the idea of retirement & regular labour. My professional income being 1600 a year is amply sufficient for our wants & Charles's education.

I have a most kind letter from Walter and poor little Jane who offers all her fortune if it would be accepted.
She is really a generous noble spirited body. Of course I will not take a penny from any one for it would only make them worse without making me the better but will trust entirely to my own exertions.

I look at my affairs on the worst side & I believe there is good cause for though I would not have you say it to Robinson or any one whose business it may be to look out for themselves I do believe such a concern as Constables never occurred before. A large & flourishing establishment carrying on the most thriving speculations with great returns of profit—Never having met with any loss of the most trifling consequence—yet making so poor a comparative return of assets without book debts without stock without almost anything but copyrights and many of these unpaid for. Hurst & Robinson owe them £70,000 however if that is paid it must make an alteration in their affairs.

I fancy it comes to this that they never had any capital

—that Sandie Hunters claims on the business amounting to £18,000 were greatly too highly rated and being discharged by Constables input of £10,000 or £15,000 the business was carried on by discount on which occurred a heavy interest of perhaps 6 or 7 per Cent. which with some expense on Constables personal side eat up their large profits. I wish the creditors at large may get five shillings in the pound. Such is commerce.

Remember me affectionately to Sophia. I hope she takes moderate exercise and keeps quite well.

I had a visitor today who would have diverted you
though her story was a sad one. She is a Miss Jane Bell of North Shields whose marriage was broken off by some most abominable machinations of a methodist parson who after a number of the basest subterfuges was at length convicted in open court of having forged the basest calumnies against my visitor. What is odd enough the Conference or Congress or whatever they are did not depose him but only degraded him a step in their church. It gives a very curious peep into the inside of the methodistic system & the tenderness of their clergy towards each other.

I am a freind to Methodism on the whole however it introduces morality among people -who would never practice it unless it came recommended by a faith which addresses itself to the passions. But [it] seems to [be] an awful priestcraft concern Yours ever

W SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 2d feby. [1826]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—Your objections did not escape me and I have answers to others which weighd with me and shall be yours in private. I can never agree that Mrs Radcliffe any more than Shakespeare is to be a potatoe bogle to scare every poor bird from the field she is stuck up in and I think I can prove the arrow is fairly aimd—though I may not have hit the mark. I intend to treat of this in my preliminary & at least explain my own views.
Meantime I send you proofs & copy—I observe a full volume of such a work may be written in a fortnight 2

Yours truly                             W. SCOTT

friday [early February 1826]
[British Museum]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[early February 1826]

DEAR JAMES,—I am glad you are better contented though I must sometimes go on whether your criticisms are favourable or no. But this we have long settled. I want to ask you one question. Are you peculiarly fond of the Tempest or the Midsummer Nights dream? It strikes me you have not much patience with the sleeping-waking kind of thing which I am very fond of Yours truly                                        W S

[British Museum]

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[early February 1826]

MY DEAR JAMES,—Your critiques never require apology I only wishd to know whether your objection was to the supernatural tale in general or to my execution. I always attend to your remarks when possible only they sometimes contradict the whole tenor of what I propose & then I must pass them over— Yours truly                      W S
TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW, KAESIDE, MELROSE

MY DEAR WILLIE,—I hope this will find you ready to come in on Monday with such books and memorandums as may be necessary to give the trustees an accompt of stock etc. I think you have sent me an admirable plan so far as the woods fences etc are concern’d. But I demur to the farm. Observe. We have in all to live upon 1600 a year & Charles situation at college will cost us 300—Remains 1300. Now the question is whether so small a family as we shall be reduced to, seeing not a living soul unless Lockhart or Walter & wives should come down at a time, had not better go to market for every thing than speculate upon the produce of a farm. My time will be fully occupied otherwise—my wife you know has no turn that way and poor Tom though he would do his best would I fear be spoild for a careful grieve. I should have no objection to the horses ploughing. If we do keep the farm we may kill mutton certainly not beef. Settling with the butcher once a week & knowing money is scarce my wife can take good care not to [get] out of bounds but when we come to the large scale it is different. Two cows seem indispensible. But we must get rid of all useless ponies etc. I agree with you we must keep the active men only. We will be able to spare a guinea or two to old Brunton & Straiten till they can provide themselves. The town of Selkirk will do something for Brunton I suppose and Betty must write to her friends.

You will understand we mean to give no hospitality.
whateverssoever unless at Breakfast the least of all possible
mercies. I may not have many years before me and I
must keep them at my own disposal.

In computing the disposal of my income you must
remember that during five months when I live separate
from my family I can hardly hope to have the assistance
of a man servant for brushing my clothes etc lodgings &
eating without an expence of near 1,1, for it would not
be decent to take the very cheapest way even if I could
conquer my objections to a boarding house which are too
serious to be removed.

We have enough you see to do very well upon but with
cautions and I believe our best mode of oeconomy will be to
make a certain expence and speculate as little as possible.
Constables affairs are wretchedly bad and I scarce see
how they can manage but by leaving him in the management.
The Edinburgh review for example—put it up to
sale—no one would give a 100 for you cannot buy
Jeffery—carry it on it is perhaps 4000 a year.

I have spoken to Lady Scott who inclines strongly for
the farm but then she only sees the returns not the cost
and outlay. If she were active enough in health to take
a little charge of it I should like the adventure better. As
it is I incline strongly for grass & garden and buy everything
else. But we will determine nothing till we see you.
On Wednesday if not Monday I hope to have that
pleasure. I am very truly yours          WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET 4th December Saturday

[PM. 4th February 1826] (1)
[Ballantyne]
TO MRS. HUGHES

MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES AND MY WORTHY DOCTOR,—

I write immediately to give you the information which your kindness thinks of importance. I shall certainly lose a very large sum by the failure of my booksellers whom all men consider as worth 150,000 & who I fear will not cut up as they say for one fourth of the money. But looking at the thing in its worst point of view I cannot see that I am entitled to claim the commiseration of any one since I have made an arrangement for settling these affairs to the satisfaction of every party concerned so far as yet appears which leaves an income with us ample for all the comforts & many of the elegancies of life and does not in the slightest degree innovate on any of my comforts. So what title have I to complain?

I am far richer in point of income than Generals & Admirals who have led fleets and armies to battle. My family are all provided for in present or in prospect my estate remains in my family my house & books in my own possession.

I shall give up my house in Edinr and retire to Abbotsford where my wife and Anne will make their chief residence during the time our court sits when I must attend I will live at my Club. If Anne wishes to see a little of the world in the gay season they can have lodgings for two or three weeks. This plan we had indeed form'd before it became imperative.

At Abbotsford we will cut off all hospitality which latterly consumed all my time which was worse than the expence this I intended to do at any rate. We part with
an extra servant or two manage our household economically
and in five years were the public to stand my friend
I should receive much more than I have lost. But [if]
I only pay all demands as I have the full means of doing
I shall be satisfied.

I shall be anxious to dispose of Mr. Charles so soon as
his second year of Oxford is ended. I think of trying to
get him into some diplomatic line for which his habits
and manners seem to suit him well.

I might certainly have borrowed large sums. But to
what good purpose? I must have owed that money and
a sense of obligation besides. Now as I stand the Banks
are extremely sensible that I have been the means of
great advantages to their establishments & have afforded
me all the facilities I can desire to make my payments
and as they gained by my prosperity they are handsomely
disposed to be indulgent to my adversity & what can an
honest man wish for more

Many people will think that because I see company
easily that my pleasures depend on society. But this is
not the case I am by nature a very lonely animal and
enjoy myself much at getting rid from a variety of things
connected with publick business etc. which I did because
they were fixed on me but I am particularly happy to
be rid of.

And now let this matter be silent for ever. It is a bad
business but might have been much worse. I am my
dear 2 friends Most truly yours WALTER SCOTT

EDINBURGH 6 February [1826] (3)
TO LORD MONTAGU

MY DEAR LORD,—I hasten to answer your very kind letter. I don't like to trouble the friends I love best with private affairs which they cannot help and which always look like soliciting condolences which are equally painful to give and receive.

The fact is that by unpaid Copyrights unwithdrawn bills &c &c &c I shall I believe lose a great deal of money by the late fractures among my book selling patrons here. But I have large funds remaining and calculating matters at the very worst which is always the wise and manly way I should be ashamed to ask a moment's pity from a friend when there are so many men who deserve it God knows a hundred times more.

I have made an arrangement with those having interest in these matters entirely to my satisfaction. My estate of Abbotsford is secured on my son & his family if he has one so is not attachable. He has also his wife's estate & his share of my Brother in laws effects about £20,000 among the four. This is life rented by my brothers widow but in the meantime he has his commission & two thousand a year & my other children are all provided for. I have put my other affairs of various kinds into the hands of trustees one of them our friend John Gibson and arguing I may possess half the luck I have had five years will clear my loss though it should be the heaviest
(9-409) I can anticipate.

(9-409) During these five years I shall be poorer than I was but yet richer than bard beseems for I retain an income of 1,600 a year with power of augmenting it if I need it to 2,000. We go to Abbotsford for our constant residence part with a servant or two & live within the above. When I attend the Court of Session I have lodgings at my Club for a trifle.

(9-409) In fact this unpleasant circumstance has become acceptable by bringing about many things which I wishd & could not do for want of resolution. One thing was to give up farming which I detest. As for my trees they remain under my charge & I cannot see when I look round that I shall lose one single comfort or even one whim in which I had real pleasure. One is vexd to be sure to lose half of their fortune at so late an hour of life but then I am a philosopher of Corporal Nyms school and think "things must be as they may."

(9-409) I expect to make a fortune by the time I shall spare from useless visitors at Abbotsford as it is our purpose to refuse all strangers. As to our few real freinds we will be like the man in Parnells hermit whose gold cup was stolen."

(9-409) Still we'll wellcome but with less of cost."2

(9-409) I dare say my kind freinds of Buccleuch will not quarrel if they find port & sherry instead of claret & Champagne. Yet hang it we will rummage the cellar when you come for all that has come & gone yet.

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It has been a race between my good & bad fortune whether I should be a rich [man] and I am now clear my better genius has gained it since she has put me in a situation where I cannot be extravagant without being a rogue to which I have no natural tendency.

You are very kind to attend to poor Sophia. It would have been a great comfort to me had they not changed their residence as I could have resided with them in Session time. But it cannot be helped.

I am glad to hear that Ld John has taken the sword— it was his natural destiny. My kind respects attend the Ladies at Ditton particularly Lady M.

You will easily suppose my dear Lord that I am too good stuff to care a penny about misfortunes which cannot be prevented. I certainly do not affect to despise my loss but as it cannot be helped I have no idea of thinking about the matter unless so far as it can be repaired. Always my dear Lord Most truly & respectfully yours

EDINR. 6 febry. 1826 WALTER SCOTT [Buccleuch]

TO J. B. S. MORRITT, 21 MARINE TERRACE, BRIGHTON

MY DEAR MORRITT,—It is very true I have been and am in danger of a pecuniary loss and probably a very large one which in the uncertainty I look at as to the full extent being the manly way of calculating such matters since one may be better but can hardly be worse. I cant say I feel overjoyed at losing a large sum of hard earned
money in a most unexpected manner for all men considerd Constables people as secure as the Bank yet as I have achieved an arrangement of payment convenient for every body concernd and easy for myself I cannot say that I care much about the matter. Some oeconomical restrictions I will make and it happend oddly that they were such as Lady Scott and myself had almost determined upon without this compulsion. Abbotsford will henceforth be our only establishment and during the time I must be in town I will take my bed at the Albyn Club. If Anne tires in the dead of Winter we can have lodging for a month. We shall also break off the rather excessive hospitality to which we were exposed and no longer stand host and hostess to all that pilgrimage to Melrose. Item I give up an expensive farm which I always hated and turn all my odds and ends into cash. I do not reckon much on my literary exertions I mean in proportion to former success because popular taste may fluctuate. But with a moderate degree of the favour which I have always had my time my own and my mind unplagued about other things I may boldly promise meself soon to get the better of this blow. If I should lose my conjuring rod which is possible enough still I have a sufficient revenue to live upon handsomely though not en Seigneur my children are all provided for and my land secured and for myself I care very little about the [sic]

In thes[e] circumstances I should be unjust and ungrateful to ask or accept the pity of my friends. Where the difference is only between a very large and a moderate income I for one do not see there is much occasion for making moan about [it]. My womankind will be the greater sufferers and they look cheerily forwards and for
myself the blowing off my hat in a stormy day has given me more uneasiness.

I perfectly agree with you that Murrays paper flags. I was always of opinion he should have attempted less. There is too much of it and Lords mercy its jokes put one in mind of the child's question whether a pound of feathers or a pound of lead is the heaviest. It wont do I think. It puts me in mind of the puppet show in Tom Jones when the fine and serious part of the Journey to London was the only part acted. It wants all the life and selzar water festivity that an ephemeral page ought to have.

I envy your Brighton party and your fine weather. When I was at Abbotsford the Mercury was down at 6 or 7 in the morning more than once. I am hammering away at a bit of a story from the old affair of the Diablerie at Woodstock in the Long Parliament times. I dont like it much. I am obliged to hamper my fanatics greatly too much to make them effective but I make the sacrifice on principle so perhaps I shall deserve good success in other parts of the work. You will be surprized when I tell you that I have written a volume in exactly fifteen days. To be sure I permitted no interruptions. But then I took exercise and for ten days of the fifteen attended the Court of Session from two to four hours every day. This nothing however to writing Ivanhoe when I had the actual cramp in my stomach but I have no idea of these things preventing a man from doing what he has a mind [to].

My love to all the party at Brighton fireside party I had almost said but you scorn my words sea-side party then be it. Lady Scott and Anne join in kindest love. I must close my letter for one of the consequences of our misfortunes is that we dine every day at 1/2 past four
o'clock which premature hour arises I suppose from

sorrow being hungry as well as thirsty. One most laughable part of our tragi comedy was that every friend in the world came formally just as they do here when a relation dies thinking that the eclipse of les beaux yeux de ma cassette was perhaps a loss as deserving of consolation. One lady was greatly scandalized at finding Willie Clerke who had lately lost a very near relation and me laughing like two school boys and yet I dare say he was as sorry for his sister and I for my cash.

We heard an unpleasant report that your Nephew was ill. I am glad to see from your letter it is only the lady and in the right way and I hope Scottice loquens she will be worse before she is better. This mistake is something like the Irish blunder in Faulkners journal for His Grace the Duchess of Devonshire was safely deliverd &c read Her Grace the Duke of Devonshire Always yours &c

Affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 6 february [PM. 1826]

Will you do me a favour set fire to the Chinese Stables and if it embrace the whole of the pavilion it will rid us of a great eyesore.

TO HIS DAUGHTER MRS. LOCKHART

MY DEAR SOPHIA,—Your long letter 2 gave me great
comfort in the assurance that you were both well and that Johnies lameness was not at least increasing. Watch him when he thinks himself unobserved. I say this because it is wonderful what clever children will do to fix attention upon themselves and attract interest.

We are all in very good health and considering every thing extremely good spirits. We go all to the country when spring comes [then] there are the pleasant months of summer when our separation commences but only for a short time. So that we have all the time to prepare ourselves for the long nights when doubtless it will be harder.

Mamma however is quite well in spirits and exerting herself and to her a constant residence at Abbotsford may be a means of restoring health and prolonging life. As for myself I am a philosopher of Corporal Nym's school and hold by his maxim Things must be as they may.

I can conceive the excessive plague John must have with the paper at first. Still it will have this good effect that it will induce him to become completely acquainted with the various parts of the machine and so enable him as it is expected to be a matter of capital as well as profit to form a good judgement whether others do their duty.

I had my own fears that the scheme as shewn to us by D'Israeli was rather too gigantic to be put into motion without some trouble.

I made some jottings on the Byroniana of one of which
I see Lockhart has made use and he is most heartily welcome to the others if they do not contain matter of personality. There are some about poor Mat Lewis for instance which are useful for publishing.

I shall inclose poor Walters money in this letter when finishd. I hope he will be fortunate and prudent. I will send him soon such letters as may be useful to him. It is however better to send recommendations to the country after he has been a year or two there than to send them at once when they produce for the griffin little more than a dinner.

I have a most kind warmhearted letter from Jane and Walter offering their assistance in every way. This however is out of the question. I have formd my own plan and for me who have seen so much company in my life it will cost nothing to anticipate for a few years the time in which I always thought of living a life of great retirement. I will then have leisure to labour and of course I will either make money or I will have no temptation to spend it.

We must contrive by and bye that Anne may not suffer too much by our want of society but there will be time and various ways to care for that. I think the Miss Russells will be glad to be at Abbotsford some time in the winter and let Anne to town for a few weeks. She has behaved very well considering that her high stomach was sadly taken down.

Yesterday was the Cavalry ball and it was a little trial but I perceived no traces of it in our countenances.
I am to have my official income £1600, which deducing £300 for boy Charles at College will leave us quite well for country bodies and besides that I intend while working to clear off—to try some little matters for myself too.

I see by John that he has in a great measure cut the Newspaper but it must be a terrible slap out of the income perhaps when the vessel was fairly launched it might sail more easily. I was never however very partial to the scheme. It seemed to embrace too much. I would have trusted more to doing some parts excellently and some in the ordinary way than trying to be elaborate in everything. I have always understood that a perfect horse if one could be gotten completely well proportioned would never win a race. Eclipse was far from well proportioned.

I inclose a bill payable to John's order for little Walter's behoof for £240 which will leave twenty pounds to come and go on Walter's things and prevent his landing penniless in India. Had times been as they were I would have made it three hundred but as I really borrow the money I must not think of that. I hope he will take care of getting into debt. The interest always keeps a youngster down in the world.

My best love to Lockhart and to little Johnie poor child whom I shall not see till he has forgot me I doubt. I see with pleasure all your grave resolves. I am sorry to put you to expense of double postage but I fear I cannot get a frank being Monday. Always your
MY DEAR LADY DAVY,—A very few minutes since I receiv'd your kind letter and answer it in all frankness and in Iago's words I am hurt Ma'am but not kill'd—nor even kilt. I have made so much by literature that should even this loss fall in its whole extent and wise men make preparations for the worst it will not break & has not broken my sleep. It is just the loss of certain large sums of money and the account comes to this I have made a large fortune by literature & this loss will reduce it to a more moderate one. If I have good luck I may be as rich again as ever—if I have not I have still far more than many of the most deserving people in Britain—soldiers, sailors, statesmen or men of literature. My loss does not limit me of a single comfort or deprive me of an acre of land. My children are all well provided. We have a sufficient income to ourselves & the whole only tends to hasten some economical arrangements great part of which we had long since settled on from choice & a desire of retirement. I have been much more perplex'd with the blowing off my hat on a hill side than the loss of so large a proportion of my fortune as is in danger.

I am much obliged to you for your kindness to Sophia who has tact and great truth of character. I believe she will wish to take her company as the scandal said ladies
liked their wine little & good and I need not say I will be

greatly obliged by [your] continued notice of one you

have known now for a long time. I am between ourselves

afraid of the little boy—he is terribly delicate in

constitution and so twined about the parents' hearts that—

but it is needless croaking. What is written on our

foreheads at our birth will be accomplishd. So far I am [a]
good Moslem.

Lockhart will always be much liked by his intimates

but an early scholarlike reserve prevents his making much

figure in society. He is I think in his own line and

therefore I do not regret his absence though in our present

arrangements as my wife & Anne propose to remain all

the year round at Abbotsford I shall be solitary enough in

my lodgings. But I always loved being a bear & sucking

my paws in solitude better than being a lion and ramping

for the amusement of others and as I propose to slam the

door in the face of all and sundry for these three years to

come & neither eat nor give to eat I shall come forth

bearish enough should I live to make another Avatar.

Seriously I intend to receive nobody old & intimate

friends excepted at Abbotsford this season for it cost me

much more in time than otherwise.

I beg my kindest compliments to Sir Humphry and tell

him Ill Luck that direful chemist never put into his

crucible a more indissoluble piece of stuff than your

affectionate cousin & sincere wellwisher

EDINR. 6 Feby. [PM. 1826](1)          WALTER SCOTT

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]
MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,—I am flattered and delighted with your kind enquiries just received. Were I to say I was indifferent to losing a large proportion of a hard earned fortune I should lie in my throat and a very stupid lie it would be considered as an attempt to impose on your sagacity. And yet it is inconceivable to myself how little I feel myself care about it and how much I scandalize the grave looks and grasps of the hand and extremity scenes which my friends treat me to the tune of a Grecian chorus exclaiming about Gods and Fates and letting poor Pilgarlick enjoy his distress all the while unassisted except by their philosophy or his own.

Every person interested so far as I yet know are disposed to acquiesce in measures by which they will be at no distant period completely satisfied. We shall only have to adopt some measures of economy of no very frightful nature and which we meditated at any rate, for the number of visitors made Abbotsford very untenable during the autumn months. Now those who get in must bring battering cannon for no billet doux will blow open the gates come from whom it may. My children are all well provided for so I have not that agonizing feeling. And we have ample income for ourselves. I am ashamed to think of it and mention it as a declension knowing so many Generals and Admirals who would be glad to change fortunes with me. My land remains with me being settled on my son and I look round and do not [see] one domestic comfort abridged though I shall willingly lay down some points of parade of servants and equipage and expensive form (which I always detested) and all this rout of welcoming.
Strange folks which my age advancing a little and the want of my sons to do honours made very annoying last season. I have every thing else my walks my plantations my dogs great and small my favourite squire my Shetland poney my plans my hopes my quiet thoughts. So that like the Upholsterer Mr. Quidnunc I ask myself how are we ruined 1 — I shall make play too in the language of the turf and try what I can do to recover my distance— None can calculate on the public favour yet I have had a pretty strong hold of it and have done more extraordinary things in my day than recovered my whole loss within three years. This however is not to [be] much counted for because novels and works of imagination are not like household bread in fashion all the year round but like minced pies and hot cross buns have only their season. Such is my plan and the only unpleasant part of it is that giving [up] my house in Edinburgh I must necessarily live at my club where we have excellent accommodation for such time as I must [be] attending the sittings of the court. But there are plenty of conveyances to Abbotsford so once a week or a fortnight in summer I can make my wife and daughter a visit and in winter we may take lodgings together for perhaps a month or six weeks in the gay season. This is the worst part of my retrenchment but I am rather a solitary monster and sit much by myself at all times. I am sure you are very good to think half so well of me as you do my dear Lady Louisa. I am conscious of meriting it so far that I have done good to some people and never willingly injured a human being in my life. I will soon have to send you three volumes: the fates have not smiled on them for you may be sure they have been written at disadvantage even much greater 1 than Ivanhoe much of which was dictated.
while I was in agony with the cramp in my stomach
and scarce able to utter two words without a pause. But
there are some sort of vexations worse than bodily pain.
Thank God they seem all settled with me and no unforeseen
obstacle intervening a fair field lies before me.

When your Ladyship can honour Sophia with a call she
will be found at 25 pall mall. The loss other is very serious
at this moment for had they remained keeping house in
Edinburgh it would have been a great comfort to me.
But if it proves in the end for their advantage I must be
satisfied. They have a little boy about whose health
I am truly anxious an only child as yet and very clever
from being so much talked to and fondled. I do fear
London on its account not a little. But we will not
anticipate evil. God bless you my Lady Louisa. You
have been since I knew [you] the ready and active
comforter of much distress indeed I think that things
have happened to exercize your feelings in the behalf of
others merely because you really have that sincere interest
in the griefs of others which so many people make the

1826                SIR WALTER SCOTT                      421

Do not think upon my losses as a thing
to be vexed about but let me have the great pleasure of
hearing from you now and then which will always
enhance the pleasure of fair weather and make that which
is rough the more endurable. I heard from Morritt lately
which I was very glad of as his letter contradicted an ugly
report of his Nephws illness. I am always Dear Lady
Louisa most truly yours.1                   W SCOTT

EDINR. 7 feby 1826

[Northumberland and Abbotsford Copies]
TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,—I have been involved in the troubles of this vile world by the Bankruptcy of Hurst and Robinson in London and Constables House here which will put in doubt and danger a very considerable proportion of my hard earned fortune. How these affairs will turn out is uncertain but looking at the very worst statement which is the manly way I have settled my affairs so as to live within a very comfortable income residing at Abbotsford constantly and taking lodgings for myself in Edinburgh during session time. I have considerd the matter in all points of view and do not see that we shall want one real comfort which we have enjoyd though we lay aside some expensive points of finery. I am truly sorry that you must for this reason feel this inconvenience being to be provided leaves me at this pinchd moment no more than will carry us through the next quarter. Your brother will I dare say trust me till Whitsunday when I shall be quite in order again. Constables failure is the most extraordinary thing I ever knew. He appears to have been making by his trade from 8000 to 10,000 gross profits—had no misfortunes—no bad debts—yet makes an incredibly bad turn out of funds and debts due to him. I really believe they have not had any capital for twenty years but were entirely trading on credit.

I would have wishd to have given poor Walter a parting kiss but a journey of so many hundred miles in winter was too dear a purchase for the melancholy pleasure of saying Good bye. My best wishes go with him and I propose he shall have excellent recommendations and then he must
push his own way. I would have liked him to have had a small sum of cash in hand on landing but except the few guineas that may be above his estimate of clothes & passage (which is extremely moderate) he must e'en do as other griffins and with oeconomy his pay will support him. On the whole I have done all in my power to put this fine lad as far as was possible for me in the way of making his fortune the rest must be done by himself and his fortune.

There is a prospect of the 15[th] being orderd to India & Walter seems to have made his mind up to go with them and what is odd enough his wife has the same wish. He thinks that two or three years residence in India will get his step of Major and you are aware that the prospect of a step reconciles a soldier to every thing.

Annes letter gave us better hopes of my poor Eliza than we had from former communications. I trust she is now getting well again and above all gaining strength. Poor Aunt Curl is gone and I am happy to think has rememberd your family. I wish it had been to a greater extent but she had not much to leave. It will always help a little. She died like a Roman or rather like one of the Sandiknow bairns who were the most stoical race I ever knew. She turnd every one out of the room and drew her last breath alone. So did my uncle Capt. Scott and several of that family.

I understand there is hope of your making a trip soon to Wales or else where. I trust you will make a Northward tour in the winter & you will find Abbotsford with
all its fires on for all that is come and gone.

My kindest love to Anne & Eliza and when you can favour me with a few lines to let me know how you do they will be highly acceptable to Dear Mrs Scott Your affectionate brother

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 10 feby. [1826]

I am very glad the Lockharts could give Walter the convenience of a lodging in Pall Mall which must have suited the Lieutenant better than a lodging-house. Mama and Anne send kind Compliments.

[Huntington]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

[Extract]

MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,—I dare say Good Mother Fame has given you some good reasons why I did not immediately acknowledge your letter having some sweet-meats to cook of my own at the time. The wind of ill luck among more important wrecks has swept away a great proportion of my hard earnd wealth.1 . . . The worst is that people plague you with their sympathy which I dont want & with projects for my assistance & relief when I neither want the one nor the other. The letters I have got on the occasion would furnish a new department for the complete letter writer from one
received from that prodigious Jackass Sir John Sinclair proposing a lottery to a Quack on Leith Walk offering me a share.

I cannot conceive any objection to your raising the interest on the Bill especially as my friend Raeburn on a transaction which I did not think it necessary to mention to you wish'd to diminish the interest at this time last year & only desisted from his proposal on my saying I would rather that he paid up the money. So that what is sauce for the Goose—the proverb is somewhat musty. He is also a year better by some little office which I had in my power to give him & so far he is able to pay the current interest & that is universally 5 per cent.

Whenever I got out of my unlucky disasters & settled myself stoutly to abide by the very worst statement possible & take every thing that hap'd better for a Godsend I began to feel like a cock of the game who however hard matched begins to crow the instant the battle is over. What would I give to have you near me to sing the following ditty.2 . . . The chorus is alter'd from an old one which I was always fond of though it is annex'd to words which are worse than silly. I want to know whether on reading these offhand verses you think with Master Silence " that an old man can do somewhat." 3

Sophias absence is a woeful blow to us far worse than loss of warlds gear. I sent her a copy of Bonny Dundee 1826

which she is practising. I want [to] see which of you sisters in song will sing it first. If you think it will stand the sea you may send it to Lady Compton & I hope she will make the same allowance for it that Wilhelmina &
her Ladyship make for the brown bread which they eat as oat cakes. You say nothing of Lord Comptons health so I augur he is at least no worse & in his case keeping ground is every thing. I have been amusing myself with a book called the English in Italy 1 which though on the whole manque shows yet a habitual acquaintance with the habits both of the Italians and our Zingari as they call the English strollers among them. The book with the writers powers both of stile & thought ought to have been excellent but he fails in making his story interesting.

My best & kindest compliments attend my dear Mrs. Clephane. We heard some report as if she had been not very well which I hope has been no otherwise the case than what we folks who begin to be a little old must needs look for. I am My dear Miss Clephane Always your truly faithful & affectionate friend

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 11th Feby [PM. 12th Feby. 1826]

If I am slow in writing you will allow I give it like a tether.

Lady Scott & Anne send their kindest compliments. They are to be country Ladies in general from henceforth. This is a plan we had long formd late circumstances have only accelerated our resolution on that point.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—I have not overtaken the proof—there is a song to be written and I am in no song writing humour.
I think from the view the Gentlemen of the Old Bank have taken of the mode of conducting the Trust that we will be much worse off than under a Sequestration which would at least leave me the exercise of my own talents for my own benefit. I suppose I shall know in the course of the day I am very truly yours

WALTER SCOTT

thursday [16 Feb. 1826]

My own mind is quite made up—if they take up the sword of the Law I will take its shield.

[British Museum]

TO HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. LOCKHART

17 february [1826]

MY DEAR SOPHIA,—Cay 2 gave me a packet to send to Lockhart by an office frank so I slip in these few lines just to enquire how you all get on. I am at a loss to understand from Lockharts last letter whether he loses his connection with the paper or only gets rid of the practical difficulties which he did not undertake to obviate. I am anxious to know how this stands. Also whether Walter got my bundle of letters and a bill for 40 previously sent him in addition to the 240. I hope he went off in good health and spirits.

I hope you will not neglect Lady Louisa Stuart. She is decidedly one of the most sensible women I ever knew and very witty withal.
There is nothing new here except that our affairs are arranging themselves not without the usual degree of obstacle and that I hope they will be in a fair train by the 12th. My own views would not appear to a young person either comfortable or lively for I must lay my account with passing great part of the year in actual solitude. I have no apprehensions however of being tired of my own company though I will often wish no doubt for that of my family. Anne is quite well except a touch of the rheumatism. She bears up very well but I dare say thinks of the loss of the gay parties and the sister belles who sweep by the house about ten o'clock with some feelings for past splendour and gaiety. Mama is quite well which is God's especial mercy.

We are to economize in order to keep the carriage and Pepi is to plough his horses a yoking in the morning. The old man jumpd at the proposal and said it would do him and the beasts much good and he would like it of all things. Now this matter of the carriage is of great consequence as a daily drive about two is really essential to Mama's health and spirits.

I inclose a trifle for the Representative on the subject of female burning in India which I have from Colonel Russell it is interesting I think. If Balaam 1 of this kind could serve John I might send but stipulate for its being transcribed into another hand.

R. P. Gillies was here speaking I thought rather oddly about what hopes Lockhart had given him namely of 600 a year to translate foreign newspapers and a room
in his house.2 Surely he dreamd all this but he seemd serious enough. I can only say that such a bunch of imbecility lumberd on the top of a coach which is heavy enough at any rate would certainly bring down the concern. As for his domestic society that is a matter of taste. Sincerely I hope John will establish the Quarterly and the paper if he is to have any thing to do with it on a firm basis without considering them as means of helping those who cannot play their part. This year (I mean this present 1826) every exertion should be made to give distinction to both undertakings and I fear these can only be done by exercizing something like hard-heartedness to those to whom the wages of literary labour are generally most necessary but who are not very happy in pleasing the public taste.

I am most anxious to see the Review. I wish we had it out. Lockhart has not sent me a proof of my own little articles. Your accounts of Johnie poor dear Child give me the highest satisfaction.

All love to Lockhart. You need not bother about Gillies unless you think it adviseable. He talkd as if he knew more about attorneys paper than I liked to hear but of course I made no observation and may have misunderstood his way of speaking. Kiss Johnie for me and believe me Yours affectionately

W. SCOTT
[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE
DEAR JAMES,—I am glad the song I was tolerable for
I thought it rather flat. It was nothing to the Bankers
for I did not hear anything of their motions till last night
when I had the satisfaction to learn all is right Mr
Monypenny becomes trustee in R. Rutherfords place his
interest with the Bank is very great and he pledges himself
for their acting on his principles which are all that I
could wish them in reason. So the trust goes on.

There is some doubt whether Woodstock should be
driven on too fast lest it come out before we have a distinct
understanding with Constables trustee who cannot be
named till three weeks after Monday next. In this view
I am really writing an article on the English proposal
about Bank Notes being extended to Scotland—it may
breed a blaze—at any rate it is but a squib cast away
Yours truly

CASTLE STREET, Saturday [18th February 1826] (1)
[British Museum]

TO MRS. SCOTT OF LOCHORE

MY DEAR JANE,—I have been a most undutiful papa
and left a kind letter of yours too long unanswerd. But
this cannot be helped sometimes and you know I have
had a lot of unpleasant duties to do lately. These are
now all settled as well as they can be just now and I hope
if God spare me health and power of application I will
be able in the course of a year or two to make up the
losses which these unhappy times have brought upon me.
The only material sacrifice that we have settled [is] that
I shall spend the time of Session in lodgings by myself
which will be lonely enough and make me send many a
long wish to Dublin and London and the Banks of the Tweed not to mention Oxford for my objects of affection are at present all squanderd abroad like so many pease. I hope that the military duties of this summer will have some relaxation so as [to] enable you and Walter to come over for a few months or weeks which will add much to our happiness and you will find that no retrenchments at Abbotsford affect the real and substantial comforts of the place. Besides you should pay a visit to Lochore and Walter should look at the woods which will require thinning for the benefit of the plantations themselves. And you will see all your Scotch friends too and Mrs Jobson in particular.

I suppose this cannot be till after the reviews and when they are I am sure I do not know but I wish you would find out and tell me. I suppose there can be no difficulty in Walter getting his leave in turn as he has now been very long without asking any from the Regiment. I have no further news of India so I hope that long expedition is not likely to take place. Little Walter (my Nephew) is gone down to Gravesend to [de]part for the east in the good Ship Thomas Coutts Indiaman. Poor fellow I hope he will do well and have the pleasure to think he has wanted no assistance which was in my power to procure him and as he has profited I believe to [a] great extent by his scientific education and is well behave[d] and well recommended he has every chance health permitting to get to the very head of his profession and I am told that the profession of an engineer is a very gainful one in India.

We had the pleasure of hearing from Walter and of you this morning by a letter to Anne and I learn with pleasure
you are now giving a pair of the cattle a turn in your own carriage which is a great saving. For my own part I have come down proud stomach and to avoid keeping two pair of cart-horses which I must otherwise have done I have settled to let old Peter and his coach horses plough a yoking a day in the spring and winter and the old hero was far from resenting the proposal on the contrary said it would [do] himself and the horses much good for through the winter they would have but very little to do.

We heard of Sophia indirectly through her maid Junor 1 which is not perhaps the worst channel for [if] a ladys servant says that her mistress is well it must needs be the case since these familiar attendants are the first to experience the inconvenience of real or supposed indisposition. Johnie is also said to be well but much tired of London and pleading hard to return to the pony and Chiefswood and Abbotsford. Poor little fellow I hope London will agree with him for he is like to stay there long enough.

Walter writes as if his march was to be early but does not say or probably does not know which way your direction lies. A horse quarter in the neighbourhood of Mallow or Kilkenny would be very pleasant, in some others which we saw rather doleful or so. But soldiers are like beggars and must not be chusers. This is to accompany a little Sketch of Abbotsford done for Mr Crampton. I wish it were better worth sending. Lady Scott and Anne are very well actively preparing for the summer campaign. They send kindest love. I am sorry to think I have not at present the means to be le bon papa and ask you whether you want nothing that I can help
you to. But a good time will come round if we manage our bitters well and I will have an occasional 100 at your command as formerly. I have no fear of the result if I keep my health for I shall have time enough on my hands and time enough is every thing to a man as much in the habit of labour as I have always been. Indeed I believe the greatest hardship which could be imposed on me would be to prohibit my usual studies which form my principal amusement. Adieu my dearest Child. Let me have a few lines when you can spare time to let me know what is going on. Is there any chance of the Blakes coming down to Scotland. I owe them much kindness and though I intend to see very few people at Abbotsford their name and that of one or two Irish friends shall be Open Sesamum. Once more farewell my good Jane. Love to Walter and believe me your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 21 feby. [1826]

This letter has lain by me a long while waiting for a frank or private hand and in [the] meantime arrives Janes most wellcome letter in the packet by Mr Franck. I sent your letter last night to Mrs Jobson and today I calld to shew her that which I had received. She askd me more questions about Ballinrobe Athlone &c. than my Irish experience was able to answer but I am to consult the Gazette and put her up to all the geography I can gather. Mrs Jobson says you expressd some slight hope of coming our way. What a delight that would be. Love to Mr Plunket and all his family the Blakes the Surgeon General and poor Hartstonge though but a poor creature he is a kind one. I have a drawing for Mr Crampton of Abbotsford
and a good one but how to send it I do not know
unless Mr Frank (whose very name corresponds with his
doing such a kind office) will put it into his trunk. Anne
and Lady Scott send you a thousand Loves and I am
alway[s] your affectionate Papa WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 7 March [1826]

Our address will hereafter be Abbotsford. We shall
get there Monday or tuesday next.

[Law]

TO BENJAMIN ROBERT HAYDON 1

EDINBURGH, 23rd February, 1826

DEAR SIR,—I have received your kind letter, and have
little to say in answer but what is reasonably indifferent
to myself and will be agreeable to you. I have lost a
large fortune, but I have ample competence remaining
behind, and so I am just like an oak that loses its leaves
and keeps its branches. If I had ever been a great
admirer of money, I might have been at this moment
very rich, for I should have had all I have lost, and much
more. But I knew no mode of clipping the wings of
fortune, so I might also have lost what I have set my heart

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upon, and I should then have been like a man who had
lost his whole clothes, whereas at present I only feel like
one who has forgot his greatcoat. I am secure at [all
events] of the perils which make bad fortune really
painful, for my family are provided for, and so is my own
and my wife's comforts for the time we may live. Others
It would be gross affectation to say I am glad of such a loss, but many things make it more indifferent to me than I believe it would be to most people. I will feel delighted by receiving your mark of kindness. I can only hope it has not taken up too much of your valuable time. Believe me, dear Sir, yours ever, WALTER SCOTT

I hope things go on well with you, as your genius deserves. There is one comfort in the Fine Arts, that the actual profit may be lost, but the pleasure of pursuing them defies fortune.

[Tom Taylor’s Life of Haydon]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

My DEAR LOCKHART,—I was made very happy by receiving your kind letter last night and while sorry to learn (what indeed Sophia had informd Anne of) your severe indisposition — pray do not work too hard and were it but a walk in the park be sure to take some air and exercise every day in the world. If Sophia goes with you it will be just so much the better for herself. I am rejoiced to think she is now giving fair play to her excellent constitution and I will warrant her safe in [the] approaching matter providing she will resist the temptation of doctoring and coddling herself. Moderate exercize a quiet mind and rational occupation and amusement will insure her a safe confinement gentle exercise especially is essential.

You will see by a couple of pamphlets which I have
inclosed that I am turnd politician as is usual with those
who have shown themselves incapable of managing their
own affairs with discretion. What has tempted me I
cannot tell unless that I am savage at the cold insolence
with which the English treat us. In the mean while they
may carry it too far. Saunders is rousing fast and will
make an awful fight for his Sir Williams as the English
threatend for Abraham Newlands. I intend to go loose
on them next week. There is some pleasure in mischief
after all.

I think the sooner Murray gets rid of his paper [the better].I
It is as I feard from the beginning it might be heavy, wants
the touch and go blackguard genteel which distinguishes the
real writer for the press. MacGinn could give [it] with a
vengeance. It is at present too much of Tristrem Shandys
bull who gaind his reputation by going through matters
with a grave face.

We sorrowd for Fannys death but I own I was a little
alarmd at the symptoms that Sophia says she displayd
which as a Dogleech I would pronounce to be those of
the sullen or dumb hydrophobia which [is] not however
dangerous like the more violent kind. Their instinct of
hiding themselves before death is very singular.

What do you think about the bar—there are so many
things which a man of talents and character may do in

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that line without being an actual pleader that the gaining
the professional character seems desireable. Auditorships
&c are often casting up 1 and I should think from all
I hear your interest is like to be [as] forward as that of any
other person. You will have the trouble of keeping your
(9-435)place in society and do not allow yourself to glide out of
(9-435)notice. I am glad to hear that Lady Stafford has been
(9-435)so civil to Sophia.

(9-435)Am I wrong in detecting you in the Omen a very
(9-435)beautifully written but melancholy tale just publishd
(9-435)here.2 I had not read two pages when I said to Anne
(9-435)Aut Erasmus aut diabolus or something equivalent. She
(9-435)told me it had [been] advertized as by Wilson but we
(9-435)all thought it much more like you—more elegant and
(9-435)simple than he is when he sets about sentiment. First
(9-435)[private] hand I will send you Napoleon and Woodstock
(9-435)so far as they are done. If Robinson continues to
(9-435)propose being publisher he should either come down or
(9-435)make proposals for Woodstock will be read[y] very soon—
(9-435)in a fortnight or so at farthest. It would not be amiss
(9-435)to give him a hint of this for his regulation. I wish
(9-435)sincerely they may be able to compass the thing.

(9-435)I have to add by way of news that before I make up
(9-435)my mind to go to the Club where there are so many
(9-435)Dandies and confusion I have resolved to look at the small
(9-435)titmouse Houses about Saint Andrews Church. If I can
(9-435)get one beside the dentist Law's which Sophia knows or
(9-435)beside William Clerk consisting of three or four rooms it
(9-435)would suit me rarely.3

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(9-436)Caddells retreat to the Abbey I was only momentary
(9-436)and arose out of the following transactions. The day
(9-436)before his Bankruptcy finding he had the sum of [ ] 900 I
(9-436)think in one bank he drew it out and surrenderd it to his
(9-436)creditors in general that no one might fare better than
(9-436)another. The bank which sufferd threatened vindictive
(9-436)measures and Cadell not liking the air of the Calton hill
took to Alsatia but returnd in two days.

Constable has been very odd certainly. I almost think there was a taint of insanity about him with all his talent. The last time he spoke with me he said he was now at the bottom of the whole 2 and that it was all concocted by subordinate agents to bring him down—This is not only Balaam but Bedlam. By the bye I read B.L.M.3 at the postcript to the Omen Balaam. Well Sir—but Constable appears to have drawn from that concern 4000., in spite of Cadells remonstrances. But then Gadell ought to have stopd the business rather than it were plunderd in that way. With all these draughts on his business and living at no great apparent expence—not above 1200 or 1500 a year the thing is very queer. But gone the money is that is certain.

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I have Sophias letter. I trust nothing can be wrong so far as concerns that part of the fortune of Mr Carpenter which my children have in reversion. It was transferd as I understood to Mr Hankey and Mr N. Barber and surely they cannot have both plaid the rogue. I will be anxious to hear [of] this new mishap.

Sunday Eveng 25 feby. [1826] [Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—I am certainly serious in Malachi if seriousness will do good. I will sleep quieter in my grave for having so fair an opportunity of speaking my mind. I send you more copy (unread) and regret to say the whole will run to 16 or 17 such pages; but you can stop in the
journal where you please so you order matters to get out
the much more important pamphlet on Thursday. Have
you ascertained whether the Banks want the same number
as of the first.

About Woodstocke hereafter. I will be glad to see
Mr Cowan & wish you would come with him and name
an hour. You have not got me the information I wanted
about Scotch & Irish members but I will find it tomorrow
in the parlt. House it will delay the proof however for
which you may send to Parlt. House at 12. Send in the
morning all the same. Yours truly

W. S.

[26th-27th February 1826]

[Buccleuch]

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TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

MY DEAR CHARLES,—You promised when I displenishd
this house that you would accept of the prints of Roman
Antiquities 1 which I now send I believe they were once in
some esteem though now so detestably smoked that they
will only suit your suburban villa in the Cowgate when
you retire to that classical residence. I also send a print
which is an old favourite of mine from the humourous
correspondence between Mr. Mountebanks face & the
monkeys.

I leave here today or tomorrow at farthest. When I
return in May I shall be
Bachelor bluff, bachelor bluff
Hey for a heart that's rugged & tough.

I shall have a beefsteak and a bottle of wine of a Sunday
which I hope you will often take share of Being with
sincere regard My dear Charles Always yours

WALTER SCOTT
CASTLE STREET Tuesday [? March 1826] (2)

[Extract]

March 1, 1826

I ENCLOSE a couple of copies of a pamphlet on the
currency, which may amuse you. The other copy is for
Mr Craig, Galashiels. I have got off some bile from my
stomach which has been disturbing me for some years.
The Scotch have a fair opportunity now to give battle, if
they dare avail themselves of it. One would think I had
little to do, that I should go loose upon politics.

[Notanda]

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[1826]

DEAR JAMES,—To dumple the thing handsomely there
should be an alteration on sheet O p. 115 as well as on
Strip P. I send both. But if O be at press we can do without. The comfort you gave me did me much good—

I wish you would let me know what happens at Constables meeting to-day—it is most important. Yours truly

W. S

I have plenty of copy but it is more useful here than with you unless you get near this—The third part of Vol iii is finishd.

[British Museum]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[1826]

DEAR JAMES,—I received safely your letter with cash and also your still more wellcome accompt of the reception of Woodstock. Your criticisms turnd the bile in my stomach once or twice in an alarming manner though I had a secret consciousness that My lot is not to die to-day.

I will be very glad to deal with Mr Cadell about anything in my way. But it appears to me for reasons which I have expressd in the inclosed to M[r] Gibson & which I leave open for your perusal to save writing them that the Trustees should send them to press themselves and not dispose of the Editions till they are nearly ready.

As for Boney we can clip his wings if he threatens to fly too far. I hope your auguries of this work will not prove false as they were always flattering.
I send copy and proofs. Pray seal & forward Mr Gibsons letter—Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

Turn over

I am writing a review for Lockhart which may stand [?]
copy a day or two. Besides I get slowly on with the blindness occassioned by the constant peering in [to] cases.

TO J. G. LOCKHART

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I had Sophias letter yesterday and your kind note tonight. I rejoice to hear of Johnie's health and his grand step towards instruction.

I hope Mrs MacTavish whom I like not the worse you may be sure for her name will be mild in her rule and let him listen to reading a good deal without cramming the alphabet and grammar down the poor childs throat.

I cannot at this moment tell how or when I learnt to read but it was by fits and snatches as one aunt or another in the old rumble-tumble farm houses could give me a lesson and I am sure it increased my love and habit of reading more than the austerities of a school could have done—I gave trouble I believe in wishing to be taught and in self defence gradually acquired the mystery myself.

Johnie is infirm a little though not so much so as I was and often he has brought back to my recollection the stage of my own childhood. I hope he will have any good that was in me with less carelessness.

My affairs are simply thus—I have disposed my worldly goods and gear for payment of very heavy existing obligations. Walter succeeds to Abbotsford by
his marriage contract according to the Deans 2 opinion
and that of all others I have hitherto heard. But if the

Creditors can dispute the settlement and after a year or
two's trial find it policy to do so they may perhaps attempt
Yet if I keep my popularity with the public they will
home farm and my official income 1600 a year. Charles
must cost me 300 for a year or two and my Brothers
family a 150., more but as Lady Scott goes now entirely
on the ready money system as I have plenty of wine &c
and as I can make viis et modis two or three hundred
extra without interrupting the serious and heavy work
which it will be my pleasure to bestow on redeeming my
affairs I can easily gain as literary men know how—we
shall be very comfortable. My pleasure is labour and
varied by a walk with Tom Purdie I have little wish
beyond it. In Edinburgh I must be lonely and sometimes
my heart sinks a little at the idea of leaving poor 39 N.
Castle Street with its divers easements so suited to our
wants and wishes. But a man who falls out of a three pair
of stairs window has reason to thank God if he escapes
with a dirl 1 on the elbow. Of course the extrication of
my affairs will be more or less easy as those of Hurst &
Robinson and Constable may turn out. I will make the
best fight I can and let the worst come I will be contented
for I shall have done my duty. I have had offers of
support and so forth but what signifies borrowing from
friends to pay men who are far from foes. This is the
upshot of the whole matter I sustain not the least personal
inconvenience indeed had the chusing of my own terms.
And you are quite wellcome to mention all this to any
body who wishes to know. Among other offers I had one
of a very honourable character on [the] part of some old
friends. Sir P. Murray communicated it to me on the part of Justice Clerk, Abercromby & Abercromby and others—

for a place on the Session Bench. But I declined it at once. My interest would have suffered rather than have been advanced by it as I could not with conscience have devoted my mind or any considerable portion of my time to literary pursuits. Besides my attention has been long withdrawn from the Law and I would not like to serve the altar for a bit of bread or rather for a little butter to put upon it for thank God I have the bread already. A Barons gown would be a very different thing and I should be glad to have it—in my best days I have sometimes thought of it and had the late D. of Buccleuchs strong interest when a fitting occasion should arrive. But I neither could nor would combat Raes better pretensions and much may happen before two vacancies occur on that bench.

Besides I am certain I am not now taking the way to preferment

But who can help it Dick—

I cannot see the country ruined before my eyes with every soul but Mr Macculloch 1 of the Scotsman and some half dozen [in] Edinr without a soul of their own mob to support them of a different opinion. Old Gardiner when wounded at Prestonpans almost dying himself rode up to the infantry when the cavalry were broken and saying these poor lads will be destroyd without a leader called out " fire away my lads and fear nothing " a lesser man would have galloped off. But my heart will not brook—fall back or fall edge—to leave the cause of my country as I do sincerely conceive it to be in a state so
(9-442) precarious without doing whatever one poor voice can
(9-442) to sound the alarm—if my power had been answerable
(9-442) to my will I would like old Hardyknute have

(9-442) — blown a blast so shrill
(9-442) The trees in greenwood shook thereat
(9-442) Sae loud rang ilka hill.

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(9-443) It is pretty well as it is though—for you never saw braid
(9-443) Scotland in such a humour. There was a meeting of a
(9-443) most respectable description 600 men I should say of the
(9-443) better and trading classes at the Waterloo tavern. A man
(9-443) Howden all his life in opposition as the only man to
(9-443) propose complete reliance on the wisdom of the ministers
(9-443) (by the way he was always a jacobin) hooted down
(9-443) without a single individual even to second his motion—
(9-443) the speaking was well enough though no great guns came
(9-443) forward. There was a report that some of the principal
(9-443) reviewers were to come down to expound their oeconomics
(9-443) to the public. I would to God they had for with the
(9-443) weather gage of them in point of popularity they should
(9-443) have been raked fore and aft to purpose. It is seldom
(9-443) you see those whom Falstaff 1 calls great Moneyers and
(9-443) Oneyers fighting on the same side with the whole middling
(9-443) classes but such is the case now. If Ministers do not
(9-443) frankly give way they must prepare for great extremities
(9-443) and if they do persevere on the point and the consequences
(9-443) follow from so forcible a change which all here apprehend
(9-443) there is no knowing what Scotland may do. I send
(9-443) you a couple of Malachi’s second. I do not know how
(9-443) friend Croker stands but send him one at the same time.

(9-443) I send you separately my formal consent to your
(9-443) proposal about the Stock 2—the sooner it is accomplishe
(9-443) the better. Love to Sophia and Johnie our friends in
(9-443) Piccadilly and all others who ask for a Scottish mal-
(9-443) content like myself. — One good thing is that from striking
(9-443) into this row I have got people out of the detestable
(9-443) fashion of grimacing and pitying and poor manning me and

LETTERS OF 1826

(9-444) let them know A man's a man for a' that. I inclose also
(9-444) a letter on Shakespearisms. Yours always

WALTER SCOTT

(9-444) I dare hardly ask which of my friends is hurt by the
(9-444) arrow which I have drawn at a venture. Canning is the
(9-444) only one besides Lord Melville whom I care for and
(9-444) Amicus Socrates &c. —

3d March [1826]

(9-444) Anne with half the Ladies in Edinr. is a violent Anti-
(9-444) bullionist. If it were not for Dr Hopes 1 lectures to the
(9-444) ladies on Chemistry they would talk of nothing else.
(9-444) Anne and Mama send love—both busy packing.

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-444) DEAR JAMES,—I saw my mistake learned it I should say
(9-444) just after I sent away my scold. The servants gave me the
(9-444) letter as if arrived at nine o'clock without saying it had
(9-444) come about five and I did not think of asking them that
(9-444) obvious question untill I had sent the sheets back to you.

(9-444) You will receive A & B with this. I have a letter
My dear Sir,—A number of pressing and troublesome affairs have repeatedly interfered to prevent my expressing to you the great pleasure I have received from your beautiful and masterly edition of the Coventry Mysteries. I have not been more struck for this long time with an antiquarian publication for both the carefulness and extent of research as well as the interesting selection of illustrations [which] raise it to the very highest class among works of that description. It makes me regret very much that I had not seen it before I made for the Encyclopedia a sketch of theatrical history upon which your curious work throws so much light. The passage of theatrical representation from the mere Mime or personated character into the proper drama is a very interesting step in the amusing enquiry into which I have dip’d a little of late. The players of thespis were mere masqueraders and that of a very rude description. Then comes the idea of arranging these detached characters so as to make them present us a common action. At first I suppose every one of the dramatis personae acted his own part to the best of his ability extempore from his wit. By and bye the wit of the poet was wanted to give language
(9-445) to the characters instead of limiting themselves to the
(9-445) laying out of the business. Probably the Coventry
(9-445) Mysteries are among the earliest pieces thus produced and
(9-445) making the first approaches to a regular drama and as
(9-445) such we are inestimably obliged to the learned editor
(9-445) who has made Coventry classical as the Cradle of the
(9-445) British drama.

(9-445) In our country there are carried on at Christmas time

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(9-446) a sport call'd Mummery by the English borderers and
(9-446) Guisardery by the Scotch which have still relish of the
(9-446) ancient Mystery. Sacred characters are sometimes introduced
(9-446) though rather nominally than with any exact idea
(9-446) of personification. I remember in childhood playing
(9-446) Judas and bearing the bag— the part was assigned me on
(9-446) account of my lameness though how that corresponded
(9-446) with the traditionary idea of the Apostate I cannot tell.
(9-446) At this day there are remnants of the same ancient custom.
(9-446) Every new years day there appear in the Courtyard of
(9-446) my House at Abbotsford & in the same way in other
(9-446) gentlemen's houses in the country perhaps three or four
(9-446) hundred children in different bands larger or smaller
(9-446) according to their pleasure but all disguised like chimney
(9-446) sweepers on the first of May with such scraps of gilt paper
(9-446) & similar trumpery which they have collected for months
(9-446) before. They recite verses sing songs some of them very
(9-446) well and recite or act little dramatic pieces which seem to
(9-446) allude to the Nine Worthies for you have Alexr. King of
(9-446) Macedon & God knows who besides. Not to mention
(9-446) one Galashan 1 (Galatian perhaps) who is a regular
(9-446) character though who he may be I cannot guess. A
(9-446) gentleman who was with me on a visit wrote down some
(9-446) of these rhymes If they would give you the least interest
I would with pleasure send you a copy. The dole for such little performers is regularly a silver penny & a regular portion of what is call'd white bread (household bread vizt.) to each child who is residing on the lairds land a copper penny and a quarter circle of oat-cake call'd a farle to each stranger.

It is very diverting to see so many little happy faces but the manner of the different children in all the varieties from downright impudence to the extremity of awkward bashfullness is no less so. In Edinburgh these Exhibitions have been put down by the police in a great measure the privilege of going disguised having been of late years so much abused that one party in particular who call'd themselves Rob Roys gang went so far into the spirit of their part as actually to commit theft. In time past there was no limitation nor was the privilege abused. The exquisite delight was to go to the House of some particular friend or relation who of course was all too kind to discern us even while stuffing us with better cheer than was given to Guisards of a more ordinary description. I pray your pardon for these details which while they bring back some pleasing remembrances to myself may not be altogether indifferent to you as indicating probably the only remnants of a subject on which you have thrown so much light. I should wish very much to know by what safe conveyance I could send you a copy of a curious Scottish Chronicle printed here by the Bannatyne Club (corresponding to the Roxburgh Club of London). I do not promise it will be so interesting to you as to a Scotsman yet there are curious things in it affording interest to both countries.
Having been far too long in sending my letter owing to
work [?] which threw my whole correspondence into
arrear I am now like to be tedious in another sort. Yet one
word ere I close. Pray what is your opinion of the real
story of Peeping Tom whose name so naturally connects
itself with Coventry? A figure is said to be preserved of
him. Is it of any antiquity? Another question a less
civil one I own regards the origin of the ordinary phrase
of being "sent to Coventry". From the little I have seen

of Coventry in passing through & all that I have ever
heard I cannot conceive why disagreeable people should
be referred to your fair & famous town of all places in the
world. Excuse this trouble but you know my dear sir
your antiquarian is a kind of bore himself therefore liable
to be sent to exile to you. I can only add I would
willingly submit to a literal sentence of banishment to
Coventry provided it afforded me an opportunity of
offering you the personal thanks of your &c &c

WALTER SCOTT
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO HIS DAUGHTER——MRS. LOCKHART

MY DEAR SOPHIA,—I have but time to write a few lines
and say how much I was pleased to hear from you. I am sure
the West Indian affair though now gone off as a direct
bargain will well managed do much for Lockhart. There
are I should suppose in these gentlemens power indirect
means of serving Lockhart by introducing him into
business not immediatly connected with literature or
dependent on its instant rewards. I own my own
misfortunes have made me afraid of trusting entirely to literature and booksellers. Had I not had my two snug offices I should have been for the time base enough—and so I have come off like the stag in the fable by the qualities he despized while my branchy antlers only caught me in the wood. I wish he had a similar certainty in reserve.

We are all well and busy with our flitting—a sad sight to me who had hoped never to quit No 39 and am subject to attachment even to chairs and tables. You all used to play about me here as children and came to be my comfort when you were at a more advanced age and I cannot but feel the separation from things that put me in mind of this. But this is nonsense and I ought to be happy at the prospect of saving Abbotsford. I have tried a third letter of Malachi but it will be the last. I have done my duty and I will not sacrifice my time and leisure further in the controversy having gone far enough for all the thanks I shall get.

We are to remain in this now empty or half empty house till we see all we wish to keep shipd off. Tell Lockhart I have carried off all the decent drawings and prints and left the oil paintings of Miss Somebody to the chance of getting the price of their frames. I intended once to have Allan mark my name on them and sell them as the productions of my youth to help the sale.

I have a letter from Charles 1 and I think he threatens being with you in the vacation, which is I believe a short one and Lockhart whom he respects much could give him a little hint now and then. Poor fellow I hope he will be aware he must work hard and my greatest anxiety will be to get him out well in the world. He has many
qualities that suit a bustling young fellow who is desirous to get forward.

Mama is quite well excepting the indolence arising from the state of her general health and which I hope will mend in the country. Anne is in excellent spirits. I have got lodgings in Saint Davids Street very comfortable. The ass Dalgleish will not leave me and gives up poor devil 10 of his wages. So he and Cissy are to manage my domestic affairs. My private hope is that after Christmas I may have Anne with me for six weeks if I can get Jane Russell to give my Mama her company in her absence. It is a pity she should be out of Society altogether—And as Captain Bobadil says " the cabin is convenient."

Letters from Walter and Jane say they are leaving Dublin for country quarters which both seem glad off as they are a little tired of the gaieties and expence of Dublin. I am glad they are so provident but Jane is a good manager calls in and pays bills and Walter is not expensive. I have not time to write more. Love to dear little Johnie and success to Miss McTavish who I hope will play with him as much as work. I never knew good come of severe teaching in early youth. Give a child the desire of knowlege and he will acquire it.

Adieu my dearest Soph[i]a kindest Love to Lockhart and believe me Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET I will seldom write that date 2 again.

7 March [1826]
TO CAPT. WALTER SCOTT, DUBLIN

(9-451) MY DEAR WALTER,—I had the pleasure of your kind letter and Jane's by M[r] Francks. The present state of poor 93 (1) Castle Street does not admit of asking guests to dinner for we are sending off the things we want to Abbotsford and among the rest about a 100 dozen of tolerable wine which will keep us out of the wine merchants accompts for some time when added to what I have in cellar there. But I have invited M[r] Franck to break[f]ast being as the Minister expressd it in his grace over a dish of herrings "the least of all possible mercies." He will be able I suppose to give us some account of you.

(9-451) As for ourselves we are very well and bustling about. I could not help mingling in the controversy about the intended extension of the gold bill to Scotland to the total superceding of notes under five pounds—And have written on the subject three letters under the signature of Malachi Malagrowther which have had a great run and made proportional noise. If I had been very wise I would have let things take their own way but I think the Ministers have for ten or twelve years back been pursuing a System highly insulting towards Scotland and this sudden and violent change of currency will produce the greatest mischief. Besides when peoples own affairs have been mismanaged they are always disposed to put to rights those of the public. If I could get an opportunity I would send you Malachis letters for though on a grave subject they are rather funny. The Books you wanted to send to Lord Lieutenant—get Mr
Blake or some one at the Castle to tell you how to send them.

I fancy I must rather wish you joy of leaving Dublin as both Jane and you express yourselves as if tired of gaieties. Gort I am unacquainted with but [have] heard of Athlone. At any rate there will be good rooms in the barracks and Jane will commence leaguer: lady complete.

I suppose there will be always some thing of a neighbourhood and none has a better right to repose confidence in Irish hospitality. So with a little driving about and riding fine weather without doors and books drawing and music within you may pass away the time as happy as you please. Most happy shall I be in finding that you can be with us in July which I suppose may be possible as your reviews and so forth generally take place early.

Lockhart I believe has made a great impression in London and I trust may get into something less precarious than success as a literary man and I believe something of the kind will happen by and bye. As for Soph she is in her element and needs much attention. The poor child is also well but you know there is but little between poor Johnies health and sickness. He has been living in great awe from a consciousness of being not distant in residence from the Kings own House.

Amid the bad times Barber Mrs Nicolsons Nephew went to the wall with his [whole] House Shaw, Perryns 2 &c. This went to my heart when I saw it in the Gazette for fear of any tricks being plaid with Mrs Carpenters money which stood in their names. But all is luckily safe. It is now proposed to put it into the names of Mrs Carpenter.
John G. Lockhart John Richardson and Sir Coutts Trotter which seems a perfectly safe arrangement of trustees. Mr Gouldbourne I fancy is in London.

I am glad you are making some use of your horses in applying them occasionally at least to your own carriage it makes a great difference in point of expence and the cattle are not a bit the worse of the additional exercize and it will be a great convenience to my little Jane.

We have more goods and chattles in the way of pictures and so forth than we have present places to bestow [them]. I will let all the trash go and keep only the good engravings and drawings with perhaps two or three pictures. My own portrait by Raeburn James Skene gives house room to for a year or two but with an explained understanding that I retain the property. I should care little for it on my own account but I told Skene that I thought you would [not] be willing to part with it.1 There would be difficulty where to hang it at Abbotsford unless over the drawing room chimney which place is better occupied by a handsome mirror.

Mama and Anne are in their usual health. I trust the country will persuade Mama to take more exercize which would be of great service if she could go on with [it] regularly. But her complaints are connected with an indolence which renders her unwilling to walk or exert herself though she knows it does her good. Anne is in great spirits and swears she will not visit Edinr in a hurry again. I intend she shall come in for a month or six weeks next winter if things go on well and I can get a proper companion to stay with Mama. I have got nice
rooms (bed room and parlour) in a good and quiet
situation North St. Davids Street. There is another
bedroom and sort of parlour in the house which I can
have if I please: and as I [have?] a man and maidservant
with [me] if Anne brings another maid we will be
quite snug and she can have a little round of gaieties and
not fall to leeward entirely out of the line other
acquaintances. I would have gone to the Club and done without
a servant but Dalgleish poor devil was in such despair at
the idea of leaving us and rather wishing to surrender part
of his wages that we were obliged to keep him and must
save on something else. The fellow is a fool for would he
go to any creditable undertaker that long rueful face
of his would make his fortune. He seems like a man

oppressd with some strange sorrow. Charles complains
he never hears from you—you ought to write to him now
and then. Jane has a letter inclosed 1 written long ago
and only waiting a frank or private hands. Always my
dear Walter Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT
EDINR. 7 March [PM. 1826]
You may address Abbotsford Melrose hereafter.

TO CHARLES SCOTT, BRAZENNOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD

MY DEAR CHARLES,—I have receivd your letter and
remit the needful. At the same time I must inform you
that small as I should have thought the sum a few months
since I must now supply your necessity by borrowing
from a friend which is no pleasant thing. It is right my
(9-454) dear boy you should know perfectly what you have to
(9-454) trust to. My present income when I have made some
(9-454) necessary allowances for the support of my Sister in law
(9-454) and her daughters and something to support my brothers
(9-454) natural son till he is out of his apprenticeship will little
(9-454) exceed £1200 a year disposable funds and of course your
(9-454) present Exhibition of £300, is equal to one fourth of it
(9-454) and there remains £900 for Mama Anne and I which
(9-454) with the necessary oeconomy will support us very well.
(9-454) But we must keep ourselves within our limits and I am
(9-454) sure that what friends you have will think the better of
(9-454) you if you avoid expensive parties and pleasures at this
(9-454) moment. You should manfully own the reason and rely
(9-454) on it you will gain instead of losing in the opinion of all
(9-454) whose esteem is worth having; besides laying a foundation
(9-454) for future independence. Things will mend by and
(9-454) bye if God spares my life. But in the mean time oeconomy
(9-454) is a sacred duty on me and mine and I must estimate your
(9-454) regard for us all by your attention to this hint.

1826                SIR WALTER SCOTT                     455

(9-455) I do not believe Walters regiment goes to India. The
(9-455) report seems to have blown over. They move from
(9-455) Dublin however to three stations namely Ballinrobe
(9-455) Athlone and Gort I think. To which Walter goes is yet
(9-455) uncertain but by letters yesterday received both he and
(9-455) Jane seem pleased with the idea of leaving Dublin.

(9-455) Sophia I am sure will be happy to see you in town
(9-455) during the Vacation. Lockhart is in a fine train to
(9-455) distinguish himself honorably for which I thank God.

(9-455) We are in the unpleasant business of leaving poor 93
(9-455) Castle Street for ever. I do not leave the scene of so
(9-455) many happy days with indifference nor do I ever think
of the sale of all our old domestic ornaments with absolute 
stoicism. One has—at least I have—a sort of attachment 
even to the senseless moveables we have so long made use 
of. But this would be a foolish idea to encourage. We 
ought to be thankful so severe a tempest can be appeased 
with such trifling sacrifices.

I have no doubt Lockhart will be delighted to see you 
during the vacation and when there I hope you will write 
particularly how they are going on especially how poor 
little Johnie does. I hope you will employ your time well 
when in London. There is much to be seen and learnt 
besides idle amusement.

I inclose a 20 note of the Bank of England which 
will be on the whole the easiest way of making the 
necessary remittance. Adieu my dear Charles. Continue 
to labour in Spring that you may reap the fruit 
hereafter. Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 7th March [PM. 1826]

We go to Abbotsford on the 14 or 15 as it will take that 
time after the 11th to clear away our goods and gear.

MY DEAR SIR,—Tomorrow the Cabinet will be sent you 
before breakfast. I am sorry poor No 39 has stuck in the 
market but worse luck now better the next time.
The cabinet you have been kind enough to accept will wait on you tomorrow before breakfast & I wish it was more worthy offering to you.

Lady Scott leaves town about the middle of next week. I go on Tuesday and we are desirous to deliver up upon inventory to be taken by any one you are pleased to name the furniture remaining in the House. There is one point on which I beg to speak. I wish it to be advertised as the furniture in No 39 lately occupied by Sir W. S. Your delicacy would I know boggle at this but mine does not. My displeasure is that I am not able to pay every one their own not on the measures necessary to effect payment & I have some reason to think that if the public are aware it is mine better prices may be given some folks are curious to have even trifling articles belonging to those who have right or wrong made some noise [in] the world. I heard a fellow passing the house say " Odd I'll [have] one of his chairs if it cost me 20/ ". Others may have a similar whim & if so why should they go to brokers to give them the advantage which would be gained by the Creditors.

You must think when the furniture is to be sold & how the things are to [be] kept safe & in good order till the Sale takes place.

I inclose a billet from the tax office. If you can breakfast with us tomorrow or Saturday at half past nine Lady Scott would be happy to talk with you about what is to be done in this matter. Yours alway gratefully

WALTER SCOTT

CASTLE STREET Wednesday 8th March 1826
TO SIR ROBERT DUNDAS

(9-457) MY DEAR SIR ROBERT,—I return you Lord Melville's letter, and as it is chiefly intended for my perusal, I am under the necessity of adding a few observations.

(9-457) My Lord Melville is fully entitled to undervalue my arguments and contravene the facts which I have aired. Very possibly the former may not be worth minding, and the latter in some degree incorrect, though I believe the general statement will be found substantial.

(9-457) But I think it hard to be called a highwayman for taking the field on this occasion when God knows I had no personal booty to hope for. I think Lord Melville might have at least allowed [me] the credit of Don Quixote, who took the field as an imaginary lighter of wrongs.

(9-457) Twice in my life I have volunteered in public affairs. Once about twenty years ago when, with zeal if with little talent, when I did so on behalf of an honoured friend and patron. By doing so I gave great offence to persons then high in office, some of whom thought it worth while to follow up the debit with something like persecution, insisting that I should be sent to Coventry by every friend I had connected with that side in politics. I have never regretted that I did this, though the result was painful.

(9-457) In the present case the concern, which as an individual I am bound to take in the welfare of my country, has appeared to me to dictate another interference at which,
(9-457)to say truth, I did expect from the beginning some of my
great friends would be displeased.

I cannot complain of the consequences in either of the
cases, since I incur’d the risque of them voluntarily. But
I think the motive leading me to a line of conduct which is
at least completely disinterested, ought to have been
considered.

I am perfectly aware that the pamphlet was warmly
written, but its subject was warmly felt, and I would not
term a blister inflammatory merely because it awakened
the patient.

So much for intention and manner of expression. I
have not the vanity to think Lord Melville wished me to
enter into argument on the subject. Were I to do so with
a view to his Lordship's private information, I could say
very much connected with matters in which he is deeply
interested to show why the course I have taken is beneficial
to Scotland and to his Lordship as the guardian of her
subjects. But the mode in which his Lordship has
intimated his sentiments renders this impossible.

I might, I think, complain that so long a letter is sent
for the purpose of being shown to his Lordship's private
and confidential friends, and is not to be copied—
though I am so deeply implicated—or even a copy of it
permitted to remain with me, the person at, though not
to whom the whole is written. Most of these individuals
must in our little and limited circle be my friends also,
and it seems hard that where such sharp language is used
I am to be deprived of the usual privilege of putting
myself on my own defence, and that before such a special
The circumstances respecting the Naval Station and Military force are not written by me on my own authority, for I know nothing of the matter, but were inserted on the information of a personal friend, no less of mine than of Lord Melville, and they really are not founded on anything of much importance, and the general statement is not I think untested. The clubbery of our great Officers of State is certainly accurate. The facts alluded to by Lord Melville respecting something like insecurity of the banks I certainly never heard. But who was more distressed during the changeful events of the last war than the Bank of England? And so must every great commercial body during such extraordinary circumstances— it is not for such but for the ordinary state of commerce that laws are made. When danger comes according to circumstances Marshal Law is proclaimed. The Habeas Corpus is suspended, and the issuing of specie from the bank is dispensed with. But these, like the appointment of a Dictator in Rome, are the dictates of stern necessity. Legislators do not make laws for them.

I must with whatever pain to myself understand the circulation of such a paper without any copy being permitted as a general annunciation to Lord Melville's friends that Malachi is under the ban of his party. I am not surprised that Lord Melville parts lightly with a friendship which, however sincere, cannot be of any consequence to him. He cannot prevent me from continuing the same good wishes to him which no man has more sincerely entertained, and which no endurance of his resentment can alter.
Other times may come before we are either of us elsewhere, and he will find Walter Scott just where he was, without any feeling of animosity, but with the same recollection of former kindness.

I own my intention regarded the present question much less than to try if it were possible to raise Scotland a little to the scale of consideration from which she has greatly sunk. I think that John Home mentions that Hepburn of Keith, a private gentleman of pleasant manners and high accomplishments, was regretted by the Whigs as having [been] induced to sacrifice himself to a vain idea of the independence of Scotland. With less to sacrifice and much fewer to regret me, I have made the sacrifice probably as vainly. But I am strongly impressed with the necessity of the case, and I know that not a man will speak out, but one who like myself is at [once] above and below consequences. Scotland is fast passing under other management and into other hands than Lord Melville's father would have permitted. In points of abstract discussion, quickness of reform, etc., the Whigs are assuming an absolute and undisputed authority. Now here was a question in which the people might be taken absolutely out of their demagogues, and instead of that our members 1 strengthen the hands of these men with ministerial authority to cram the opinions of these speculative economists down the throat of an unwilling people, as they have crammed a dozen of useless experiments already. I could say more of this and to the same purpose, but I need not make both Whigs and mistaken Tories alike my enemies. And yet, if I could do good by doing so, I would not care much for any personal
Concerning the first part of Lord Melville's letter you are, I am sure, aware that individually I rather discouraged the application of the Clerks of Session for an augmentation, and signed the memorial in deference to the opinion of my brethren who, entertaining such a sense of their pretensions, I did not think I had any title to withdraw myself from their body. I certainly consider that we were and are harshly treated in the case of our brother Ferriar. As to the argument that good men will be got to fill our offices at less than our emoluments, I will engage that if every public office were exposed to auction on the Dutch principle that every man should underbid instead of overbidding each other, and preferring the lowest bidder, they would be all reduced to a very moderate standard. Old Fleming offered to be a King for 500 a year. How far this would lead to the improvement of the country is de quo quæritur, the improvement would be a radical one.

I have written a great deal more than I intended, and still I could write much more fully on the controversy, but I am conscious that I am a rash cudgel-player, and incapable of expressing regret. When I have no feeling except of sorrow, I think it is better to stop as I am.

When I say that I regret Lord Melville's alienation, I hope his Lordship will understand it is that of the friend and early companion, not of the Minister. In the latter capacity I have always found Lord Melville more kind and attentive to my personal concerns than I had any title to expect, and I think his Lordship will do me the
justice to say I have seldom troubled him with personal requests. If I have been frequently an intrusive solicitor for others it has been for persons recommended either by talents, by distress, or by merits towards Government.

I wish you may be able to read this, but by candle-light I cannot write so distinctly as usual. I request you will transmit to Lord Melville. I have read it once over and keep no copy. But I should think it fair, with his Lordship's permission, that it should be shown to those friends to whom he wishes you to show his own letter. If I am wrong, I have a title that men should know that I have erred from honourable and patriotic motives. The event will show whether I have erred or not. If I have, there is not much harm done; and if I have not, I am sure I do not know whether I ought to be glad or sorry for it.—Adieu, dear Sir Robert, I am always affectionately yours,

CASTLE STREET, 9 March 1826

WALTER SCOTT

MY DEAR LORD,—Gibson applied to me to know something of Mr Tennant now a candidate for the school of Dalkeith. I do not in general like to volunteer giving opinions upon the very delicate question affecting such an appointment. I have had about twenty applications of some of them men who cannot to my certain knowledge decline persona [?] modestly requesting that I should give a testimony to your Lordship in a matter which no way concerns me and which I am askd to engage in not on my
own knowledge but trusting to the opinion of those who recommended the candidates to me & whose recommendations I would not in my own case have given any weight to.

But Mr Tennants case is different and so far as I know he [is] a very good and labourious teacher as well [as] a man of distinguishd talents in a literary point of view. I knew him personally at Laswade and had the greatest respect for his character and accomplishments. I have not seen him for many years but I have always understood that he had fully maintaind his reputation.

He is deformd poor man & under the necessity of using crutches—no advantage where you have boys to deal with yet he always kept up great order in his school and though a mild teacher was in complete possession of the necessary authority. Such I knew Mr Tennant a good many years ago and though I had no sort of intimacy with him but that sort of regard arising out of good opinion which would have made me very anxious to assist him in any conjuncture where it might have been in my power.

I had a letter from Mr Tennant upon his application to your Lordship and I mentiond to him in reply that I would be happy to bear witness to such of his good qualities as came under my knowlege but declined in his as well as other cases to intrude any opinion unless askd by your Lordship or Mr Douglas.

I have to thank you most gratefully for two bags of acorns which will be a great treasure. I intend a sort of experiment. I made last year a considerable plantation almost entirely of Larches but leaving spaces to put in
oaks at about ten feet distance. I do not intend to put in
the oaks until five years hence when they will be completely
sheltered and the larches may be thinned out gradually
to make room for the nobler crop. I have a notion both
the progress of the plantation and the profit will be
considerably increased.

I am very much obliged indeed to Lady Montagu for
her attention to Sophia who writes to me very gratefully
on that subject. Did you get Lockhart set to drawing
— he has a pretty talent that way.

We are all terrified to death at the alteration of the
Banking system here which for a century has served the
purposes of Scotland so well. The experiment will be a
dreadful one and in general I really fear we will liberalize
ourselves out of common fair dealing and economize
ourselves out of common sense.

Believe me with kindest Compliments to Lady Montagu
and all our friends Your Lordships honoured & obliged
Servt WALTER SCOTT

EDINR. 9th March [1826]

TO JOHN GIBSON, JR., W.S., EDINBURGH

— I send you the cabinet and much gear
may it hold. I enclose you the keys. There are in it
receipts, regularly bundled up for more than twenty
years which may as well be with you in case of reference
TO J. G. LOCKHART, LONDON

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I am almost stunned with the melancholy intelligence I have this morning received. It appears to be God's pleasure that this year shall be a most melancholy one but other considerations were trifles compared to the anxiety communicated by your intelligence. Most unhappily Morritt is I understand just leaving Brighton. I own I have had always a deep-rooted anxiety on account of that poor dear infant and have sometimes thought there was too much mind for the corporeal strength. I can scarce conceive a situation more melancholy than yours—thinking and feeling as Even Sophias is easier because she is at least constantly present where her anxiety is most anxiously fixed. What can I form for you but vain wishes or what arguments can I use that will not occur to yourself and when they have thus occurred be of very little avail. We would send up Anne with pleasure if her presence could be useful.

As for the political part of your letter I intend to meddle no further in the matter. I could easily answer Croker and give him petulance for petulance but cui bono I have no ill will at him but much regard both for Canning and him and besides I could not enter on the subject minutely without showing up individuals whom I would not harm for all the pleasure of a thousand such conquests. What
would they say for instance of Ferriars case which was refered (he holding a commission under the Great Seal of Scotland) to the English crown Council who decided that in the event of his being unable to discharge the duties of his office and unwilling to accept the 1/2 of his income by way of Superannuation instead of two thirds to which he had a claim he should in that case be removed from his office by an English law process to which they gave a hard name. But I could not say this without materially injuring the advocate who acquainted Colin MacKenzie & me with the result of this exquisite proceeding. I have done enough in calling the attention of the public to the subject which amid the time-serving faineants who call themselves the Representatives of Scotland there are few would have the courage to do—and because for the others Ministers are literally playing their own game to their hands.

Scotland will in twenty years perhaps much sooner be revolutionized from head to foot and then let England look to herself for she may have some reason to resume her own old proverb All ill comes from the North. The present time reminds me strongly of that of 1638-9 when useless & uncall'd for changes unsettled the minds and irritated the temper of the Scotch who were not long in communicating the infection to England. Then the opinions were religious now they are political but the effect may—indeed I think will prove the same.

Within this twenty years nay within these ten years there have been so many alterations made that Law seems to be treatd like religion according to Hudibras

—as if intended

For nothing else but to be mended.1
In the meantime the Burghers have been assembled into popular meeting[s] of Commissioners and so forth and have most effectually modelld themselves in such a manner as will make it impossible long to refuse them the popular representation they demand. They will probably send up clever men for the time is so near and the prospect so tempting that some of our clever friends in the P. House will never quit so pleasing a harvest—Bold speculative able men longheaded too beyond the length of the Southron noodle they will propose and carry through more general measures of alteration all leaning to the popular side of the question. These will be given way to as concerning Scotland only, that lump of dough which any man may knead anything out of. Fiercer innovators will arise behind in the usual course of such events—England will catch fire in her turn—and all this from encouraging a spirit of innovation in the most quiet and peaceful country in Europe.

As for the number of little slights refusals and so forth they have been long felt and spoken off among the best friends of Administrators. But this last proposed measure is of ten times the consequence of anything done in Scotland since the Heritable Jurisdiction act in 1748. If it is persevered in and works well I scarce see what will be gained but should it go wrong as all thinking men anticipate the consequences will be most fatal.

As for myself what reason on earth can I have to affront all my friends in power but the deep consciousness that there is a duty to be discharged. If they can argue one out of the world as they say & into Liddesdale I have; not the least objection. Ignorance itself shall be a plummet over me if they please—so they will but look for the sake of the country with a little caution at what they
The point I wish'd to gain is attain'd. I have drawn peoples attention to the question and I neither will nor ought to do more. I will not maintain a controversy which would turn rancorous. If they chuse they may yet counter balance some of the tendency to change which pervades the middling classes in Scotland by the national feelings which are not yet obliterated and by giving more weight to the local authorities. If they do not think this course a wise one they will do what they like better and the event will show whether "poor Margaret was a prophetess". Nothing is more easy as every lawyer knows than to fill up cracks in a cause by dint of special pleading just as masons daub breaches over with mortar and joiners cover ill fitted joints with varnish or gilding. But [it] is one thing to please the eye or ear another to make that sound and trust-worthy which is infirm and unsound.

I have written more than I intended but I am not sorry that any of our private friends should know why I do not answer my friend at the Admiralty. Mr Canning is mistaken if he supposes I appeald to the populace. On the contrary I resisted every proposal to put the Letters into a shape for general circulation. If ever there should be an occasion to address the people I fancy I might have a guess how to set about it. But it should not be against the present Men although I am so unfortunate as to disapprove of the present measures.

My heart sinks at writing all this stuff on a subject so different from that which at present occupies us both. It is what however we would likely have talkd about to divert for a moment our thoughts from that which must
be uppermost. I am alone at Abbotsford & have spent
one pleasant day here but that which follows is after the
manner of Seged with a witness. Pray write often.

Yours truly

W SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 17 March [PM. 1826]

Lady Scott and Anne come here on Sunday.
I have a letter from little Walter. He bids me say with
kind thanks that he received the packet you sent to Deal.

TO SIR ROBERT Dundas of Dunira, Bart., Heriot Row, Edinburgh

MY DEAR SIR ROBERT,—I had your letter to-day, and
am much interested and affected by its contents.
Whatever Lord Melville's sentiments had been towards me,
I could never have lost remembrance of the very early
friend with whom I carried my satchel to school, and
whose regard I had always considered as one of the
happiest circumstances of my life. I remain of the same
opinion respecting the Letters, which have occasioned so
much more notice than they would have deserved, had
there not been a very general feeling in this country, and
among Lord Melville's best friends too, authorizing some
public remonstrances of the kind from some one like
myself, who had nothing to win or to lose—or rather, who
hazarded losing a great deal in the good opinion of
friends whom he was accustomed not to value only, but
to reverence. As to my friend Croker, an adventurer like
myself, I would throw my hat into the ring for love, and
give him a bellyful. But I do not feel there is any call on
me to do so, as I could not do it without entering into particulars, which I have avoided. If I had said, which I might have done, that, in a recent case, a gentleman holding an office under the Great Seal of Scotland, was referred to the English Grown Counsel—who gave their opinion, on which opinion the Secretary was prepared to act—that he was forcibly to be pushed from his situation, because he was, from age and malady, not adequate to its duties,—and that by a process of English law, the very name of which was unknown to us,—I would, I think, have made a strong case. But I care not to enter into statements to the public, the indirect consequence of which might be painful to some of our friends. I only venture to hope on that subject, that, suffering Malachi to go as a misrepresenter, or calumniator, or what they will, some attention may be paid that such grounds for calumny and misrepresentation shall not exist in future—I am contented to be the scape-goat. I remember the late Lord Melville defending, in a manner that defied refutation, the Scots laws against sedition, and I have lived to see these repealed, by what our friend Baron Hume calls " a bill for the better encouragement of sedition and treason." It will last my day probably; at least I shall be too old to be shot, and have only the honourable chance of being hanged for incivisme. The whole burgher class of Scotland are gradually preparing for radical reform—I mean the middling and respectable classes; and when a burgh reform comes, which perhaps cannot long be delayed. Ministers will not return a member for Scotland from the towns. The gentry will abide longer by sound principles; for they are needy, and desire advancement for their sons, and appointments, and so on. But this is a very hollow dependence, and those who
sincerely hold ancient opinions are waxing old.

Differing so much as we do on this head, and holding my own opinion as I would do a point of religious faith, I am sure I ought to feel the more indebted to Lord Melville's kindness and generosity for suffering our difference to be no breach in our ancient friendship. I shall always feel his sentiments in this respect as the deepest obligation I owe him; for, perhaps, there are some passages in Malachi's epistles that I ought to have moderated. But I desired to make a strong impression, and speak out, not on the Currency Question alone, but on the treatment of Scotland generally, the opinion which, I venture to say, has been long entertained by Lord Melville's best friends, though who that had anything to hope or fear would [not] have hesitated to state it?

So much for my Scottish feelings—prejudices, if you will; but which were born, and will die with me. For those I entertain towards Lord Melville personally, I can only say that I have lost much in my life; but the esteem of an old friend is that I should regret the most; and I repeat I feel most sensibly the generosity and kindness so much belonging to his nature, which can forgive that which has probably been most offensive to him. People may say I have been rash and inconsiderate; they cannot say I have been either selfish or malevolent—I have shunned all the sort of popularity attending the discussion; nay, have refused to distribute the obnoxious letters in a popular form, though urged from various quarters.

Adieu! God bless you, my dear Sir Robert! You may send the whole or any part of this letter if you think proper; I should not wish him to think that I was sulky
TO J. W. CROKER, M.P.

MY DEAR CROKER,—I received your very kind letter 1 with the feelings it was calculated to excite—those of great affection mixed with pain, which, indeed, I had already felt and anticipated before taking the step which I knew you must all feel as unkind, coming from one who had been honoured with so much personal regard. I need not, I am sure, say that nothing but an honest desire of serving this country by speaking out what is generally felt here, especially among Lord Melville's warmest and oldest friends, might have some chance, howsoever slight. Depend upon it, that if a succession of violent and experimental changes are made from session to session, with bills to amend bills when no want of legislation had been at all felt by the country, Scotland will, within ten or twenty years, perhaps much sooner, read a more fearful commentary on poor Malachi's epistles than any statesman residing out of the country and strange to the habits and feelings which are entertained here can possibly anticipate. My head may be low—I hope it will—before the time comes. But Scotland, completely liberalized, as she is in a fair way of being, will be the most dangerous neighbour to England that she has had

(9-470)about the continuance of his friendship.—I am yours most truly,

WALTER SCOTT

[18th March 1826]
[Lockhart]
since 1639. There is yet time to make a stand, for there

is yet a great deal of good and genuine feeling left in the
country. But if you unscotch us you will find us damned
mischievous Englishmen. The restless and yet laborious
and constantly watchful character of the people, their
desire for speculation in politics or any thing else, only
restrained by some proud feelings about their own
country, now become antiquated and which late measures
will tend much to destroy, will make them, under a wrong
direction, the most formidable revolutionists who ever
took the field of innovation. The late Lord Melville
knew them well, and managed them accordingly. Our
friend, the present Lord Melville, with the same sagacity,
has not the same advantages. His high office has kept
him much in the south;—and when he comes down here,
it is to mingle with persons who have almost all something
to hope or ask for at his hands.

But I shall say no more on this subject so far as politics
are concerned,—only you will remember the story of the
shield, which was on one side gold, and on the other silver,
and which two knights fought about till they were
mutually mortally wounded, each avowing the metal to
be that which he himself witnessed. You see the shield
on the golden,—I, God knows, not on the silver side—
but in a black, gloomy, and most ominous aspect.

With respect to your own share in the controversy, it
promised me so great an honour, that I laboured under a
strong temptation to throw my hat into the ring, tie my
colours to the ropes, cry, "Hollo there, Saint Andrew
for Scotland," and try what a good cause might do for a
bad, at least an inferior, combatant. But then I must
(9-472) have brought forward my facts, and as these must have
(9-472) compromised friends individually concerned, I felt myself
(9-472) obliged, with regret for forfeiting some honour, rather to
(9-472) abstain from the contest. Besides, my dear Croker, I
(9-472) must say that there are many and too direct personal
(9-472) allusions to myself, not to authorize and even demand
(9-472) some retaliation dans le meme genre, and however good-

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(9-473) humouredly men begin this sort of "sharp encounter of
(9-473) their wits," their temper gets the better of them at last.
(9-473) When I was a cudgel player, a sport at which I was once
(9-473) an ugly customer, we used to bar rapping over the
(9-473) knuckles, because it always ended in breaking heads;
(9-473) the matter may be remedied by baskets in a set-to with
(9-473) oak-saplings, but I know no such defence in the rapier
(9-473) and poniard game of wit. So I thought it best not to
(9-473) endanger the loss of an old friend for a bad jest, and sit
(9-473) quietly down with your odd hits, and the discredit which
(9-473) it gives me here for not repaying them, or trying to do so.
(9-473) I can assure you, Malachi's spirit has been thought
(9-473) meanly of for his silence, and this ought to be evidence in
(9-473) my favour that my temper at least is unconcerned in this
(9-473) unhappy dispute.

(9-473) As for my affairs, which you allude to so kindly, I
(9-473) can safely say, that no oak ever quitted its withered
(9-473) leaves more easily than I have done what might be
(9-473) considered as great wealth. I wish to God it were as easy
(9-473) for me to endure impending misfortunes of a very different
(9-473) kind. You may have heard that Lockhart's only child
(9-473) is very ill, and the delicate habits of the unfortunate boy
(9-473) have ended in a disease of the spine, which is a hopeless
(9-473) calamity, and in my daughter's present situation may have
(9-473) consequences on her health terrible for me to anticipate.
To add to this, though it needs no addition—for the poor child's voice is day and night in my ear—I have, from a consultation of physicians, a most melancholy account of my wife's health, the faithful companion of rough and smooth, weal and wo, for so many years. So if you compare me to Brutus in the harsher points of his character, you must also allow me some of his stoical fortitude—"No man bears sorrow better."

I cannot give you a more absolute assurance of the uninterrupted regard with which I must always think of you, and the confidence I repose in your expressions of cordiality, than by entering on details, which one reluctantly mentions, except to those who are sure to participate in them.

As for Malachi, I am like poor Jean Gordon, the prototype of Meg Merrilees, who was ducked to death at Carlisle for being a Jacobite, and till she was smothered outright, cried out every time she got her head above water, Charlie yet. But I have said my say, and have no wish to give my friends a grain more offence than is consistent with the discharge of my own feelings, which I think would have choked me if I had not got my breath out. I had better, perhaps, have saved it to cool my porridge; I have only the prospect of being a sort of Highland Cassandra. But even Cassandra tired of her predictions, I suppose, when she had cried herself hoarse, and disturbed all her friends by howling in their ears what they were not willing to listen to.

And so God bless you—and believe, though circumstances have greatly diminished the chance of our
meeting, I have the same warm sense of your kindness as its uniform tendency has well deserved. Yours affectionately, WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart and Croker Papers]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

MY DEAR JAMES,—I dare say many people would be much amused by my throwing my hat into the ring & turning to for a bellyful with Mr Robinson. But I have strong reasons for thinking that by prosecuting a controversy in which I must bring in names dates & accurate statements I should do more harm than good to the cause I mean to serve. I really think some impression has been made which I would rather hurt than improve by

1826 SIR WALTER SCOTT

pushing them up against the wall. I have contrived to let the parties concerned know it is not from a sense of timidity that I decline further combat.

Besides Malachi has interrupted weightier affairs long enough already & I fear in the present state of my family all I can do will scarce support me with the spirits necessary to carry on Woodstock. It shall be done however & you will be regularly supplied with copy were it written with my hearts blood.

Poor Johnie Lockhart the little angel is now declared decidedly affected in the spine which must carry him speedily to the grave with what distress to Lockhart and what consequences to Sophia's health about to be confined in a few weeks I leave [you] to anticipate.

To add to this Abercrombie has given a very unfavourable
opinion of the tendency of Lady Scott’s long & lingering
complaint which also forbodes at no distant period
I fear more painful consequences than it has yet threatend.

I thank God under this load of bad tidings I can compell
myself to do what ought to be done. I think considering
the deep love I must bear to these dearest domestic
objects I have some claim to say

No man bears sorrow better.

I think the arrangement ought to be enterd into about
the arbitration without loss of time. Murray as you will
see by the inclosed is nibbling.2 Hursts people must come
to a point for we have short time to wait. I think you
should speak to Caddell about it and have his opinion.
It must lye failing Robinson and Longman & Coy &
Murray.

Pray send this letter
W. S.

Monday [20 March 1826]

If you have anything to send Lady Scott proposes
coming on Wednesday, W S

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE. THE LORD ADVOCATE
[SIR WILLIAM RAE]

My DEAR LORD,—I thank you for your kind letter
received to-day which contains all I could either wish or
accept. But as the people here have been talking of my
retiring from some idea thrown out in Sir Robert Peele's
speech on introducing this business it is probable you may
be asked some questions about it even though no clause
in the bill calls any attention to it. Now as Joseph Hume
was once pleased to commemorate [?] me in the House
as a person who spent my time in the Court of Session in
writing novels I request of you as an old friend should
such an assertion be repeated to say that of your knowledge
and by your information it is a report equally false
and impossible. I have written a private letter while I
had no occasion to attend to what was before the Court
but as to any literary employment the Court of Session is
unfitting a scene as the House of Commons. I have
never had the least check or censure from the Court
neither during the time of Sir Ilay, Robert Blair or our own
present President 1 but on the contrary the approbation

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of all of them. I mention this for though to speak once
more en dragon I would not give a damn for all Joseph's
blarney [or] I should study to find some [means] of giving
him my own sentiments of such a misrepresentation yet
when a thing of this kind is said and uncontradicted in such
an assembly one's good name suffers and the administration
of justice in the country suffers through your rules.
If such a falsehood is stated I think I may ask you to
take notice of it both as my old friend of forty or some
fifty years standing and as an officer of the Court in which
you hold so high a rank.

If such a charge had not been made before I might be
taking too much upon me to suppose my affairs of so much
consequence but since it has happened I know your
Lordship will be pleased to be in exact possession of
the truth which I can avouch with as much confidence
as that I am sincerely My dear Lord Your somewhat
ancient friend and faithful humble servant

WALTER SCOTT

EDIN. 20 March [1826]

I need not add that this letter needs no answer so
Up and waur them a’ Willie.

[Reddie]

TO T. HANDLEY, PENTONVILLE, LONDON

SIR,—I am very much obliged by your letter 1 of the
11th yesterday received and with many apologies for
giving you so much trouble I will be sincerely obliged
by your making any further inquiries you may judge
proper about the information you have received
concerning property due to the Representatives of Madame
Charpentier. Her only children were Charles Carpenter
late of Salem Presidency of Madras & my wife Charlotte
M. Carpenter. M. Carpenter died four or five years
since leaving the life interest in his estate to his widow
now residing in or near London and the reversion of the
principal after her death to my family. There may be
therefore a doubt whether the surviving child Lady Scott
succeeds to the whole sum if such should be secured by
this persons evidence or whether a moiety or perhaps the
whole may be considered as property of the late M.
Carpenter and is liable to descend like the rest of the
estate to my children after the succession opens to them
by Mrs. Carpenters decease. But in whichever case the
English law may place the funds it will be desirable to
look after them. I have no great expectations from such
information of which I have met with many and I certainly
would put myself to no expense whatever till I see
the matter clearly before me. That the man should have
some salvage for what the proprietors would never have
received but through his means seems reasonable. What
that should be I do not know but I think it ought to be
payable only in case of success and take the form of a
percentage on the sum actually received. My son-in-law
John Gibson Lockhart is settled in London. I will desire
him to wait on you with your permission and state any
further particulars you may require about my wife's
family. His address is 25 Pall Mall.

Lady Downshire may command any service in my
power respecting the Stirling title. It happens oddly that
I am rather (though very distantly) connected with the
family. My mother's great-grandmother I think was
Margaret Alexander second daughter of Lord Canada
Viscount Canada & Lord Alexander who died before
1826

succeeding to his father the first Earl. My mother who
like most old Scotch ladies was a profound genealogist
used to tell in joke that I had no poetical blood in my
veins except that [which] I might draw from the circuitous
connection with the Earl of Stirling whose Recreations
with the Muses were published in 1637.1

It is very true that Mr Mackenzie and I admitted (in
the capacity of returning officers of the Peers Election in
1825) Mr Humphreys to vote as Earl of Stirling but that
was a matter of course. We are only officers for the day
(9-479)and have no time either to investigate or receive proof on
the title of claimants to vote. Therefore we receive
anyone who claims to vote in the character of Heir to a
dormant peerage providing he shows a title which is ex
facie unexceptionable. If there is a disputed Election
the title of such a claimant is examined by the House of
Lords and supported or set aside as the chance may be.
If there is no dispute no one seems to give themselves
trouble about these phantoms. This is so much the case
that I once felt that my brother in the Commission & I
were bound to admit a crack-brained pauper who came
to beg a guinea next morning. There has been long
complaint of (this) both by the Peers & the Principal
Clerks of Session & a Resolution of the House of Lords
was obtained authorizing the Clerks to refuse receiving
the vote of any peer succeeding to his title in a collateral
degree until the same should be recognized by the House
of Lords. But from an inaccuracy in wording the
resolution it did not explicitly apply to those claimants
who pretended a right from an ancestor who had deceased
before the date of the resolution itself. So we were open
to the same grievance as before and my Colleague &
myself were obliged to admit Mr Humphreys or Alexanders
claim which otherwise we would have certainly
rejected. We made new application in consequence of

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that very case to have the resolution of the House put
into such a shape as should cover the cases which it was
unquestionably designed to include. You will see therefore
that our admission does Mr Humphreys neither harm
nor good. I have written to Edinburgh for a copy of the
minutes and of Mr Humphreys claim at the Election
which I shall forward. If you are desirous on Lady
Downshires part to make a search in the records I beg
(9-480)leave to commend a practitioner who has directed his
(9-480)attention particularly to such subjects and whom I know
(9-480)to be both attentive & skillful—Mr Anderson 1 writer
(9-480)Brown Square Edinburgh. If you should have occasion
(9-480)for a Counsel Mr Robert Riddell Advocate George Street
(9-480)Edinburgh ought to be consulted. I think it proper to
(9-480)make these names known to you as you are aware that in
(9-480)every branch of the legal profession there are practitioners
(9-480)who have turned their attention & study particularly in
(9-480)that way.

(9-480)I never heard of the Charter of Novodamus till Mr
(9-480)Humphreys claim and greatly doubt its being on record.
(9-480)I remember there was a person who took the side of the
(9-480)Americans during the war and acted for some time as one
(9-480)of their generals who assumed the title of Earl of Stirling
(9-480)but as I believe without any just claim to it.

(9-480)I can only add that if I can be of the least further use
(9-480)in the business I will be most happy to do anything in my
(9-480)(power) to further Lady Downshires wishes & views both
(9-480)on account of the high respect in which I hold the memory
(9-480)of the late Marquess and the grateful feeling I entertain
(9-480)of your own kindness. I am Sir WALTER SCOTT

(9-480)ABBOTSFORD BY MELROSE 21st March [PM. 1826]

[Pierpont Morgan]

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TO JOHN G. LOCKHART

(9-481)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I fear you will think me a great
(9-481)bore busy as you are & tormenting you so often with
(9-481)interruptions. But my present business is of a milder
The return of Mama & Anne to this place gave us yesterday a pleasant re-union the more so as Lady Scott was much better than I had ventured to expect. The medicine which she is taking (Digitalis or foxglove) seems to agree with her and do her much service and I trust with care her health may be in a great measure restored. She is so well and in such a good way that she and I have a serious plan to send her 1 up to be with Sophia during her illness. It would make us all very happy if you will accept of this offer Charles could go down with her to Brighton and we would take care to send her up under safe 2 convoy. If Violet should go up to keep you company they could travel together or we might get some old matron or bigwig to take care of them.

The letter I inclose from Lady Downshires agent throws more light on the claim on the part of Mde. Charpentiers effects than I have yet seen. I have written to Mr Handley that I embrace his kind offer of speaking to the person who possesses this secret although my hopes are far from sanguine. What I would [suggest] is that the man should have as a sort of salvage a reasonable percentage on the sum which we should recover. I apprehend Mrs Carpenter should be made acquainted with the circumstance for it is possible that a right to the moiety or perhaps the whole of the claim may have vested in Mr Carpenter before his decease and fall under the operation of his latter will in which case Mrs C. will have the interest of a life-rentrix and she [we?] of the fee. But whether you should say any thing about it till Mr Handley
has got a little more information I leave to your prudence
only I would not like her to suppose that there was the
least wish to put aside any competent claim of hers or to
observe secrecy in any of these affairs. But trusting such
a negotiation to too many people is the sure way to blow
it up. I have written to Mr Handley that you will call
on him which as the matter concerns all of us I dare say
you will lose no time in doing.

Anne has had a cold but is recovering. Our plan is if
her presence can be useful to Sophia to get Miss Paterson
an admirably good-tempered and discreet ladylike woman
to come here till Annes return. She was my mothers
companion for several years is familiarly know[n] to all
of us and that sort of person who can take charge of keys
or read aloud or make herself an assistant in many ways
uncommonly well bred besides in short a useful and
agreeable inmate. So that though I cannot say Anne will
not be missd yet her place in point of utility will be
suppl[i]ed about Lady Scott and we will be comforted
for our own privation in knowing that she goes where her
attendance is so necessary. Let us know about this with
your earliest convenience—All Woodstock is in the hands
of the printer. It has been delayd for some time on
account of Robinson 1 but the publishing season creeps on
and it must be out soon.

I trust in God this will find poor Johnie improving by
the tepid sea bath—Love to Sophia Yours affectionately

ABOTSFORD MELROSE 22 March [1826] WALTER SCOTT

[Law]
TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-483) DEAR JAMES, — I send you from p. 28 copy to page 45 inclusive 1. I will be finished I think on Monday even if I make this fine day holiday as I think to do. Will you forward the inclosed note & Anne will be obliged.

(9-483) Besides the copy I send a revise & two proofs — I should like to be in proof as soon as possible as I think of going to London. Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 21 March [1826]

(9-483) I suppose you are still ill pleased but I cant help it. Like Johnie in the Idiot Boy (an ominous comparison) " I have done my best and that is all."

[British Museum]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-483) DEAR JAMES, — I have but a minute to save Blucher. I will send the title page per post—the whole of Woodstock will reach you by Mondays Blucher. My wife is better than I had ventured to hope. For the poor child my hope is that it may linger out till Sophias confinement is over.

(9-483) Yours truly W S

23 March [1826]

(9-483) I think it very difficult to determine about the Scottish sale. By selling ourselves to a Scots bookseller we should just save the English per centage which the London man would take. Surely if Constable & Cadell could do this they know all the old channels of sale and we should be the better by their gaining a profit.
TO JOHN GIBSON

My DEAR SIR,—I received in safety the cheque for 230, agreeably to your letter.

Lady Scott reached this place less fatigued than I expected. We will be much the better of having Mr Cowans advice in disposing of "Woodstock." It will be all in the printer's hands on Monday, so you may advertise when you like. There will be great impolicy in letting it lie printed and unpublished, for the publishing season flies fast, and copies will get abroad.

I will write fully to Ballantyne on the subject. There is, by-the-by, a large picture of the Cave of Staffa, hanging in what was my room, which was given me by the laird, and therefore I should not like to sell it. Also another trifling thing in the dressing-room, a mahogany thing, which is called a cat, with a number of legs, so that turning which way it will it stands upright. It was my mother's, and she used to have the toast set on it before the fire, and is not worth five shillings of any one's money.1

Yours very truly,

W. SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, 24 March, 1826.

I have written to Ballantyne all that occurs to me about the sale, and sent him title-page and whole work. He will communicate on the subject, of course. I broke open this letter again.
TO T. CROFTON CROKER

DEAR SIR,—I am obliged by your letter, and the contents of mine are fully at your service.1 But as I have forgot what these contents are, perhaps you will favour me with a perusal either in manuscript or proof, that I may make them more fit for the public eye, being a very careless scribe of familiar epistles; and if I can add anything I will, though I believe I exhausted my funds on the subject of Fairy Superstition when John Leyden and I composed in conjunction an Essay on the subject published in the Border Minstrelsy. I have a notion that the Leprechaun is a superstition of Danish origin. You know the opinions of the Scandinavians concerning the Duergar, or dwarfs, who were in their mythology the guardians of hidden treasures. There is in one of Glanville's narrations a story of a David Hunter, neatherd to the Bishop of Down and Connor, who made a curious acquaintance with the "wandering people," who if not precisely fairies, were something little better.

When I was in Ireland last autumn, and talking on the subject of the Irish superstitions with Mr. Plunkett, he mentioned a spectre frequenting the streets called the Dullaghan, which was very punctilious in exacting that he
should yield him the wall, insomuch that, said Mr. Plunkett, I was afraid he would come to take the wall of me in my own bed. I mentioned this to one or two other friends, who could give me no account whatever of the Dullaghan, except a gentleman who told me it was the ghost of a waiter in a tavern who had been murdered among some wild fellows in a drunken fray. I wonder what made a plebeian ghost take such state on himself? I am, dear Sir, Very much yours,

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE, 26th March, 1826.

I must observe from a relation concerning a Dutch lieutenant in Glanville, that ghosts in general were tenacious of taking place of the living when walking the streets. So the Dullaghan's humour was not perhaps peculiar.

In England it was recommended to strike at a goblin as a sure receipt for putting him to flight, or compelling him to abandon any disguise he might assume. There is a curious passage to the purpose in one of Bishop Corbett's poems, called Iter Boreale, from which, moreover, we also learn that if you become bewildered in a fairy circle, the turning your cloak reversed the charm, and set the party free. See Octavius Gilchrist's Poems of Richard Corbett, 1807, p. 197.

[Croker's Fairy Legends]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—I send you as promised the whole affair. It must take its chance like others before but the times
have been a little unfavourable for writing with spirit.

I think Robinson should get one more chance with the assurance that the Trustees can do no more for him. It is

worth a great deal to keep all the stock in the same hands if possible.

Failing this, I would offer the edition to Longman and to Murray by the same post telling them you did so with the purpose between two such respectable publishers of taking the best offer and with the hope it will be such as will enable them to continue the correspondence by affording at least a preference to such future works as they may have to offer to the same individual or House.

On the other hand it must be observed that the Trustees ought to dispose of the present work as publishd in such a manner as to preserve the right within a reasonable time of continuing the small edition. There are as many copy-rights undisposed of as Constable & Co/ used to give 5000 for after the earlier impressions in the ordinary form were exhausted. There is also the reversionary right to some of my works in case Constable & Co/ should not find it possible to pay up the bonds for the purchase money. This must be kept in view where the interest is of such a peculiar nature. You remember the scrape we were in on a former occasion. Cowan with Constables advice & assistance whose views in such a case are very valuable must consider and arrange this for however the profits may be ultimately disposed of our joint interest is clear to keep the whole property of this work in the best [position] which circumstances will permit.
I have little to add excepting that I am instantly
turning my thoughts to Napoleon. Labour of that kind
is to me as it always has been pleasure and if I can
extricate my unpleasant affairs by it surely it will not be
wanting.

I think I see one cancell necessary in Woodstock and in
a passage which certainly your compositors found particular

Note. The pest instead of the post is described as coming
from Coventry—formerly he was riding upon a red
rocket instead of in a red rochet. Perhaps it may have been
in part my fault but my eyes are so dim that I do not so
easily read hand-drawn proofs as formerly—the letters
are so deep sunk on the paper. I think if a warm
smoothing iron were passd over them it would give the
greater facility by bringing them to the surface.

I have no late news from Brighton. Lady Scott is
taking benefit from her medicine.

In like cases you recollect we have had trouble about
the time and mode of delivery both in Scotland and
England & to prevent books being sent up by mail and so
on before the stock can go by packet. All this must as far
as possible be previously arranged I remain yours truly

ABBOTSFORD 26 March 1826.

An important question may occur. It would be no
doubt desirous the London publishers would take the
whole stock but yet it woul[d] seem rash to sink the value
too low. If a certain Number of Copies were remaining in warehouse we could force them off with the next publication. This I throw out for consideration. But we must take care of lowering the market. A long day for payment might be given.

[Walpole]

TO J. W. CROKER

March 26th, 1826

MY DEAR CROKER,—I have your kind letter, and can assure you that when putting a more personal interpretation on some passages of your letter than I ought to have done, I did not consider them offensive, and if I had replied under the impression I had adopted, I would have taken particular care not to have executed the moderamen inculpatae tutela. But it is much better not, and so transeat cum exteris erroribus.

I enclose a letter for your funny namesake and kinsman, whose work entertains me very much. Believe me always. Yours affectionately,

SIR WALTER SCOTT

1826

[Croker Papers]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—I return your proof—you seem to be getting on rather slowly for a man in a hurry—

I inclose receipts for my precepts in Excheqr. You
(9-489)know there is some money to be paid you can send me the
(9-489)[illegible] receipt in a post bill to my order.

(9-489)I send two things which will ballast the packet. Lady
(9-489)Scott continues I think to mend radically though suffering
(9-489)from the medicine Yours truly W. SCOTT

(9-489)ABBOTSFORD 27 March [1826]

(9-489)Respecting the great & important concern of the sale
(9-489)of the property I think Robinsons protestations ought
(9-489)to be brought to the touchstone. There can be no
(9-489)doubt that he will give us the terms he gave Constable.
(9-489)There can be no use in offering the work for less nor do
(9-489)I think we ought to ask more. But in offering them at
(9-489)that rate he must shew in his answer what sort of security
(9-489)he proposes to give for that we cannot know—He has not
(9-489)come down as he promised and we do not know that he
(9-489)is going on at all. Providing perhaps 3/4th of the price
(9-489)were well secured I would almost run some risque on
(9-489)the rest because we shall certainly lose more by going to
(9-489)another publisher than by a failure on his part especially
(9-489)considering there are so few of the trade now worth
(9-489)any thing and that Murray is very uncertain. Besides

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(9-490)there is this great advantage in giving Robinson a
(9-490)preference that whatever is his advantage is ultimately our
(9-490)own by mending his affairs. We know too there is great
(9-490)substance at bottom. Still however he must be made to
(9-490)state his own proposed mode of settlement particularly &
(9-490)it is dwelling long among general promises unredeemd
(9-490)which makes me doubt him.

(9-490)A week or ten days must now bring it to the push. I
(9-490)think a letter should be written him with consultation of all concernd proposing to him the same terms on which Constable dealt with [him] but regretting that the parties as situated must request him to point [?] sufficient guarantee for payment of the price. I am sure he will make every exertion for it is a main card for him not to lose these two works & a main card for us that he should have them if he can give security for the whole or greater part of the money. The trustees will best know how to manage this important matter. Yours once more W. S.

(9-490)Tuesday morning
[Stevenson]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

(9-490)I GRIEVE to say my dear Lockhart that we have but bad news to send up from this country in answer to your deplorable intelligence of my dear Johnies health. Lady Scott is far from well. Her asthmatic complaint[s] have assumed the character of hydropsie and Dr Abercrombie who has been consulted looks very grave on the subject. They wish [to] try some new medicine but I own I am not very hopeful of the result—at least as to perfect cure. Alleviation and comfort may I hope be attaind if she will pursue the course of medicine recommended. But you know very well that she soon tires of any thing that does not operate an immediate change. God help us we have a sore spring of it. But misfortune will claim her share and patience is the only remedy.

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(9-491)Lord Melville was extremely displeased about the Letters and was at the pains to write about thirty pages on the subject to which I made a civil but no very
deferential reply. This produced another letter proposing we should be friends as of yore though he accounted himself quite right & me wrong to which of course I replied embracing the renewal of our friendship with all gratitude under the understanding I was not to be considered in any respect as retracting or altering my opinions as I had expressed them to the public.

Then I had six pages from friend Croker & better expressd very warmly & cordially & mentioning in badinage his own share of the combat. I answerd him in the same kind tone the rather that he spoke very handsomely of you and said that if Ministers remembe[r]d Malachi at all it would be only to accelerate their exertions in your favour when there was an occasion to serve you.

I did not disguise from Croker my decided opinion that if they persevered they would work some woeful mischief in this country where the bonds of society are already much weakened by their constant tampering with the laws and institutions. As to himself I said most truly I would have been happy to [have] had a turn up with him save for two reasons, 1st That I [must] have quoted facts and dates & consequently have shewn up some of my own particular friends which I had carefully avoided. 2dly That in returning some of the personal hits which he seemed to think the game demanded & admitted I thought it likely one or both [of] us would lose temper.

When all this row was going on and the Chancellor of Excheqr. honouring me with an especial notice on the score of two or three letters in the Edinr Journal I could not help feeling myself a very great person—though rather of opinion that the noise transcended the occasion like the good Catholic who having set down a violent
storm of thunder to his having transgressd the rules of the

LETTERS OF 1826

Fridays fast could not help saying Voila beaucoup de bruit pour une omelette au lard.

I think they will back out of the measure in the committee—indeed I understood Mr Robinsons words to import that he would give way if the violent opposition continued. As for myself & our family interests I know the cast was a desperate one yet as it has turnd out I rather believe I shall come of[f] a winner as far as a reputation for courage goes. These things I thought would not be uninteresting to you providing you have good news from Brighton. Pray send my love and affection there.

I see you have Charles with you. Pray give him a hint about employing his vacation—a few French lessons might be of great use to him. If I should ever be able to get him into the diplomatic line his knowledge of languages should be perfect.

I have Murrays letter and am greatly obliged by the pains you have taken. I suppose that if Hurst and Robinson do not gather their legs which their long staggering makes very doubtful the Trustees will take either Longman or Murray whichever offers best. The loss will be probably great. I do not care about the matter, please God these weightier domestic distresses were removed or lightend in their aspect I will do well enough.

Nothing of the Quarterly yet. [Signature cut out]
Woodstock is finishd all but two or three pages of Manuscript. I inclose a letter to Terry which I leave unseald that you may see it. I would wish in such a transaction to deal only with first rate people. If I could get a little money this way it would be by no means inconvenient. Do not disturb yourself about [it] further than giving Terry your advice & opinion.

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—I take advantage of Mr. Gibsons return to send you the receipts omitted in my last. He goes to London and I think will manage the sale well. His account of Constable & Co/ & Hurst & Robinson makes one say with Mercutio

A pox on both your houses.

Till now I thought Hurst would have been the winner but seeing his letter I doubt greatly.

As for inaccuracies I really correct as attentively as my eyes will permit though as for spending five hours on a proof Sheet why I never spend two in writing the copy.

Truth is I believe I must get an amanuensis and dictate.

I dont see much occasion for transcription it rather multiplies the chance of errors and in good truth though [one] is not bound to proclaim it yet to keep a secret entrusted to four or five sets of creditors is worth not a
penny's cost.

I see considerable objections to advertizing at least with Constables name untill you know who is to publish in London. Orders will come down of course to send up books by mail & so on and what is to be done with them. We have always held there was equity in making a fair start and a partial supply in London would check the sale there.

I think there has been enough of Malachi and will allow no more after this. It is enough that " the Gambol has been shewn." Yours truly 

W. SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 28 March [1826]

I will send copy for Nap. by tomorrows Blucher.

After all how is it possible for you a clever sensible man and a judge of composition from your youth upwards to read a sheet of paper for five hours and leave an error or the shadow of one. That you might hunt in a blanket for fleas for such a length of time and no remnant should escape I can conceive. But pica is permanent.

[Buccleuch]

TO J.G. LOCKHART

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—As Mr Gibson goes up to London I send these few lines by him. He is to sell Woodstock. I presume he will offer it first to Hurst & Rob[inson] then to John Murray who I suppose will get it for I suspect H. & R. are in the mire beyond recovery. They continue
to speak bold words at the bridge as Fluellen says. But
they must

—— do a little more
And produce a little ore.

Which I fear will be hard to come bye.

Lady Scott is better I think materially so but suffers severely under the remedy. God send I could hear better tidings from you and Sophia. I should mind minor vexations very little.

As Mr Gibson is in London & has our deserved confidence I have askd him to see Mr Handley and it would [be] no bad thing also if he were to push a little about

Mrs Carpenters stock which is not quite in a pleasant situation unless something has been done since you wrote.

Here has been bold blustering windy weather very cold & very sun-shiny at the same time. The great willow at Chiefswood has been blown down which I saw with regret though there were more material things to be regretted in that quarter.

Anne is pretty well coughing however a little as every one else. You have said nothing as yet received whether her plan of coming up would be of use to Sophia.

I told you I think I had a second letter from Croker anxiously and kindly disclaiming all personalities in very anxious terms. They seem to [have] given themselves much unnecessary trouble about a mere squib. I wonder
what they would say if a man had chosen to reply to their sophistry. Yours truly

ABBOTSFORD 29 March [1826]

You can make Gibson known to Murray & Robinson should he need your introduction & tell them how he stands as old McIntosh used to say in point of trust and in point of power.

Tell Charles he has told me nothing about the row although it must have passed under his nose—quaeque ipse vidit tho' not I hope quorum pars magna fuit.

[Law]

TO JOHN GIBSON LOCKHART, 25 PALL-MALL, LONDON

DEAR LOCKHART,—We are beginning to be anxious—most anxious—to hear from you—every day we have expected letters & not a line to say how Sophia and Johnie are. We have rather good news from this quarter. Lady Scott though suffering much from the foxglove is certainly deriving great benefit and she is [so] strong in natural constitution that I vow I have the strongest hopes that this unpleasant disease will take a turn and leave her a state of moderate good health. My leaving them in May is a bitter pill but must be swallowed and will feel less unpalatable that I really think the gentle exercise which this place affords will be much better for her than Edinburgh & the confinement of the summer months.

Tom Campbell toasted Bonaparte on the ground of his
having hanged a bookseller. Little John Gibson deserves a round among authors for having I think cheated one. He has diddled Robinson (including Constable) out of 8500 for Woodstock gross profits say 6000, all paid. If we can turn over Napoleon as well I shall soon stand in worldly matters where I did & in many respects much better. If not the men who have been the means of my suffering will suffer in their turn

And who can help it Dick.

But I dare say Yorkshire 1 sees his way. But he pays argent comptant. You can let Murray know that he would certainly have had our offer in the first place if the old proprietors had not come forward. I cannot think their bargain a wise one but they must be best Judges.

1826      SIR WALTER SCOTT

Anne is labouring under [a] cold but still willing and able to go to Brighton if she can be of service to Sophia. Adieu

write soon Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 4th April [PM. 1826]

TO THE AUTHOR OF CONTINENTAL ADVENTURES,1 CARE OF MESSRS. HURST, ROBINSON AND CO., BOOKSELLERS, LONDON

SIR,—I am favoured with your obliging wish to inscribe to me your Continental Adventures in terms which I should beg leave to decline as being infinitely beyond my merit. But besides I am placed in rather a delicate situation having on almost every occasion where choice was permitted me unless where particular friends were concern'd felt it my duty to decline compliments of
that sort. And as it [is] impossible to make selections in so general a rule I must trust to your goodness in requesting you to accept this excuse.

I am quite sensible of the honour you have done me and request you to accept my best thanks being Sir Your obliged humble Servant WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 5 April 1826

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

DEAR JAMES,—I am truly sorry for your family distress but hope it may be better with you than you seem to fear pray let me know how the poor child does.

I send back the revises and could add a quantity of copy but while with me it is always getting some improvement. I will send it on friday if wanted or Monday at furthest I need not plague you any more at present W. S.

Wednesday [12th April 1826]

I shall be glad to hear that Robinson has actually paid the cash.

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,—For some time writing has been painful to me saving what I must needs write and
that being the discharge of a duty is always a sort of pleasure—at least you are interested while about it and contented when it is over. But of late I have had and still have terrible anxiety on Sophia's account and that of the poor child. I hardly ever regarded him but as something lent to us from another world and viewed with terror the doating anxiety of the poor father and mother. The sweet little boy was in himself very taking and I have frequently hardened my heart as well as I could to prevent its twining itself around my own heart strings as it did about theirs. It is very clever perfectly natural and good humoured—in short the thing you would most wish to see at your knee had it had less of the stamp of early fragility fixed upon it. They are now the mother and baby as your Ladyship probably knows at Brighton and I own to you my best hopes are that God will conduct my daughter through her approaching confinement and permit her to be the mother of a healthy infant before —The bird is flown
That we have made so much of.

My wife too—the faithful partaker of much weal and woe and who has in judging of what is upright and honourable the spirit of a hundred princesses is very unwell. She is obliged to take foxglove—a terrible medicine in its effects but which alleviates very considerably the disease and gives me hope to see her respond to tolerable health—

My own affairs assume every day a more comfortable aspect. My chief and only subject of impatience is the regret that requires people to wait a little for their due so far as I have been involved in the misfortunes of others. But my agent John Gibson whom I four or five years since
recommended to Lord Montagu has done among the booksellers more in a few weeks than I have done in many years. He has sold the impending novel of Woodstock for 8000, and upwards and has similar offers for my sketch of Napoleon. If these hold a year or two's labour will place me in the happy alternative called statu quo—But I am very easy about that matter so long as I see the speedy prospect of getting rid of debt I feel much like my friend John Hookham Frere whom they could not get out of the Lazaretto at the expiry of Quarantine. I could not help telling said John Gibson that if he would maintain my establishment which is very comfortable in the present style and leave my pleasant walks at Abbotsford I would choose remain as I now am with every rational and many irrational wants supplied and let the rest go to Colin Tampon as the French song says.

But work I must—it has become a part of my nature and as I become daily more solitary the pen and reading are of course my best resources. Every sort of society which I cared for is very much diminished by death and absence. The only man in this country whom I could regard quite as a companion from his taste and accomplishments poor John [Scott] of Gala is I fear very ill. I saw a letter from him to his man of business signed with his initials only—and such letters—I had a sincere love for him—we spent part of a little tour in France together immediately after Waterloo and I shall never forget his matchless good humour and on one or two occasions when there really seemed serious personal danger his ready gallantry and spirit—One night we were apparently in the predicament of fighting for our lives—I was even then a horse in point of strength and fearless by
constitution and yet with his delicate person and softer breeding he was the foremost of the two let me do what I would. Poor poor fellow.

I am delighted that Lockhart passes current with you. He really is a fine fellow a scholar a man of taste and point devise the gentleman. I am sometimes angry with him for an exuberant love of fun in his light writings which he has caught I think from Wilson a man of greater genius than himself perhaps but who disputes with low adversaries which I think a terrible error and indulges in a sort of humour which exceeds the bounds of playing at ladies and gentlemen a game to which I have been partial all my life.

You would see dear Lady Louisa that I commenced politician for a start in a small way—incensed all my friends—for pointing out their egregious blunders—and raised a racket of which I had not anticipated the least idea. I had half a mind to have followed up the controversy for I had the cards in my hand but after all I thought it as wise to let it stand after I had said my say. It is not worth while to vex old friends about the past and if they do not look better to their bets in time to come it will be their fault not mine. But they are playing a bad game in Scotland if not in England and turning peoples head[s] round with such a constant succession of experimental changes that those to whom the vertigo is communicated will become incapable of remaining still and when that time comes Scotland with her love of theory her depth of brooding long and sullenly over her plans and the many clever revolutionists for that is the word whose game they are
playing in mere wantoness will some day wind them a
pirn. I hope this will not happen till I am dead and gone
for I am too old to have any share in the row. I was not
between you my dear Lady Louisa and myself be it said
a bit sorry for this turn up—as the blackguards call [it].
My friends were some of them poor-manning me a little too
much for one who was asking nothing from them and had
asked nothing during my pilgrimage for myself though
I have been often a suitor for others. But I dont like they
should think I am fallen out of the line. But this is all
nonsense again says my uncle Toby to himself.

I have had this lying by me till I should have occasion
to write to Lord Montagu which has suddenly and
unexpectedly occurred through the very unexpected
death of Sir Alexander Don 1 —It will be a great shock to
Lord Montagu and would have been a still more severe
one to his poor dear brother. As for me I think the world
is gliding from under my feet

For many a lad I loved is dead
And many a lass grown old
And when I think on those are fled
My weary heart grows cold.

But this has been will be and must be.
All health to you My dear Lady Louisa and all happiness.
Believe me most truly and respectfully yours

ABBOTSFORD 13 April [1826]          WALTER SCOTT

You will have difficulty I fear in reading this but my
eyes are failing me fast. I cannot charge them with
idleness—

[Northumberland and Abbotsford Copies]
MY DEAR LORD,—I have been dreadfully shockd by yesterday receiving the notice of poor Sir Alexander Dons most unexpected death. Besides that we always lived in terms of freindship and intimacy I always felt that I owed him much for the candid and liberal manner in which he interpreted my conduct on an occasion which may be in your Lordships recollection—when though I cannot say that I ought to have acted differently, yet I am sensible and was at the time that it would have been difficult for any person but a man of his correct feeling and at the same time of his inimitable good[ness] to have avoided a more disagreeable and painful discussion. I always felt his doing me the most kind justice (if there can be such an expression) as a great personal favour—and now he is no more with all his talents to grace and adorn society & which might perhaps have been carried so much further as the gayer pursuits of life lost their interest.

But it is not to express regrets which your Lordship will feel deeper than I do though mine are most sincere that I am now writing. I am forced to trouble you by the common rule of human life which makes the death of every individual how[ever] estimated and regretted so ever the subject of bustle and anxiety to occupy his place.

Harden call[d] on me today about the County for which as he will have apprized your Lordship he is desirous to have your Lordships countenance on the part of the Buccleuch interest to start his Son Henry. If the young man has the good fo[r]tune to obtain your Lordships interest there will not be the least chance of any
(9-502)competition and I should think that preserving the
(9-502)peace as it [is] calld of the County.1 In point of politics
(9-502)I think from all I have seen the young Gentleman is

1826 SIR WALTER SCOTT

(9-503)secure—a good honest lad he is and a plain speaking one
(9-503)and I think has no vacillation in his character. Looking
(9-503)on every side I do not know where your Lordship could
(9-503)find a better candidate or indeed one who would make
(9-503)effectual fight unless what I consider as most unlikely
(9-503)Edgerstone was to take the field again. Five or Six
(9-503)years after Lord John might be lookd to but then the
(9-503)Duke will be in his own saddle and capable of making
(9-503)the exertions which his kind and active curators cannot
(9-503)make to the same extent in his behalf. The necessary
(9-503)pledges being expressd as to political opinions it would
(9-503)appear to me (who your Lordship knows always speak
(9-503)out my mind on these subjects) it would not be easy to
(9-503)find a more suitable member than young Harden.

(9-503)I certainly am a partial witness in his favour having
(9-503)known him from a child & being so much connected with
(9-503)his family but I have been cautious to avoid any engagements
(9-503)express or implicit till I should hear what your
(9-503)Lordships opinion is who must have so many better points
(9-503)of view than what occur to me.

(9-503)I have your Lordships letter about the Dalkeith school.
(9-503)The heritor[s] are perhaps not quite right but yet their
(9-503)idea is a very natural one and I should think Tennant
(9-503)as well off where he is 1: at any rate he must be gratified
(9-503)with the kindness your Lordship has evinced respecting
(9-503)him. I inclose a letter for Lady Louisa Stuart for mine
(9-503)are not worth postage. Remember [me] respectfully &
(9-503)kindly to Lady Montagu and the young Ladies and all
the Buccleuch Ladies. I am very glad that the Duke is going abroad. We say in Scotland a ganging foot is aye getting and the saying is true so far as information is concerned. To break the habit of coteries and of thinking all is exclusively right that is done by the set they live with there is nothing like travelling with a sensible friend of accomplishment and information like Mr Blakeney. I have a great deal of family distress just now for I fear

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Lady Scotts illness has decidedly terminated in water on the Chest. Yet her constitution endures so well the severe remedy which they apply—the digitalis or fox glove, that I endeavour to avoid very painful apprehensions. Ever my dear Lord Most truly & respectfully yours

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 13 April [1826]

[Buccleuch]

TO COLIN MACKENZIE

MANY thanks, dear Colin, for your kind letter. God knows, I want kindness as much as any poor cat that ever crouched its back to be made much of. Lady Scott is very ill, and her complaint is decidedly water in the chest, which may admit of relief but gives a most melancholy opening for apprehensions. Sophia and her little boy are both at Brighton for the child's bad health. My hope is, and it is encouraged by late news, that he will linger on; and if it pleases God she has a favourable confinement, we must trust the rest to Providence. The poor child has always been extremely weak, but there arc
many instances of such getting ultimately through.

Our friends have, indeed, made an admirable bargain for Woodstock; but what wonder! Three writers against one Yorkshire bookseller puts Juno's complaint of odds to shame.

Una dolo divom sifemina victa duorum est.

1826 SIR WALTER SCOTT

But in the sincere truth, if the people can but pay it, as I think they must do, and if we can make anything like a similar bargain for Napoleon, the tide will be turned very much in my favour, and, thank God, without asking anyone more favour than the delay which was to be employed usefully for their own sake.

I am glad to hear they have at last settled with Ferrier. The delay has been unjust, inhuman, and dishonourable. I am glad you think Malachi has done [good] in any quarter. I am sure the childish resentment of our friends does not augur well for their keeping this country. I fear they will go the vole, and try their own force against popular opinion. There is much strife in the Cabinet, the Chancellor and especially the Duke of Wellington thinking they are driving experiments on too fast.

I am glad you have not been packed up to London. Late hours and the vapours of midnight lamps, not to mention the Thames fogs, are bad for you.

My life here has been very pleasant though most monotonous, if it were but free from the family anxieties I mentioned to you. Rise at seven; work till half-past
nine; breakfast till ten; work till one, more or less as
the day is bad or good; walk alone or with an old aide-
de-camp of a forester till four; dine and drink tea till
seven; work till ten—and the day is closed innocently
at least, and happily, but for my wife's illness and my
daughter's precarious condition. Glengarys great dog 2
is my regular attendant and promises to be very serviceable.
Always Yours Affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 13 April [1826]

I have got a letter from the celebrated Russian chief,
Denis Davidoff, known in the campaign of Moscow by
the name of the Black Captain from the unintermitting
and formidable Kourvacks which he made on Napoleon
during his retreat. If I could coax a few anecdotes out
of him it would be capital.

Poor Sir Alexr. Don 1 has died here suddenly. I think
you knew him.

By the bye, I had a sulkyish sort of reconciliation with
Lord Melville through our friend Sir Robert—I, as you
may believe, saying like the Jacobite wife who was
drowned by the mob at Carlisle, Charlie yet!

Croker also wrote to me about his letters to Malachi,
and I told him in reply that if it had not been that
entering into explanations I must have said much personally
injurious to one or two friends concerned with the
affairs of Scotland, I would have thrown my hat into the
ring, tied my colours to the ropes, cried Halloo for Saint
Andrew, and given or taken a bellyfull of fancy custom with him or anyone. I got a very kind letter; so there the matter rests, and there let it, for me; but I am glad I had a quiet opportunity [to let] them know that I was not passive from any doubt in my cause, but [from] the wish that [what] was meant as a warning might not pass into an actual declaration of personal hostilities.

[Sir Walter Scott Quarterly]

TO MESSRS. J. AND T. SMITH, DARNICK

GENTLEMEN,—I was favourd with your letter and can only at present reply that I have in consequence of the unexpected failure of two great bookselling houses who owe me a very large sum of money put my affairs for the present under the management of Mr John Gibson W.S. Mr Jollie W.S. and Mr Monipenny W.S. They have already made very large and successful sales of property and I hope will be soon able to make a considerable dividend I have retaind only such an income as may support my family and enable me to continue the exertions I am making to extricate these affairs which if God grants me life and health will not involve anyone in loss.

Mr Gibson is now in London but on his return I am sure he will furnish you with the most accurate information as to the state of funds and prospect of payment. If the Houses who owe me money can pay any reasonable dividend the inconvenience to myself and others will be of short duration. If otherwise it may be longer before I can clear out these affairs but my endeavours to do so will only terminate with my life and
judging from all circumstances I hope under the worst aspect of things to arrange them satisfactorily to all concern'd. I remain Gentlemen Your humble Servant

WALTER SCOTT

ABBOTSFORD 14 April 1826

I beg you will send your Accompt that I may transmit it to Mr Gibson.

[J. R. C. Smith]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[Extract]

DEAR JAMES,—I will not disturb you with more than the expression of my sincere sympathy. Poor Laidlaw has lost a child the other day and I had yesterday the melancholy news of Sir Alexr. Dons death. All this is melancholy enough & Lady Scotts health is very precarious. . . .

I am getting on with the actual life at last. The Introduction which it is a joke to call such will run I fear some way into the third volume. What is sent completes it.

Yours truly

W. S.

ABBOTSFORD friday [14th April 1826]

I do not regret [to] have made the introduction so long but it should have had a separate title.
TO JOHN GIBSON

(9-508)MY DEAR SIR,—You have made a glorious sale. I Tom
(9-508)Campbell at a literary dinner gave Bonaparte for his
(9-508)toast, alleging for a reason that he had hanged a book-
(9-508)seller. You have overshot one in his own bow, and that
(9-508)is the more difficult task. If we can make anything like
(9-508)the same for Nap., it will let a little daylight in on these
(9-508)matters, and I am sure it will be better worth a
(9-508)corresponding sum.

(9-508)I should greatly approve of any arrangement which
(9-508)would bring forward the Novels in another shape. I
(9-508)think such an arrangement should be worth ＄5000 to
(9-508)the funds.

(9-508)I have nothing to say, but to wish you a good journey.
(9-508)Your truly obliged and faithful       WALTER SCOTT

(9-508)ABBOTSFORD, 14th April 1826

[Gibson's Reminiscences]

1826                SIR WALTER SCOTT                      509

TO CROFTON CROKER

(9-509)DEAR SIR,—I return the proof sheets, from which I
(9-509)have only taken the liberty to expunge some names
(9-509)which people might not care to have mentioned. I am
(9-509)much obliged for your explanation of the Dullaghan, he
(9-509)puts me in mind of a spectre at Drumlanrick Castle, of
(9-509)no less a person than the Duchess of Queensberry,—"Fair
(9-509)Kitty, blooming, young, and gay,"—who instead of
setting fire to the world in mamma's chariot, amuses
herself with wheeling her own head in a wheelbarrow
through the great gallery.

You have not yet hit upon the punctilious spectre of Mr. Plunkett which takes the wall of folks. God be with your labour, as Ophelia says. I will feel much honoured in the compliment you design for me. Yours truly,

WALTER SCOTT
[Croker's Fairy Legends]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I received your letter today after I had sent off mine—most wellcome as it contains good news of Sophia—also Mr Murrays generosity—but frankly the half was more than it is worth and I make it a condition of future labours that I have no more than is an adequate compensation for my time and the present is extravagant. I will do Cranbourne Chase with pleasure and also the books you mention.

I have a letter from Ld Melville in the old stile Dear Walter 1 and so forth begging me to get Henry Scott to stand for this county which he being anxious to do & I having already communicated with his father & Lord Montagu is asking me to do something very agreeable to me.

You must send me the books you mention and I will lose no time in the review having enough on my hands in my present very solitary state.
Chiefswood will be arranged just as you please & Laidlaw will do the needful.

I will be glad to have a touch at my old friend King John whom I loved dearly. This election business hurries us. Yours in trust

ABOTSFORD 15 April [1826]

[Law]